Fisheries New Zealand
Tini a Tangaroa

New Zealand Annual Report to the Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission

1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025

New Zealand

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)

October 2026

New Zealand Government

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

1.1 IMPROVEMENTS ACHIEVED IN THE CURRENT FISHING SEASON

Provide details of MCS improvements achieved for the current fishing season.

On Board Cameras and Electronic Monitoring: Since January 2024, all New Zealand surface longline (SLL) vessels have been monitored by onboard cameras. This has significantly improved monitoring of the surface longline fleet.

Seabird Mitigation: Mandatory measures for the SLL fleet are specified in the Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures – Surface Longline) Circular (SLL Circular). As of October 2024, New Zealand implemented new strengthened seabird mitigation requirements which aligned with the best practice advice of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP), i.e. 100% use of hook-shielding devices, or simultaneous use of a tori line, night setting, and line weighting. New Zealand is the second country in the world to mandate these measures, which align with ACAP best practice.

QR Tags: In 2025, New Zealand introduced CCSBT tags with a QR code to improve the speed and accuracy of capturing CDS tag numbers. QR codes are currently being trialled by two Licensed Fish Receivers for landing SBT. Feedback from fishers led to the re-design of the tags to increase the size of the QR code and improve functionality.

1.2 EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Provide comment on whether extraordinary circumstances contributed to non-compliance with any of the Commission's conservation and management measures during the current fishing season. Where extraordinary circumstances are identified, include a description of extraordinary circumstance, the CCSBT obligation impacted by the extraordinary circumstance, and the action taken by the Member to alleviate any risk created by the extraordinary circumstances.

There were no extraordinary circumstances which contributed to non-compliance of CCSBT conservation and management measures in New Zealand fisheries in 2024/2025.

1.3 FUTURE PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

Describe any MCS improvements that are being planned for future fishing seasons and the expected implementation date for such improvements.

SBT Regulation Review: In order to allow for the rollout of the electronic catch documentation scheme (eCDS) of CCSBT, New Zealand will be reviewing the domestic regulations which give effect to the CDS and other CCSBT requirements. This will include a general review of the regulations to ensure they continue to be fit for purpose and any corrections or adjustments will be undertaken as well to amend the regulations as necessary.

1.4 PROGRESS WITH ACTIONS TAKEN TO RECTIFY ANY NON-COMPLIANCE

Describe actions taken to rectify any non-compliance issues identified in the previous Compliance Committee meeting.

Observer Coverage: New Zealand has rolled out on-board cameras to all surface longline vessels which has significantly improved monitoring of the fleet, with 92% of catch and 91% of effort recorded by cameras in 2025. With the rollout of onboard cameras complete,

observers are placed onboard SLL vessels as an exception, for research or other specific purposes.

In 2024, New Zealand submitted 'verified fisher-reported data' from camera monitoring in lieu of observer data for the 2023/2024 period. New Zealand considers this to be the most accurate dataset available. It was reported at CC20 that New Zealand did not provide information to allow the Secretariat to (1) determine the percentage of effort and catch that was observed, or (2) calculate seabird bycatch rate per hook, because no 'observer' data was submitted. New Zealand committed at ERSWG16 to provide ERS data from reviewed EM footage that will satisfy the minimum 10% observer coverage rate. New Zealand is working with the Secretariat to ensure that data are appropriately integrated into CCSBT datasets and meet the 10% 'observed' requirement of the data exchange.

Duplicate Tags: During the 2024/25 fishing year, no duplicated tag numbers were submitted in tagging data. New Zealand has implemented a process to rectify all duplicate tags, with all errors being corrected. When New Zealand receives a report of a duplicate tag, the CDS administrator contacts the Licensed Fish Receiver that submitted the tag to investigate the discrepancy and correct it where possible. If required, this is further investigated by Fisheries Compliance.

In 2025, New Zealand introduced CCSBT tags with a QR code to improve the speed and accuracy of capturing tag numbers.

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 previous three 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]	Quota Carried Forward to this Fishing Season	Total Available Catch[2] (B+C)	Attributable catch[3]
2022/23	1,102.5	220.5	1,323	1,192.1
2023/24	1,288	136.1	1,424.1	985
2024/25	1,288	257.6	1,545.6	750.5

[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.'

