Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

CCSBT-EC/2610/12

Strategic Plan Progress Report
(EC agenda item 8.1)

Purpose

To provide a progress report against the Strategic Plan workplan items, including feedback from relevant subsidiary bodies.

Background

At CCSBT 30, Members adopted a revised Strategic Plan[1] that outlines a common vision for how the Commission will operate in order to meet the overall objective of the Convention. The Strategic Plan also provides the following vision and set of goals in support of the overall objective.

Vision and goals

Management of SBT

The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated.

- This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species.
- This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.

Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT.

- This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.

Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance.

Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions.

- This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.

[1] www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/operational_resolutions/CCSBT_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Strategic Plan Items of Relevance to the Extended Commission

The Strategy includes several actions that are to be carried out by the Extended Commission (EC). The following elements of the Action Plan and Ongoing Work Plan have been identified as relevant to the work of the EC.

Action Plan

2026

- **PR2021-31**: Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law.
- Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers

2027

- **PR2021-72**: Formalise a reserve/savings fund to be utilised in extraordinary circumstances.
- **PR2021-73**: Develop mechanisms to improve communication between the Finance and Administration Committee and various subsidiary bodies.
- **PR2021-34**: The CCSBT should consider alternative decision-making models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.

Long Term (2028 onwards)

- **PR2021-29**: Due to the central importance of spawning and recruitment for stock rebuilding, additional efforts should be made to develop, in Indonesian waters, spatio-temporal restrictions, equitable and compatible with the rest of the management strategy.
- **PR2021-07**: Improve transparency by providing and making public, historical data and information that are not currently accessible in the public domain.
- **PR2021-32**: Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level.
- **PR2021-35**: The CCSBT should consider developing an alternative approach to dispute settlement/ conflict resolution to avoid the potential for future stalemates that could significantly compromise the conservation and management of SBT resources.

Completed Actions

- The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options.
- Improve existing guidelines to determine what, if any, allocation should be made to new Members and CNMs.
- **PR2021-22**: Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities.
- **PR2021-58**: Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website.

Ongoing Work Plan

- **PR2021-01**: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.
- **PR2021-24**: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.
- **PR2021-71**: Maintain a healthy flow of income (through Member's contribution and other sources) that exceeds CCSBT's expenses.
- Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future. Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee.
- **PR2021-74**: Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings
- **PR2021-75**: Encourage the re-election of Chairs for up to 4 years as is allowed in 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure to provide better governance of the CCSBT.
- **PR2021-57**: Process for review of external documents, including possible non-compliance on the part of Members, should be monitored to ensure that it does not create a barrier for external engagement with the CCSBT.
- Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS
- **PR2021-44**: Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.
- **PR2021-56**: Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible.
- **PR2021-64**: Members look for additional opportunities to engage with one another outside of the traditional meeting dates of the CCSBT to ensure that the limited time available at CCSBT meetings is maximised.
- **PR2021-63**: Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process.
- **PR2021-68**: Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests.

Monitoring and Implementation

To ensure that the objectives of the Strategic Plan are met, the plan outlines a process that commits to annual monitoring and reporting against the actions agreed under the plan. The EC has been tasked to review the progress made with the Secretariat holding responsibility for compiling the information necessary for the EC to conduct its annual monitoring review.

The Strategic Plan states that "Subsidiary bodies holding responsibility for particular action items are expected to report back on the progress of those activities as part of their respective meeting reports".

As a subsidiary body, ERSWG and ESC have reported back their progress, and these are provided in **Attachment A** and **B** respectively. There is no progress report from the Compliance Committee as its meeting had not concluded at the time of writing.

Initial Recommendations from Secretariat for Action Plan items for 2026 and 2027

The Secretariat has provided draft responses to some of the actions in the Action Plan, which are scheduled for delivery and in 2027, as shown in **Attachment C**. Of these, some items worth noting include the following:

