Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna

みなみまぐろ保存委員会

CCSBT–EC/2610/14

Results of Needs Assessment for Capacity Building Workplan

(EC agenda item 8.3)

Purpose

To provide an update on subsidiary body discussions in support of the Capacity Building Workplan.

Background

At CCSBT 31 in 2024, Members adopted the CCSBT's Capacity Building Workplan, which aims at prioritising needs and delivering effective capacity building initiatives to improve performance in key areas, particularly for developing Members.

In 2026, in accordance with the Capacity Building Workplan, the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG), the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) and the Compliance Committee (CC) conducted a capacity building needs assessment for their respective areas.

Advice and recommendations from subsidiary bodies

1) Ecologically Related Species Working Group

   This year, the ERSWG did not make specific recommendations to the EC for developing a capacity building initiative in areas related to Ecologically Related Species.

   Instead, New Zealand stated that it would consult with Indonesia intersessionally and explore a possible capacity building initiative on electronic monitoring (EM) for consideration by EC.

2) Extended Scientific Committee

   The ESC supported the Secretariat's initial assessments and preliminary recommendations, specifically the current efforts to improve data collection and scientific analysis are sufficient, and also encouraged the continued support of current capacity building initiatives including the MPF.

   As part of existing initiatives, the Sixteenth Operating Model and Management Procedure Technical Meeting (OMMP 16) and ESC 31 provided training for Members on using the new software to run the CCSBT's Operating Model.

   The ESC 31 also included a new Capacity Building Initiative for a South Africa otolith ageing workshop in the ESC's 3-year workplan. The budget required for this initiative has been included under Science Project in the draft 2027 budget. Approval of this budget will be discussed by the Finance and Administration Committee.

The ESC 31 also agreed to discuss a capacity building project to strengthen the capacity to assess SBT landing across Indonesia ports (originally recommended to implement in 2026 but not approved due to the Commission's budget constraint) next year.

3) Compliance Committee

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Chair of the Compliance Committee, submitted paper CCSBT-CC/2610/07 which includes an initial needs assessment based on previously agreed compliance priority areas. Outcomes of discussions from the CC, including any recommendations for capacity building initiatives, will be included in the update from the CC Chair.

Currently available budget for capacity building (except existing science programs)

1) Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

In 2025, CCSBT 32 approved a top-up of the MPF to AUD 25,000.

In 2026, most of the available MPF have been utilised to assist developing Members in participating in ERSWG 16 (3-6 March 2026 in Canberra, Australia) and OMMP 16 (22-26 June 2026 in Seattle, USA).

Given that the MPF is strongly supported by both ERSWG and ESC, it would be useful if Members could provide guidance to the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) on the extent to which the MPF in 2027 should be topped up.

2) Capacity Building Initiatives

In 2025, CCSBT 32 approved a new budget of AUD 20,000 for "Capacity Building Initiative".

This budget was intended to enable the prompt commencement of the capacity building initiative, should funding from the CCSBT be required for its development and/or implementation intersessionally, without having to wait for a formal decision by CCSBT 33 in 2026.

It would be useful to receive guidance from Members in preparation for FAC discussions on whether this budget should be maintained in 2027 and, if so, whether the amount should be adjusted.

Next steps

Members are encouraged to:

- Consider the advice and recommendations from the ERSWG, ESC and CC in relation to capacity building needs;
- Consider what (if any) capacity building initiatives should be developed and/or initiated in 2027; and
- Taking into account the existing arrangements, provide the FAC with the necessary guidance regarding the budget relating to capacity building in 2027.

Prepared by the Secretariat