2.1.2 Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector

Specify the allowances and SBT mortality for each sector during the previous three 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 1	Commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not	
	Commercial sector	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
2022/23	1,046	1,102.8
2023/24	1,197	895.1
2024/25	1,197	680.2

Sector cont.	Releases and/or discards		Recreational fishing		Customary and/or traditional fishing	
	Sector 2:		Sector 3:		Sector 4:	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
2022/23	20	3.5	34	69.3	2	0
2023/24	20	9	69	69.9	2	0
2024/25	20	10	69	70.3	2	0

2.1.3 SBT Catch (retained and non-retained)

For the previous three fishing seasons, specify the weight 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 stocked to farming cages and "Non-Retained SBT" includes 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					
	Sector 1 Commercial sector		Sector 3 Recreational sector		Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector	
	Retained SBT[4]	Non-Retained SBT[5]	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT
2022/23	1097.6 [20,342]	[5,381]	69.3 [1,241]	[148]	0	0
2023/24	895.1 [18,416]	[5,625]	69.9 [992]	[114]	0	0
2024/25	680.2 [16,353]	[919]	70.3 [1,415]	[236]	0	0

[4] Based on CDS data of processed catch.
[5] Based on estimated catch from vessels targeting SBT.

2.1.4 The number of vessels in each sector

Specify the number of vessels that caught SBT in each sector during the previous three 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[6]		
Fishing season	Sector 1: Commercial sector	Sector 3: Recreational sector[7]	Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector
2022/23	19[8]	509	0
2023/24	20[9]	241	0
2024/25	16[10]	370	0

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 log books were required.*

N/A, daily logbooks are mandatory. The implementation of mandatory Electronic Catch and Position Reporting across New Zealand's fleet ensures reporting is provided electronically daily.

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.*

The information collected on effort and catch complies with that specified in the "Characterisation of the SBT Catch" section of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan. This information is collected by a combination of fisher reports and reviewing of camera footage. Length, weight, sex, and otoliths are collected by Licensed Fish Receivers (LFRs) as part of regular data collection for the Catch Documentation Scheme. Both retained and discarded catch must be recorded by fishers or LFRs.

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

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

In January 2024, on-board cameras were rolled out to the entire surface longline fleet.

Mandatory amateur charter vessel reporting was phased in regionally, with all regions reporting SBT as of 1 October 2012. Voluntary reporting on recreational tagging activities continues to occur across the wider recreational fishery (e.g. provision of tag release information).

[6] New Zealand has provided blanket authorisation for all nationally flagged commercial operators to fish for SBT in NZ waters.
[7] The recreational sector vessel numbers are comprised of amateur charter vessels retaining SBT, and the number of individual vessels recorded at the Waihau Bay boat ramp survey.
[8] For the 2022/23 fishing year, there were 19 surface longline vessels that caught SBT, all of which were targeting SBT. There were an additional 17 vessels which caught SBT using other fishing methods (trawl, troll, set net, bottom longline).
[9] For the 2023/24 fishing year there were 20 surface longline vessels that caught SBT, 18 of which targeted SBT. There were an additional 23 vessels which caught SBT as bycatch using other methods (trawl, troll, set net, bottom longline).
[10] For the 2024/25 fishing year there were 16 surface longline vessels that caught SBT, 13 of which targeted SBT. There were an additional 25 vessels which caught SBT as bycatch using other methods (trawl, troll, set net, handline).

With regard to customary reporting, one month after the end of each quarter in each calendar year, an authorised Tangata Kaitiaki/Tiaki (*guardian*) must provide a summary of "customary food gathering catch landing form" to the nearest regional fisheries office. This reporting form includes species, quantity harvested, and the area harvested from.

2.2.3 Scientific Observers

i. Provide the percentage of the SBT catch and effort observed in the three previous 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, and sets for longline, and purse seine respectively.

Table 5. Observer coverage of SBT catch and effort[11]

Fishing season	Commercial sector	
	% effort obs.	% catch obs.
2023	3.3	4.6
2024	89	90
2025[12]	91	92

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.

New Zealand's observer program complies with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards.

2.2.4 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

For the most recent 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. New Zealand has implemented mandatory geospatial positional reporting (GPR) across 100 percent of the commercial fishing fleet. This system meets the specifications outlined in the VMS resolution.

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, the mandatory geospatial positional reporting requirements comply with CCSBT's VMS resolution.

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: as of 1 October 2017, all fishing vessels operating in New Zealand waters were required to report electronically per domestic regulations.
2) CVs: N/A

[11] Note that starting in 2024 coverage is reported in terms of level of camera monitoring on board surface longline vessels. New Zealand ensures a minimum of 10% random representative effort is reviewed as required by CCSBT, plus additional targeted review of key fishing events following on a risk-based approach. The data derived from this 10% reviewed footage is submitted to the science data exchange.
[12] Note that less than 100% of catch/effort was covered by camera monitoring in 2025 due some temporary technical issues.

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: as of 1 October 2017, all fishing vessels operating in New Zealand waters reported electronically per domestic regulations.
2) CVs: N/A

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

Reasons for non-compliance may include: the operator failing to turn the VMS unit on; or the VMS unit unable to be turned on; or the operator not being aware that the VMS unit is not working (e.g. as a result of equipment failure). Non-compliance, where detected, is followed up by Fishery Officers.