1. **PR2021-31**: Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law (scheduled to deliver in 2026).
    - This action item will be discussed under Agenda item 7, taking into account the outcomes from the intersessional allocation workshops and bilateral discussions between Members.
    - In **Attachment C**, the Secretariat provided only a background summary of this matter in tracked changes at this stage.
2. **PR2021-34**: The CCSBT should consider alternative decision-making models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.
    - This action item is scheduled for delivery in the medium to long term (2027/28), and this could be considered as a preparatory action for **PR2021-32**: Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level, which is scheduled for delivery in the long term (2028++).
    - If this action is to be pursued, then Members will need to submit concrete proposals. Interested Members are encouraged to submit papers to the EC in 2027 to lead the discussions.
3. **PR2021-58**: Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website.
    - This action has already been completed in 2025, and now the CCSBT compendium is available from the CCSBT website public area.
    - The Secretariat will update the compendium following each annual meeting of the Commission to incorporate any new decisions of the Commission.
4. Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers (scheduled to deliver in 2026).
    - ESC 26 in 2021 undertook a comprehensive review of communication between the EC and the ESC and made several proposals to the EC. Although neither the EC nor the Members provided specific feedback, some of the ESC's proposals have already been implemented, such as producing the "non-technical summary" of the Management Procedure and changes to the ESC Chair's reporting to the EC.

- If Members intend to consider further implementation of the ESC's advice, both the timing of its commencement and the associated budgetary implications should also be taken into account.

Next Steps

In 2025, the EC considered relevant items of the Strategic Plan following the agreed template and adopted its "Report from the Extended Commission on Progress Against Strategic Plan" as Attachment 10 of the report of EC from CCSBT 32.

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

In **Attachment C**, the Secretariat provided some preliminary updates as tracked changes. Yellow-highlighted sections must be updated following the EC 33's discussion.

Members are requested following actions:

1. For the Report from the Extended Commission on Progress Against Strategic Plan,
   1) As a part of the pre-meeting discussion process, Members provide their suggested changes/additions to **Attachment C**. The Secretariat will send a link to the shared document so that Members may edit the same file.
   2) The Secretariat will submit the initial edited version to the EC as a Working Paper (including any changes/additions provided by Members).
   3) During the EC meeting, the EC convenes a small group to update the Working Paper by reflecting the outcomes of EC 33, and the Small Group will meet in the margins of the plenary meeting and finalise the draft progress report.
   4) If required, the small group submits a draft revised progress report as a new working paper for the EC's plenary discussion.
   5) EC includes the agreed report as an Attachment to its final meeting report.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Attachment A

Report from CCSBT Subsidiary Bodies on Progress Against Strategic Plan	
Subsidiary Body: ERSWG	**Year: 2026**
Vision and Goals	
	Comments from Subsidiary Body
Management of SBT The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated. • This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species. • This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.	• ERSWG developed, and EC 32 adopted the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Bycatch Strategy. • ERSWG has adopted and is in the process of actioning the Multi-year Seabird Strategy – for 2026 this includes defining high risk areas and priority species, and defining a relative mortality rate, as well as making a recommendation to the EC on possible management actions. • ERSWG developed and ran a SEFRA for seabirds. The CCSBT SEFRA model was finalised in 2025, and the EC 32 approved the 2025 SEFRA Technical Report. • The CCSBT SEFRA model contributed to the Global Risk Assessment for Seabirds under the CCSBT Seabird Project funded by Common Oceans ABNJ II project.
Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT. • This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.	• ERSWG 15 has developed and agreed new Terms of Reference for the ERS Technical Group, and ERSTech2025 was held in April 2025 in Wellington as a hybrid meeting. • ERSWG has agreed to meet on an annual basis by including a technical working group in the years where ERSWG does not meet to continuously advance the ecologically related species work.

Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions. • This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.	• The CCSBT Seabird Project has actively engaged with Members to improve on MCS measures, specifically emphasising engagement with developing countries. • Members reported ERS data submission[2], mitigation measures and education. In addition, some Members took part in the evaluation on mitigation measures, assessment of SBT-fishery-bird interaction, and outreach activities through the Seabird Project. • Compliance with ERS measures, and relevant corrective actions including sanctions for any non-compliance, is considered annually at Compliance Committee. • The Member Participation Fund was utilised in both 2025 and 2026 to support developing Member participation at ERS meetings.

Action Plan

Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
Noting the Multi-year Seabird Strategy adopted at ERSWG 14, develop an Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan based on the recommendations from the Performance Review.	• CCSBT 32 in 2025 adopted the ERS Bycatch Strategy.	• This Action is completed. • ERSWG and Members are committed to actioning the adopted ERS Bycatch Strategy. • ERSWG16 updated the EDE template to include marine mammals which interact with SBT fisheries.