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.

In the event of device failure at sea, the permit holder is required to notify Fisheries New Zealand as soon as practicable. Upon notification the vessel will either be ordered to port or will be issued a direction notice allowing the permit holder to continue fishing. A direction is issued for a specific time period and once back at port, the permit holder must have their GPR unit fixed prior to any future trips. In some cases, Fisheries Compliance can corroborate vessel GPR separately through Automatic Identification System (AIS) data.

During the 2024/25 fishing season, the Ministry for Primary Industries issued no direction notices for vessels which had reported a VMS unit failure and were targeting SBT.

vii. *A description of any investigations initiated in accordance with paragraph 5(b) of the CCSBT VMS resolution including progress to date and any actions t*aken.

No investigations were requested or initiated in the 2024/25 fishing season.

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 previous fishing season (e.g. the percentage of SBT trips inspected).

The New Zealand fleet is made up entirely of small domestic SLL vessels, which typically conduct short trips offshore. These vessels usually set gear some 20 nm or more from shore which is outside the range MPI vessels can operate. This makes at-sea inspections reliant on naval support. New Zealand instead focuses its efforts on port inspections and other domestic reporting requirements that enable it to monitor product throughout the supply chain.

No at sea inspections were conducted on vessels targeting SBT during the 2024/25 fishing year.

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.

No actions were taken in 2024/25.

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.

For the last seven years, a research project has been dedicated to estimating the recreational catch of SBT. The information used in the estimate is collected from a variety of sources (described in the New Zealand Annual Report to the Extended Scientific Committee) and includes:

- Amateur charter vessel records
- Recreational catch from commercial vessels
- New Zealand sport fishing club records
- South Island recreational fishing estimates
- Landed catch from an on-site survey at Waihau Bay
- The New Zealand gamefish tagging programme
- National Panel Survey of Marine Recreational Fishers
- Social media

Customary reporting is via a separate process. Tangata kaitiaki/tiaki (guardians) regularly report the amount of customary catch in their rohe moana (defined customary fishing area).

2.3 SBT TOWING AND TRANSFER TO AND BETWEEN FARMS (FARMS ONLY)

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 previous three 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
2019/20	N/A	N/A
2020/21	N/A	N/A
2021/22	N/A	N/A

i. Plans to allow adoption of the stereo video systems for ongoing monitoring.

N/A

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 previous three fishing seasons in Table 7.*

Table 7. SBT transshipment (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
2019/20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020/21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2021/22	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 previous fishing season.

New Zealand does not have LSTLVs operating in the fleet.

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 previous 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 previous 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

Fishing 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
2022/23	11	0	0	0
2023/24	9	0	0	0
2024/25	1	0	0	0
	TOTAL NUMBER	**0**	**0**	**0**

During the 2024/25 fishing year, New Zealand inspected one foreign flagged fishing vessel (FFV) at Port authorised for CCSBT. All FFVs with wild caught fish which are seeking to use NZ ports require prior approval to enter NZ waters under section 113 of the Fisheries Act. All FFV port inspections are undertaken in accordance with the UN FAO Port State Measures Agreement and findings are reported to the relevant flag State through the FAO Global Information Exchange System (GIES). During the port inspection, an issue concerning the vessels' mitigation measures (including seabirds and sea turtles) was identified. This information was communicated to the relevant flag State via the GIES for further action.

2.6 MONITORING OF TRADE OF SBT

For the last whole calendar year or fishing season,

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

During the 2024/25 fishing year, there were 181 instances where SBT was landed by the inshore fishing fleet. Of those landing events, New Zealand Fishery Officers completed

16 commercial vessel inspections that directly aligned with the landing of SBT. This figure represents 8.8% of all SBT landing events.

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

Inspections for exporting SBT are not mandatory but occur as part of routine enforcement activities.

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

Inspections for importing SBT are not mandatory but occur as part of routine enforcement activities.

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[13] of the Resolution, and the level of compliance.

New Zealand continues to carry out inspection activities to monitor the information contained in the CDS documentation. This is undertaken through vessel inspections at port and licensed fish receiver inspections in conjunction with other supporting Compliance activity.

New Zealand also conducts analyses which compare information provided in CDS documents against other sources of information such as domestic catch reports and observer records.

Additionally, regular checks of CDS documentation are undertaken by the CDS administrator as part of the regular quarterly reconciliation process conducted by the Secretariat.

3 Changes to sections in Annex 1

List any sections of Annex 1 that have changed since the previous year.

There are no changes to report in Annex 1.