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

Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	**Changes since previous report**	**Planned work**
PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.	• ERSWG15 updated its advice to EC on seabirds.	
PR2021-25: CCSBT members should continue to strengthen the implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines in fishing operations.	• In 2024, Members noted that some NPOAs have been adopted, e.g. Australia's NPOA-Sharks, South Africa's NPOA-Sharks. • Indonesia planned to update its NPOA-Seabirds in 2025. • South Africa is currently in the process of updating its NPOA–Seabirds, which is now in the final stages of approval and sign-off. • Taiwan and New Zealand are updating their NPOA-seabirds and plan to publish it in 2026.	• Members continue to review NPOAs in line with IPOAs and FAO guidelines.
PR2021-13: Achieve a better balance between the scientific efforts dedicated to SBT and ERS.	• ERSWG has undertaken a technical SEFRA risk assessment examining the risk to ACAP seabirds from CCSBT fisheries. • Members provided extensive effort to the intersessional SEFRA work in 2024 and 2025, including many meetings of the SEFRA Technical Group and the ERSTech, and the CCSBT SEFRA model was finalised.	• The future of the SEFRA initiative will be dependent on the decision of the EC, however, could entail additional iterations using supplementary Member data, implementing additional mitigation/monitoring measures in high-risk areas, and/or socialising the work with other RFMOs.

	• CCSBT 32 approved the 2025 SEFRA Technical Report to support the ERSWG's ongoing work in line with the CCSBT's Multi-Year Seabird Strategy.	• Review working and reporting relationships between ESC and ERSWG and the Extended Commission.

Attachment 5

Report from CCSBT Subsidiary Bodies on Progress Against Strategic Plan

Subsidiary Body: ESC	**Year**: 2026

Vision and Goals

	Comments from Subsidiary Body
Management of SBT The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated. • This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species. • This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.	ESC supports the vision as described here. ESC has contributed to SBT stock rebuilding and management advice based on scientific evidence. The ESC considers that the SBT tuna stock is being rebuilt towards a biomass level that will support the MSY. The most recent stock assessment indicates that the stock is continuing to rebuildand is currently estimated to be at 28% of TRO_0. The ESC notes that demonstrating progress towards stock rebuilding has and will continue to rely on the substantial investment in innovative science including in genetic studies that has allowed a robust estimate of population size to support decision making on TACs, monitoring stock recovery and demonstrating progress towards the rebuilding targets. The current MP is based on sound science and processes which are unique in their approach to tuna fisheries management relative to approaches in other related RFMOs. The ESC provides advice on TACs based on a fully tested management procedure (MP). The ESC also applies an annual metarule framework to the MP that includes an annual review of indicators and a process to assess whether or not exceptional circumstances have occurred. The ESC notes advice from the ERSWG to the EC on ecologically related species, including seabirds. While not the responsibility of ESC, marine pollution, [climate change] and human safety is an important issue.
Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT. • This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies	ESC supports the strategic goals on the operation/administration of the Commission and Secretariat, and considers that opportunities for harmonising with other RFMOs should continue to be pursued, including for developing electronic monitoring (EM) standards. The ESC has regularly reviewed and updated the Scientific Research Program as well as the associated schedule and budget implications. The Commission and Secretariat should be aware of any implications that arise from the BBNJ agreement.

and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.	
Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions. • This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.	The ESC also considers there has been progress with participation in ESC meetings and will continue to work toward the goal of maximising participation by all Members. The ESC notes that a robust monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) program is critical to the assessment of the SBT and its recovery. The ESC also notes the importance of adequate observer coverage. The ESC has encouraged timely data collection and submission, and there has been some improvement recently. The ESC notes the importance of identifying any non-compliance, and the reasons for that non-compliance.

Action Plan

Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
PR2021-02: Explore the need for additional measures (such as protected areas and area closures) to support spawning and recruitment.	As noted in the ESC28 Report, the ESC considers that there is no need for protected areas or area closures to protect the SBT spawning grounds.	Nil for ESC.
Further increase efforts, including analysis on the application of electronic monitoring, to improve and supplement observer coverage in accordance with Scientific Observer Program Standard (SOPS).	The ESC recently undertook a review of the potential impacts of EM on the collection of the data currently required under the existing SOPS. Members agreed to include an agenda item to address issues relating to EM/S in future meetings of the ESC. Since ESC 29, Members with operational EM programs have worked together intersessionally regarding how information is collected by EM and how this meets the requirements of the SOPS, and presented progress of this work this at ESC 31. The ESC noted that capacity development work in EM had taken place as part of the Seabird Project.	The ESC considers that there is merit in ensuring the development of the CCSBT EM standards is aligned with other relevant RFMOs.

Prioritise the establishment and ongoing review of long-term research strategic planning in the ESC.	Each ESC includes this as a standing item on the Scientific Research Program, including a procedure for evaluating new research proposals.	Continue current annual process.
Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	**Changes since previous report**	**Planned work**
PR2021-01: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.	ESC Members actively participated in the MP development and implementation through their research activities. This also includes assessing whether there have been exceptional circumstances. ESC31 concluded there are exceptional circumstances due to the CPUE estimate for 2025 being outside the 95% bound of projected CPUE values from operating models used in the Management Strategy Evaluation in 2019. The trend in CPUE is positive and therefore risks to the stock are currently low. so therefore decided not to alter its previous advice on the 2027-2029 TAC block. The ESC considered non-member catches in the 2026 stock assessment and recommended a TAC to CCSBT based on an estimated level of unaccounted mortality.	The ESC notes the importance of a strong compliance framework to ensure that catch limits are maintained. Consider further analysis of markets to better understand possible non-member catch. Non-member catch estimation was conducted in 2026 as part of CCSBT's SRP project.
PR2021-26: Continue monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the rebuilding strategy for SBT	The ESC supports this action and notes that this has been made possible through the implementation of the Close-Kin, Gene Tagging and efforts to improve the standardisation of CPUE projects. The ESC strongly recommends establishing a long-term funding arrangement for the Gene Tagging program and other monitoring programs that provide input data to the MP. The ESC has monitored and discussed the national reports and results, and progress of the research activities. Ongoing work around development of EM standards for CCSBT.	ESC recommends continued support for and implementation of science projects to meet this action under the CCSBT Strategic Plan. Funding priority should be given to the monitoring programs that provide input data to the MP and implementation of the MP, to ensure that robust advice is given to the Commission to meet the objectives of

		conservation and optimal utilisation of the stock.
PR2021-12: Continue to develop and embed innovative methods such as gene-tagging and close kin mark-recapture to improve scientific processes.	Updates to the Operating Model have been completed and used for the stock assessment in 2026. ESC has discussed and reviewed the progress and results of gene-tagging and Close-Kin regularly. The gene tagging budget was reinstated for 2026.	
PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.	Implementation of CMM's has been possible given a robust stock assessment conducted in 2023. Updates to the operating model have been completed for running the stock assessment in 2026. The Management Procedure was run in 2025 to provide advice on the SBT TAC for the next CMM, and the ESC reconfirmed the recommendation in 2026.	The ESC supports progress towards this action and notes effective monitoring of fishing activity, including through observer coverage or EM programs, is essential. The ESC also notes that implementation of CMM's relies on a strong compliance program.
PR2021-55: ESC to improve accessibility of reports to non-technical readers.	ESC has developed and made available each meeting report. This has included a Chair's summary for each ESC in non-technical language to help facilitate communication with the EC/other subsidiary bodies.	Continue the current process.
Ensure members are submitting high quality, clear, consistent, and completed reporting.	ESC has encouraged all Members to submit annual reports, and there have been some improvements recently. The ESC notes that not all Members submit reports as required.	The ESC will continue to encourage all Members to submit high quality, clear, consistent and completed reports.
PR2021-16: Continue to study the spatial aspects of the SBT stock structure and movements, and the fleets that exploit SBT.	Tagging projects continue to be delivered to improve understanding of stock structure. The ESC now has a standing Agenda Item "Potential impacts of climate change".	Work developing a multiple fleet CPUE index (addressing effects of contraction of the spatial distribution of the core Japanese fleet) is proposed in the SRP.