[13] *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."*

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) and any 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 2).

Monitoring Methods	Description
Daily log book	*Specify:* *i. Whether this is mandatory.* All operators of fishing vessels must complete reporting forms for each day in which fishing takes place. Vessels longlining for SBT must record information for each set immediately prior to and following the end of the set. This information is recorded in the vessel's electronic reporting system and reported to Fisheries New Zealand daily. *ii. The level of detail recorded (shot by shot, daily aggregate etc):* Each vessel must record; a trip start report, start of set (for each set), end of set (for each set), catch report (for each set), discards (for each set), non-fish protected species (for each set), use of mitigation measures (for each set) including the details of the line-weighting regime for longline vessels, landing report, and trip end report for each trip undertaken. *iii. What information on ERS is recorded in logbooks:* Information on interactions with non-fish and protected species is recorded for each trip. Information collected includes: the date, time and location of incident, fishing method, species involved, fate of the animal and health of the animal (i.e. uninjured, injured, dead or 'decomposing' to enable a distinction to be made between animals that were already dead upon being caught). Seabird capture codes are also reported (to distinguish between birds caught on a hook vs. tangled in a line for example). This information is recorded in the vessel electronic reporting system and provided to Fisheries New Zealand daily.

	iv. Who are the logbooks submitted to[14]*:* Information is submitted to Fisheries New Zealand via a contracted third party. *v. What is the timeframe and method*[15] *for submission:* Trip start, landing and end reports must be submitted immediately, with other reports such as catch, discard, processing and non-fish species interaction reports to be submitted by the end of the day that the activity occurred on. Catch verification from the licenced fish receiver must be provided within 15 days following the landing/end of the fishing trip. *vi. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:* Primary validation occurs on the device used by the fishers, e.g. fish stock code cannot be entered in the date section. Secondary validation occurs almost instantly after submission by the vessel. If there are errors, the report is rejected, and returned to the device immediately. The fisher then amends the report and resubmits. Checks are made to ensure reports are submitted within the timeframes specified, and if not fishers are contacted and an explanation is sought to determine why the timeframe was not adhered to. Additionally, verification of returns is carried out through analysis of data within and across different return types by Fisheries New Zealand, to identify any discrepancies. For example, information submitted by fishers is compared with information submitted by licensed fish receivers. Returns are always verified for completeness and accuracy during any form of inspection by Ministry for Primary Industries officials at all stages of the supply chain from catch to market. In-port inspections are also used to verify accuracy of information supplied via electronic reporting. Logbooks are checked during inspections for any abnormalities or amendments to reports. *vii. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:* There is a range of relevant offences, with penalties set by government legislation based on the seriousness of the reported offending. Penalties for late submissions of returns are often dealt with at an administrative level through the issuing of an infringement notice (either $400 NZD or $750 NZD depending on the lateness). Recidivist offenders or anyone failing to provide a return within 15 days of its due date or failing to meet the completion requirements at the end of each set, is liable for a fine up to but not exceeding $100,000 NZD on

[14] *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.*
[15] *In particular, whether the information is submitted electronically from the vessel.*

	summary conviction. Summary offences and penalties are defined in the *Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2017.* The most serious offences where an individual knowingly makes any false or misleading statement (including in a submitted return) in order to obtain a benefit are dealt with using the Fisheries Act 1996. Serious offences can lead to imprisonment (up to five years) and/or a fine up to $250,000 NZD, and can include forfeiture of property including gear, vessels, and quota. *viii. Other relevant information*[16]*:* N/A
Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)	*If multiple reporting methods exist (e.g. daily, weekly and/or monthly SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc), create a separate row in this table for each method. Then, for each method, specify:* *i. Whether this is mandatory:* Additional formal reporting mechanisms utilised by New Zealand exist in the recreational fishing sector in the form of reporting by charter vessel operators. Mandatory amateur charter vessel reporting was phased in regionally, with all regions reporting SBT catch as of 1 October 2012. Voluntary reporting on recreational tagging activities continues to occur across the wider recreational fishery (e.g. provision of tag release information). *ii. The information that is recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):* For each trip, amateur charter vessel operators must record their target species, fishing method, number of people actively fishing, GPS coordinates, and the time spent fishing. For SBT, operators also must record the number caught, the number retained, and the best estimate of the weight in kilograms for each SBT retained. *iii. Who the reports are submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc)[14]:* Amateur charter operators submit returns to Fisheries New Zealand via a contracted third party. *iv. What is the timeframe and method[15] for submission:* Each month's catch reporting forms must be submitted by the 15th of the following month.