Report from the Extended Commission on Progress Against Strategic Plan 2026~~5~~

Vision and Goals

	Comments from Extended Commission
Management of SBT The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated. • This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species. • This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.	***Strategies concerning stock rebuilding*** The EC has adopted and implemented measures to rebuild the SBT stock based on the scientific advice/recommendation from ESC, EC supports continuation of the scientific studies and research which would enable the ESC to come up with a robust estimate of population size and more precise stock assessment and risks on future assessments. The implementation of the commission decisions are evaluated in the compliance meeting. The CCSBT's current SBT stock rebuilding target is to achieve a biomass level of 30 % of the original spawning stock biomass (SSB) by 2035 with 50 % probability. The 2026 Stock Assessment shows the SBT stock, as indicated by relative Total Reproductive Output (TRO), is estimated to be 28 % (21 % - 37 %; 95 % credible interval) of TRO_0. Projected rebuilding of the stock is on track and close to the rebuilding target, with the median of model runs projected to be at the target in 2028. ***Strategies concerning ecologically related species*** The level of interaction between seabirds and SBT fisheries remains a significant concern for the EC. Although the EC has been prioritising seabirds in considering mitigation measures for ecologically related species and CCSBT requires vessels to comply with the measures of the RFMO in the Convention area of which the vessels are fishing, targeted action to mitigate the risk of SBT fishing to seabirds in areas with a high risk of interaction with endangered seabird species is under discussion. CCSBT Members have been advised by the ERSWG to consider taking further actions that would ensure robust seabird mitigation measures and effective monitoring of implementation of the mitigation measures, whilst minimising impacts on SBT surface longline fisheries effort ~~but to date no actions have been taken by the EC regarding that advice~~. For seabirds, CCSBT 32 in ~~The ERS Tech~~ 2025 approved ~~completed~~ the results of the ~~a~~ Spatially Explicit Fisheries Risk Assessment (SEFRA) for seabirds. Based on the 2025 SEFRA, ERSWG 16 in March 2026

	~~Further~~ discussedion ~~of~~ the management implications ~~of this assessment~~ together with actioning the Commission's Multi-year Seabird Strategy ~~is expected to guide much needed action~~ to ensure robust seabird mitigation measures and effective monitoring, whilst minimising impacts on SBT surface longline fisheries effort. ~~At EC 32, the ERS Tech 2025 recommended the EC approve the release of the SEFRA code to allow its use outside of CCSBT (e.g. within other tuna RFMOs), which would be strictly limited to the coding element and will not include any of the input data provided by Members.~~ ERSWG 16 recommended that the EC decide seabird priority species and high-risk areas on seabird bycatch with CCSBT fisheries and to adopt additional measures to address high-risk areas of seabird bycatch using the toolbox specified in paragraph 65 of the report of ERSWG16 to better understand and reduce risk to seabirds in identified high-risk areas. [Reflect outcomes from Agenda item X and decision by EC33] For sharks and sea turtles, Members agreed that CCSBT's role should focus on contributing relevant data to support stock or risk assessment in other tuna RFMOs. ***Consideration and review of other risks (pollution and human safety)*** Although there have not been discussions in the Extended Commission recently on the issues such as marine pollution, and human safety, the EC may wish to consider adopting the rules of other relevant RFMOs on these issues. The EC recognises that all SBT fishing operations need to promote human safety.
Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT. • This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.	The EC developed the Strategic Action Plan to ensure that the Commission operates effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage SBT fisheries, and updates the Plan regularly. CCSBT maintains compliance relationships with relevant bodies and organisations, and ensures effective and ongoing engagement with other tuna RFMO Secretariats where SBT is harvested. Recognising the need to build capacity for coastal developing states and to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities, the EC agreed a Capacity Building Workplan in 2024, ~~at CCSBT 31,~~ and all subsidiary bodies (including ERSWG, ESC and CC) have conducted ~~first~~ Needs Assessments every year ~~were completed at ESC and CC in~~since 2025. Some members have committed to working with the relevant developing Member~~the Secretariat~~ to scope options for further capacity building activities to build on the Needs Assessments.

	Aside from harmonisation with other RFMOs, the EC will continue to identify ways to also work with the BBNJ Secretariat, subsidiary bodies, and other mechanisms, as necessary, subject to availability of financial resources.
Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions. • This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.	CCSBT has Meeting Participation Fund and Corrective Actions Policy in place. EC will review them from time to time and make improvements/revisions if necessary. ERSWG 16 recommended that the EC discuss the persistent non-compliance issues of Members with seabird mitigation measures in the context of the recommendations of the ERSWG regarding the need to reduce seabird bycatch. [CCSBT adopted the Terms of Reference for the live streaming of CCSBT official meetings using an online platform, enabling Members and/or Observers to follow the plenary discussions without participating in the in-person meeting.]

Action Plan

Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
PR2021-29: Due to the central importance of spawning and recruitment for stock rebuilding, additional efforts should be made to develop, in Indonesian waters, spatio-temporal restrictions, equitable and compatible with the rest of the management strategy.	Identified as Medium priority as ~~S~~shared responsibility with the ESC and scheduled for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond) ~~2026/27~~. ~~Advice from the ESC to date (see Attachment A) suggests no further action be taken under this recommendation.~~ The CCSBT Strategic Plan has identified ~~that~~ protected areas and spatial-temporal restriction in the spawning ground ~~will be very challenging and put it~~ as Medium~~low~~ priority. Since ESC 28, the ESC has maintained its view that there is no need for protected areas or area closures to protect the SBT spawning grounds.	Based on the most recent advice from ESC, no further actions planned at this stage. Indonesia may request that EC and ESC provide advice on what data and models is or could be available to inform to a discussion on the issue regarding the impact of ABMT/MPA around SBT spawning ground under BBNJ Agreement.

	A Member raised the issue of conservation under BBNJ Agreement and its benefits for SBT for the first time CCSBT EC 32.	
PR2021-07: Improve transparency by providing and making public, historical data and information that are not currently accessible in the public domain.	Scheduled for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date. The CCSBT Compendium, including intersessional decisions, were made publicly available after CCSBT 32.	~~The CCSBT Compendium, including the EC's intersessional decisions, will become publicly available after CCSBT 32.~~ [EC will seek clarification on what "historical data and information" refer to (e.g. "catch and effort-related data and information, meeting records, etc.) and decide on what kind of information should be publicly available.]
PR2021-72: Formalise a reserve/savings fund to be utilised in extraordinary circumstances.	Was scheduled for delivery in 2024/2025. The current priority is to bring balance to income and expenditure so that savings can be rebuilt. Reports to EC/FAC now include greater transparency on the availability of funds for savings. ~~The CCSBT is currently drawing down on its savings.~~	~~Current priority is to bring balance to income and expenditure so that savings can be rebuilt.~~ Consideration completed in 2025. [Secretariat, EC and FAC to ~~further~~continue identifying possible new funding sources, including new membership fee and other potential donors.]
PR2021-73: Develop mechanisms to improve communication between the Finance and Administration Committee and various subsidiary bodies.	Was scheduled for delivery in 2024/2025. Main mechanism for communication continues to be the attendance of the ERSWG, CC and ESC Chair at the FAC and through the Membership.	Consideration completed in 2025. Continue the FAC's pre-meeting discussion process and participation from subsidiary body Chairs in the FAC.
PR2021-31: Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law.	Was scheduled for delivery in 2025/2026. Allocation is a standing agenda item at the EC where Members can review existing allocation mechanisms. At CCSBT 32, Members discussed the TAC and allocations for the 2027–2029 quota	[The allocation discussion should be concluded as soon as possible, recognising the challenges of developing States. The allocation discussion will be maintained/continued through the intersessional

	block, including Indonesia's allocation proposal. CCSBT 32 agreed to defer the decision on this matter to CCSBT 33 in 2026. Intersessional Allocation Workshops were convened to make substantive progress towards achieving agreement at CCSBT 33 on the TAC and allocation for 2027-2029. [Reflect the conclusion at CCSBT 33] ~~At CCSBT 30, Members expressed an openness to discussing a possible way forward to address the position that Indonesia is in, which may include a review of allocation percentages.~~ ~~Members were asked to submit any proposals and documents on allocation by 1 August 2025.~~ ~~Indonesia submitted the proposal on the 31st of July 2025 to be discussed on the CCSBT 32. Indonesia questioned the lack of objective criteria in determining allocation, resulting in an unjust and inequitable allocation mechanism, especially for developing countries.~~	process prior to CCSBT 33, taking into account the principles of fairness and equity, as well as contributions and capabilities of developing countries.] [Reflect the conclusion at CCSBT 33]
PR2021-32: Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level.	Scheduled for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date. No proposal was made before CCSBT 33~~2~~.	EC to discuss the possibilities to initiate this process/discussion before 2028.
PR2021-34: The CCSBT should consider alternative decision-making models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.	Scheduled for delivery in the medium to long term (2027/28). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date. No proposal was made before CCSBT 33~~2~~.	EC to discuss the possibilities to initiate this process/discussion before 2028.