[16] *Including information on ERS, and comments on the effectiveness of the controls or monitoring tools and any plans for further improvement.*

	v. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information: Validation of information will occur for each form. *vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:* From 1 November 2010, the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 1986 and the Fisheries (Amateur Charter Fishing Reporting) Notice 2010 were enacted. The legislation includes infringements and summary proceeding penalties for various offences relating to failure to be registered as an amateur charter operator, as well as failure to report catch in a manner consistent with the regulations following amateur charter fishing. From 1 June 2019, the Fisheries (Southern Bluefin Tuna Amateur Fishing) Notice 2019 was enacted. This implemented a bag limit of one southern bluefin tuna, per person, per day for recreational fishers. On 5 May 2022, the bag limit for southern bluefin tuna was brought under the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 2013 to align offence and penalty settings with other recreational daily bag limits. Penalties for taking or possessing more than the daily bag limit for southern bluefin tuna, but not more than 2 or 3 times that daily limit, are often dealt with at an administrative level through the issuing of an infringement notice (either $250 NZD or $500 NZD). Recidivist offenders or a person that commits a more serious offence under these Regulations is liable for a fine up to but not exceeding $20,000. *Other relevant information[16]:* 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:* Discrepancy analysis between observer data and information reported by commercial fishers is currently done on a case-by-case basis when necessary. Ministry for Primary Industries Fishery Officers may also participate in observer briefings prior to trips and/or observer debriefs following trips, in accordance with priorities and/or risk assessments. Routine debrief documentation is completed by the observer programme where no formal debrief is carried out by a Fishery Officer. *ii. What information on ERS is recorded by observers:* Observers collect information on a wide range of incidental catch, including sharks, turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals. That information can include biological data such as length, weight, sex, as well as information on the bycatch mitigation methods in use, life status of bycatch, and general observations, e.g. the presence of seabirds.

	iii. Who are the observer reports submitted to: Observer reports are submitted to Fisheries New Zealand; a summary of the trip report is provided to the operator. *iv. Timeframe for submission of observer reports:* Observer trip reports are submitted upon completion of the trip. Weekly summaries of ERS interactions are also compiled based on reports from observers on board vessels. Fisheries New Zealand contracts out a third party to process biological data collected from observer trips. The contract stipulates that the information must be made available to Fisheries New Zealand within 40 days of receipt. v. *Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):* Observer coverage targets are set in annual operational plans, which outline a 10% target for the fleet. New Zealand has installed cameras on the entire SLL fleet which is contributing to observation of fishing activities via camera footage review.
VMS *The items of "ii" are required in association with the Resolution on establishing the CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System*	*i. For Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT reference to applicable legislation and penalties:* Penalties relating to VMS are outlined in the Fisheries (Geospatial Position Reporting) Regulations 2017: A person commits an offence if the person - (a) without an exemption from the chief executive, removes from a vessel or fish carrier any geospatial position reporting device that is required to be carried and operated; or (b) without an exemption from the chief executive, fails to carry and operate any geospatial position reporting device in accordance with these regulations; or (c) interferes with any geospatial position reporting device to such an extent that the device no longer complies with the standards and requirements specified; or (d) fails to notify the chief executive of any matter required by or under these regulations to be notified to the chief executive; or (e) fails to register a geospatial reporting device; or (f) fails to comply with a direction of the chief executive issued to that person. Every person who commits an offence against these regulations is liable on summary conviction to a fine up to $100,000 NZD and, if the offence is a continuing one, to a further fine up to $1,000 NZD for each day during which the offence is continued.

Other (for example, use of electronic monitoring etc.)	New Zealand began a roll out of electronic monitoring (cameras on boats) in late 2019 which is given effect by the 'Fisheries (Electronic Monitoring on Vessels) Regulations 2017' and the 'Fisheries (Electronic Monitoring on Vessels) Amendment Regulations 2020'. All SLL vessels in the NZ fishing fleet (which make up the majority of vessels targeting SBT within the NZ EEZ) have cameras onboard as of January 2024.

1.1 SBT TOWING AND TRANSFER TO AND BETWEEN FARMS (FARMS ONLY)

N/A New Zealand does not farm SBT.

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:

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:

New Zealand does not currently designate or prohibit specific foreign ports for transhipment of SBT. All vessels authorised to fish outside New Zealand waters must apply and be issued with a high seas fishing permit. New Zealand does not authorise transhipment outside of NZ waters however, if any such activity by a New Zealand vessel was to occur in the future, the vessel would require prior approval and be subject to specific conditions. Further, any such transhipment must be conducted in accordance with the laws of the Port State.

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

All FFVs arriving in New Zealand with fish on board are required to apply for approval (in accordance with section 113 of the Fisheries Act) to possess fish in New Zealand waters. Conditions detailed in the s113 approval include the requirements for monitored unloading and inspection. During the 2024/25 fishing year, no foreign vessels transhipped SBT in New Zealand ports.

iii. Information sharing with designated Port States:

Port inspection of FFVs is undertaken in accordance with the UN FAO Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) and uploaded into the Global Information Exchange System (GIES).