The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options.	Identified as a low priority for short-term (2024/25). Secretariat presented its initial review at CCSBT 32.	No further action required.
PR2021-35: The CCSBT should consider developing an alternative approach to dispute settlement/ conflict resolution to avoid the potential for future stalemates that could significantly compromise the conservation and management of SBT resources.	Identified as a low priority for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date. No proposal was made before CCSBT 33~~2~~.	Indonesia may request EC to discuss the possibilities to initiate this process/discussion before 2028.
PR2021-58: Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website.	Scheduled for delivery in the medium term (2025/26). The CCSBT Compendium, including intersessional decisions, were made publicly available after CCSBT 32~~Secretariat presented options at CCSBT 32 for possible implementation in 2026~~.	Secretariat to update~~publish~~ the CCSBT Compendium after the CCSBT Annual Meeting every year~~after CCSBT 32~~.
Improve existing guidelines to determine what, if any, allocation should be made to new Members and CNMs.	Was scheduled for delivery in 2024/2025. At CCSBT 30, Members agreed to the amended Allocation Resolution,~~Japan suggested~~ revising provisions related to allocations for new Members or CNMs to remove any ambiguity and improve the procedures. ~~Members collaborated on a revised draft of the proposal put forward by Japan and agreed to the amended resolution.~~	No further action planned.
Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers	Scheduled for delivery in the medium-term (2025/26).	EC may discuss opportunities for ensuring effective communication between ESC/ERSWG and fisheries managers.

	ESC 26 made several proposals to the EC for better communication between ESC and EC, and several proposals have already been implemented. Members ~~were requested to provide~~ had an initial consideration at CCSBT 32, but no specific action was agreed.	
PR2021-22: Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities.	Was scheduled for delivery in the short-term (2024/25). CCSBT 31 has agreed to a Capacity-Building Workplan. ERSWG, ESC and CC completed their ~~initial~~ needs assessments for consideration at CCSBT 33~~2~~.	Implementation of the Capacity Building Workplan. Subsidiary bodies will continue their needs assessments every year. ~~ERSWG 16 in 2026 will complete its initial needs assessment.~~
Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	**Changes since previous report**	**Planned work**
PR2021-01: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.	All Member catches are currently within their respective allocations, noting some uncertainties around Indonesia's catch and non-members' catch. [CC 21 provided advice on uncertainty related to catch/allocation limits based on its evaluation of the progress against Indonesia's detailed plan with a timeline.]	~~Continue the current regime, noting Indonesia's progress against its improvement plan will be evaluated at CC21.~~ Continue the current regime to ensure the effectiveness and robust MP to detect some uncertainties.
PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.	[Target species] ~~At~~ Although ESC 30 recommended a 3,000 t increase, CCSBT 32~~0~~ agreed to defer a decision	Continue to review the existing CMMs and make revisions, as appropriate, based on ESC and ERSWG advice.

	on the TAC for the 2027-2029 quota block to CCSBT 33 in 2026~~, Members set the TAC based on the advice received from ESC~~. ESC 31 recommended no changes to the recommended TAC for 2027-2029. ~~-~~[Reflect the decision by CCSBT 33 for SBT] ~~CCSBT Members have been advised by the ERSWG to consider taking further actions that would ensure robust seabird mitigation measures and effective monitoring of implementation of the mitigation measures, whilst minimising impacts on SBT surface longline fisheries effort but to date no actions have been taken by the EC regarding that advice.~~ [Non-target species] Following the results of ~~EC32 adopted~~ the 2025 SEFRA ~~report.~~, ERSWG 16 recommended that the EC decide seabird priority species and high-risk areas on seabird bycatch with CCSBT fisheries and to adopt additional measures to address high-risk areas of seabird bycatch using the toolbox specified in paragraph 65 of the report of ERSWG16. ERSWG 16 reviewed progress against the Ecologically Related Species Bycatch Strategy, recommending the CCSBT's role on sharks and sea turtles among tuna RFMOs. ERS initiatives and measures need to align with works from other tuna RFMOs such as WCFPC and IOTC.	[CCSBT 3~~2~~3 agreed the Terms of Reference ~~that~~ of the MP review ~~of MP~~ in 2027, which was recommended by ESC 31 ~~should explicitly consider the costs and benefits and risks of a reduced sampling program~~.] ERSWG will evaluate the outcomes of the SEFRA report to consider the outcomes of the assessment and potential management actions and report back to the EC33. [Members will develop their Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Plan in identified high-risk areas and report it in their Annual Report to ERSWG and CC/EC.] [ERSTech meeting in March 2027 will focus on the review of the Multi-Year Seabird Strategy. In addition, Members will detail several other issues to discuss, such as how best to deal with data deficiencies.]

PR2021-71: Maintain a healthy flow of income (through Member's contribution and other sources) that exceeds CCSBT's expenses.	Recently, expenses have exceeded income. Members have previously agreed on a 5% increase in Member contributions ~~at CCSBT 31~~ but did not reach consensus on increasing Member contributions for 2026. Members considered new Member fee proposal at CCSBT 32. [Members provided further feedback on the proposal as part of intersessional discussions since CCSBT 32.]	Members will continue to do their best to accept 5% increase in Member contributions at least while exploring potential cost saving options to keep the expenses within income. Secretariat and Members would continue to identify ways for savings and cost efficiencies. [Members will continue to assess the contributions, proportionate to the capabilities of developing countries and the amount of catch allocation quota.] [Reflect the conclusion on New Member Fee at CCSBT 33]
Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future. Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee.	~~CCSBT 31 agreed to draft Terms of Reference for a targeted QAR of the Indonesian transhipment observer trial.~~ CC 20 discussed the QAR report of the Indonesian transhipment observer trial. CC 21 evaluated Indonesia's detailed plan and timeline for the at-sea transhipment measures to address the key recommendations from the QAR. [Reflect the decision by EC on Indonesia's at-sea transhipment using its national observer]	CC and EC will identify any need for QAR program for any country or Member every year and carry out QAR subject to the Commission's financial status. [A one-year extension of the Indonesian at-sea transhipment trial to 31 October 2026, subject to Indonesia providing by 31 December 2025 a detailed plan and timeline for the implementation of measures to address the key recommendations from the QAR.]
PR2021-74: Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings	CCSBT 33~~2~~ Chair nomination received in May~~April~~ 2026, which caused a delay in signing the renewed MoU with CCAMLR~~was sufficiently early to avoid impacting on Commission processes~~.	[Executive Secretary to engage with South Africa~~EU~~ as host of 2027~~6~~ meetings to secure commitment for CCSBT 34 Chair.]

PR2021-75: Encourage the re-election of Chairs for up to 4 years as is allowed in 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure to provide better governance of the CCSBT.	At CCSBT 32~~1~~, Members chose to maintain rotation of Chair with hosting Member in 2026~~5~~.	[South Africa and Japan will nominate the Chair and Vice Chair of CCSBT 34, respectively.]
PR2021-57: Process for review of external documents, including possible non-compliance on the part of Members, should be monitored to ensure that it does not create a barrier for external engagement with the CCSBT.	~~One paper was reviewed as part of this process at CCSBT 30 and was accepted.~~ No papers have been subject to review since~~as part of~~ CCSBT 31 ~~and CCSBT 32~~.	Continue the current practice following the Process for Review of External Documents including Possible Non-Compliance of Members.
Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS	On the advice of Members, the Secretariat continues to reach out to non-Members and encourage cooperation. CCSBT members have agreed for the United States to participate in the electronic Catch Documentation Scheme (eCDS).	
PR2021-44: Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.	Secretariat maintains relationships with several RFMOs through both formal and informal agreements. Updates to MoU with~~have also been proposed to the ICCAT and~~ IOTC is underway~~MoU~~. ~~WCPFC attended the CCSBT EC 31 meeting as an observer.~~ CCSBT 32 agreed to renew MoU with CCAMLR.	Continue regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process. ~~Renew MoU with CCAMLR.~~ [CCSBT 33 agreed to renew MoU with ACAP.]

PR2021-56: Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible.	Heads of Delegation meetings were used as part of CCSBT 32~~1~~ for ~~, but it was only one time before the EC meeting starts and was limited to~~ the initial conversation before the meeting starts on important matters from each Member's perspective, and for discussions on TAC allocations for the 2027-2029 quota block. ~~All further discussions took place in plenary.~~	
PR2021-64: Members look for additional opportunities to engage with one another outside of the traditional meeting dates of the CCSBT to ensure that the limited time available at CCSBT meetings is maximised.	Bilateral engagement continues to occur between Member administrations. ~~Additional engagement was also supported as part of the Seabird Project. New Zealand provided its support for workshops in South Africa, Indonesia and Korea, and Australia for a workshop in Indonesia.~~	
PR2021-63: Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process.	In lieu of the Kobe process, cooperation opportunities now centred around Regional Secretariat's Network and Tuna Compliance Network. Support proposals for regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process.	Continue regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process.
PR2021-68: Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests.	See earlier recommendation for **PR2021-63**.	ESC 31 agreed to nominate two scientists to attend the Common Oceans Tuna Project Workshop on Stock Assessment (hosted by ICCAT) in 2027 as CCSBT representatives.