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

Approval to enter New Zealand waters with fish on-board is required under section 113(1)(a)(ii) of the Fisheries Act 1996. Any person convicted of an offence against this section is liable to a fine up to $250,000 NZD.

vii. Other relevant information:

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:

Transhipments by New Zealand flagged vessels, either on the high seas or within New Zealand waters, are subject to specific prior approval by Ministry for Primary Industries. Such transhipments must be monitored by an observer or Fishery Officer and are to be conducted in accordance with a stringent set of conditions to ensure robust verification of quantities transhipped. In addition to the observer/Fishery Officer requirement, the conditions also stipulate notification requirements, VMS monitoring, and completion of appropriate records that can be later verified against landing returns.

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

As described in section *i*, above.

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

Any approval to tranship SBT would be subject to conditions requiring the full completion and submission of CDS documentation.

iv. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

When a transhipment occurs, the vessel master shall provide such information, and shall allow the observer to carry out such inspections (including sampling and measuring) of the vessel, any fish, aquatic life, or seaweed, taken, processed, transhipped, or landed, and documents, as the observer may require for the purpose of observing the transhipment under section 227(1)(e) of the Fisheries Act 1996. Any person convicted of an offence against this section is liable to a fine not exceeding $250,000

v. Other relevant information:

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:

Port of Whangarei	http://www.northport.co.nz
Port of Auckland	http://www.poal.co.nz
Port of Tauranga	http://www.port-tauranga.co.nz
Port of Gisborne	http://eastland.co.nz
Port of Napier	http://www/portofnapier.biz
Port of New Plymouth	http://www.porttaranaki.co.nz
Port of Wellington	http://www.centreport.co.nz
Port of Marlborough	https://www.portmarlborough.co.nz/
Port of Nelson	http://www.portnelson.co.nz
Port of Lyttelton	http://www.lpc.co.nz
Port of Timaru	https://www.primeport.co.nz/
Port of Dunedin	http://portotago.co.nz
Port of Bluff	http://portotago.co.nz

(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:

All foreign flagged fishing vessels are required under the Fisheries Act 1996 to give 72 hours prior notice of arrival into a designated New Zealand port, and 48 hours prior notice before entering the New Zealand EEZ.

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:

There are no ports that are specifically designated for the landing of SBT. All landings must be made to a licensed fish receiver who, in turn, reports to Fisheries New Zealand.

(b) Inspections required for landings of SBT:

New Zealand flagged vessels that fish on the high seas are prioritised for a monitored unload[17]. New Zealand undertakes risk-based profiling and continually allocates resources to in-port inspections and monitored unloads.

(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:

New Zealand can conduct genetic testing to verify that SBT are not being landed as a different species. This is only undertaken if suspicion is raised during an inspection, or there is information received that this might be occurring. Genetic testing has also been used to verify species declared by foreign vessels visiting New Zealand ports.

[17] A New Zealand vessel can obtain an exemption from unload monitoring if a New Zealand observer has monitored the entire trip.

(d) Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:

In addition to the CDS requirements, fishers must fulfil a number of domestic reporting obligations that include detailed information on landings. The submitted forms include information on fish numbers, weight, processed state, licensed fish receiver details, and fisher details. This information is assessed against that submitted by the licensed fish receiver to ensure the continuity of the reports.

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

Catch Monitoring Forms are completed by licensed fish receivers for landings of domestic product. Completed Catch Monitoring Forms must be returned by the 15th of the month following the month of catch, in line with other domestic reporting requirements.

New Zealand delegates authority to validate CDS documents to authorised third parties. The delegated authority system is established under the New Zealand Government Qualifications Authority; personnel receive training and must achieve a specific qualification for validation. The authorised validators work under the direction and authority of Fisheries New Zealand.

(f) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

In 2016, New Zealand drafted new regulations to better enforce the requirements of the CDS. The Fisheries (Southern Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme) Regulations 2017 came into effect on 27 April 2017.

The regulations detail a number of infringement offences with penalties ranging from $400 NZD to $1,000 NZD. The regulations also provide for one summary offence, the sale of SBT without a tag, with a fine upon conviction up to $100,000 NZD.

Prior to 27 April 2017, the Director General of the Ministry for Primary Industries issued guidance to permit holders and licensed fish receivers instructing them on the details of the CDS and their obligations under the scheme. The instructions were issued under section 190 of the Fisheries Act 1996. Breaches under this section of the Fisheries Act 1996 can lead to fines up to $250,000 NZD.

Failure to meet other domestic reporting requirements can lead to the penalties described in section II(1)(d)(viii) of this report.

(g) Other relevant information:

N/A.

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:

Inspections for exporting SBT are not mandatory, but occur as part of routine enforcement activities.

(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:

New Zealand provides training to Fishery Officers and Fisheries Observers in species identification, including tuna species, and uses a number of guiding documents. New Zealand does not conduct regular genetic testing but has the capability to do so as required. Genetic testing kits have been successfully used in investigations where misreporting of species has occurred.

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

Statistics on the export of SBT are compiled by New Zealand Customs and summarised by the Department of Statistics. Export statistics are further summarised by Seafood New Zealand and maintained as a database for economic evaluations of New Zealand fisheries. CDS documents are required for all SBT exports.

(d) Process for validating 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):

The process for validating Catch Monitoring Forms is as outlined in section 1.4(e) of this report.

(e) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

Regulation 17 of the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 deals with the requirement for inspection prior to departure from New Zealand waters. Non-compliance carries a maximum fine of $100,000 NZD.

(f) Other relevant information:

N/A.

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:

All foreign vessels carrying fish into New Zealand waters must obtain prior approval to do so. The approval to land fish is given for a limited number of ports that are suitable for both fisheries and customs inspections on arrival.

(b) Inspections required for imports of SBT:

On 1 October 2019, new regulations under the Fisheries Act 1996 came into force, prohibiting the import of SBT unless accompanied by the appropriate catch documentation. The regulations will replace existing prohibition orders that were administered under the Customs and Excise Act 2018.

It should be noted that imports of SBT into New Zealand are rare and generally involve minimal quantities.

(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:

New Zealand does not conduct genetic testing on imported fish unless information is received, or analysis determines, that misreporting may be occurring. New Zealand utilises trade data and other analytical tools to determine if an importation is considered to be at a risk level warranting further examination. The New Zealand Customs Service is responsible for all commercial importation of fish and for the application of the correct tariff code. Ministry for Primary Industries would be requested to support any investigation.

(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):

Customs officials collect CDS documentation for imports of SBT. Fisheries New Zealand officials then verify the information.

(e) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:

Approval to enter New Zealand waters with fish on-board is required under section 113(1)(a)(ii) of the Fisheries Act 1996. Any person convicted of an offence against this section is liable to a fine up to $250,000 NZD.

The prohibitions orders are enforced under the powers found within section 297 of the Fisheries Act 1996. Fines of up to $100,000 NZD are applied to breaches.

(f) Other relevant information:

N/A.

1.5.3 SBT Markets

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

Ministry for Primary Industries conducts inspections at numerous points throughout the supply chain including at the point of landing and the final market. Fish receivers must be licensed and have reporting obligations to Ministry for Primary Industries that allow for cross-validation with information submitted by fishers. Dealers in fish (e.g. restaurants and fish and chip shops) must also maintain accounts of their transactions which provide additional information against which to corroborate earlier records.

(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):

As stated above, all dealers in fish are required by law to maintain records of their transactions; this requirement includes SBT. These records are subject to regular inspection and audit by Ministry for Primary Industries officials.

(c) Other relevant information:

N/A.

1.6 OTHER

Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.

On 1 June 2019, a bag limit was introduced to the SBT recreational fishery of one fish per person per day. The management measure was implemented under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 1996. The management measure was introduced in response to increased interest in the recreational fishery. On 5 May 2022, the bag limit for SBT of one fish per person per day was brought under the Fisheries (Amateur Fishing) Regulations 2013 to align offence and penalty settings with other recreational daily bag limits. The Ministry for Primary Industries Fishery Officers enforce these rules, and Fisheries New Zealand continues to monitor the recreational fishery to estimate recreational take.

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:*

New Zealand implemented the first National Plan of Action to reduce the incidental catch of seabirds in New Zealand fisheries in 2004. This plan was revised in 2013, 2020, and 2026 – the 2026 NPOA Seabirds will be published shortly. Copies of this plan can be obtained from the Fisheries New Zealand website.

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

New Zealand implemented the first National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of sharks (NPOA Sharks) in 2008. This plan was revised in 2013 and 2026. Copies of the 2026 plan can be obtained from the Fisheries New Zealand website.

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

New Zealand has implemented the FAO guidelines on sea turtles as applicable.

ii. Specify whether all current binding and recommendatory measures[18] aimed at the protection of ecologically related species[19] 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:*

Not applicable (New Zealand-flagged vessels are prohibited from fishing IOTC waters since New Zealand is not a member of the Commission).

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

[18] *Relevant measures of these RFMOs can be found at: http://www.ccsbt.org/site/bycatch_mitigation.php .*
[19] *Including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks.*

New Zealand currently complies with all ERS requirements of WCPFC.

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

Not applicable (New Zealand-flagged vessels are prohibited from fishing ICCAT waters since New Zealand is not a member of the Commission).

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*[20]*:*

New Zealand is working together with the Secretariat to ensure ERS data is appropriately integrated into CCSBT datasets.

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

N/A.

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

New Zealand reports to WCPFC in accordance with the requirements of that Commission.

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

N/A.

(b) Mitigation – describe the current mitigation requirements:

The Fisheries (Seabird Mitigation Measures – Surface Longlines) Circular requires use of mitigation measures when setting surface longlines, including tori lines, night setting, or line weighting. The Circular also provides for the use of hook shielding devices as a standalone measure. The use of tori lines has been regulated since 1993. Specifications for tori lines refer to its length and attachment point, as well as the number, size, and distance between streamers.

The Circular has gone through a number of iterations, strengthening and aligning the requirements with those of WCPFC. Similar provisions are also outlined in high seas permit conditions for any New Zealand vessels fishing on the high seas. In 2023, changes to the SLL Circular were consulted on and in 2024 the decision was made to mandate either hook-shielding devices on 100% of hooks, or simultaneous use of a tori line, line weighting, and setting at night. This change came into effect in October 2024.

New Zealand's National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2026 commits Fisheries New Zealand to regular review of mitigation measures.

In August 2023, New Zealand implemented changes to the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 to mitigate accidental sea turtle bycatch in surface longline fisheries, in line with the requirements of WCPFC. The new regulations require fishers who are surface longlining in New Zealand waters to use a hook or hooks that are circular or oval in shape,

[20] *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.*

have the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank, and comply with the requirements set out in any circular.

In 2022, New Zealand established an inter-agency turtle bycatch working group to proactively monitor and manage sea turtle interactions in the SLL fishery. Additionally, the Protected Species Liaison Programme provides education on turtles including best handling practice and release guidelines and high-risk seasons. They also distribute 'de-hooking' kits to all SLL vessels, and complete turtle capture questionnaires with skippers to collect data on the conditions of turtle captures. The working group worked with industry to develop the *'Interim plan for management of surface longline (SLL) leatherback turtle interactions',* published in 2025*.*

Voluntary initiatives to mitigate the risk of seabird captures

Since 2016, the Department of Conservation's Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme has been working with the surface longline fleet to mitigate incidental capture of seabirds and other protected marine species. A key output of the programme has been to assist in the development of risk management plans specific to the individual vessel's operations. The programme also encourages fishers to seek advice from liaison officers when a certain number of captures of certain species occur.

The risk management plans include mandatory and voluntary seabird mitigation measures. Voluntary measures include:

- Reporting seabird bycatch events to Liaison Officers
- Using thawed bait (rather than frozen bait)
- Offal and bait retention or batching during hauling and setting
- Using a line shooter
- Reducing deck lighting when setting a night
- Increasing sink rate of baited hooks during setting (for example, by reducing setting speed)

The use of voluntary measures is not included as part of statutory reporting.

The Protected Species Liaison Officer Programme also distributes guides on best handling practices, as well as mitigation materials like tori line materials and hook-shielding devices.

(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):

Compliance with these measures is monitored primarily through review of camera footage, in-port inspections by Fishery Officers, aerial surveillance from military aircraft, and periodic placement of observers on board vessels. Reports indicating problems with use of mitigation equipment are prioritised for follow-up with vessel operators. If problems relate to a non-compliance with the seabird mitigation regulatory measures, they are then followed up by Fishery Officers. Additionally, new electronic reporting requirements that came into effect in 2021 require additional reporting for the SLL fleet on seabird mitigation measures and line weighting regimes, and cameras were placed on board all SLL vessels in 2024.

During the 2024/25 fishing year, Fishery Officers specifically inspected ten SBT vessels for seabird mitigation measures, required under New Zealand fisheries regulations. Of the ten

vessels inspected, one was found to have a minor issue with their tori line streamers which failed to meet minimum regulatory requirements. Fishery Officers provided the fisher with commercial advice.

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

Fishery Officers inspect seabird mitigation equipment used by SLL vessels. Information is recorded on a supplementary inspection form capturing details relating to the configuration of tori line(s), line-weighting and hook shielding devices that are present on vessels.

Monitoring of compliance with seabird mitigation requirements through aerial surveillance allows Fisheries Compliance to gather information about the use of mitigation equipment at sea. Any non-compliance detected is followed up and may lead to enforcement action where non-use of mitigation equipment is established.

Observer reports provide information about mitigation gear usage and gear descriptions. Camera monitoring collects information on mitigation measures including for seabirds (e.g. tori line use).

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.