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

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

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

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

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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.

In addition to the requirement started in 2021/2022 fishing season for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) catching vessels to declare the seabird bycatch mitigation measures (weighted line, tori line, night setting (including when switching weighted line until one hour before dawn)) they use during their operations, from 2023/2024, the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) started inspections of all SBT catching vessels flying Japanese flag at the landing ports to identify any infringements on seabird mitigation measures required by Tuna RFMOs (T-RFMOs).

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.

N/A

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.

We plan to promote dialog, communications and discussions among FAJ officials, industry organizations, SBT fishers and SBT fisheries stakeholders, including through periodic consultation meetings, to share information and raise awareness about the conservation and management measures of CCSBT, including ERS related measures.

1.4 Progress with actions taken to rectify any non-compliance

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

N/A

2 SBT Fishing and MCS

2.1 Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna

2.1.1 Catch and allocation

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

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

A	B	C	D	E
Fishing Season	Effective Catch Limit[1] (tonnes)	Quota Carried Forward to this Fishing Season (tonnes)	Total Available Catch[2] (B+C) (tonnes)	Attributable catch[3] (tonnes)
April 2023-March 2024	6,197*	476	6,673	6,387
April 2024-March 2025	7,247*	286	7,533	6,599
April 2025-March 2026	7,247*	934	8,181	7,570

*Japan made a voluntary transfer of 48 tonnes to other two Members from the agreed allocation for Japan.

2.1.2 Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector

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

Table 2. Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector.

Sector	Commercial fishing operations whether primarily targeting SBT or not			
	Sector 1: (Longline)		Sector 2: (please name)	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
April 2023-March 2024	6,564	6,232		
April 2024-March 2025	7,283	6,541		
April 2025-March 2026	7,981	7,458		

Sector continued	Releases and/or discards		Recreational fishing		Customary and/or traditional fishing		Artisanal fishing	
	Sector 3:		Sector 4:		Sector 5:		Sector 6:	
Fishing season	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)	National allowance	Mortalities (tonnes)
April 2023-March 2024	109	155						
April 2024-March 2025	250	58						
April 2025-	200	112*						

[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.'

March 2026								

*Japan notified the Secretariat of release and discard of mortality of 111t on 22 May 2026, and subsequently informed the Secretariat on 13 August that this amount had been revised to 112t.

2.1.3 SBT Catch (retained and non-retained)

For the three most recently completed fishing seasons, specify the weight (in tonnes) and number of SBT for each sector (e.g. commercial longline, commercial purse seine, commercial charter fleet, commercial domestic fleet, recreational fishing, customary and/or traditional fishing and artisanal fishing) in Table 3. Provide the best estimate if reported data is not available. Figures should be provided for both retained SBT and non-retained SBT. For all non-farming sectors, "Retained SBT" includes SBT retained on vessel and "Non-Retained SBT" includes those returned to the water. For farming, "Retained SBT" includes SBT stocked to farming cages and towing mortalities. If possible, provide both the weight in tonnes and the number of individuals in square brackets (e.g. [250]) for each sector. Table cells should not be left empty. If the value is zero, enter "0".

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

Fishing Season	Retained and discarded SBT							
	Commercial sectors (all weights are in tonnes)							
	Sector 1 (Longline)		Sector 2 (please name)		Sector 3: Recreational sector		Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector	
	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT	Retained SBT	Non-Retained SBT
April 2023-March 2024	[106,672]	[22,290]						
April 2024-March 2025	[122,563]	[10,942]						
April 2025-March 2026	[152,428]	[18,494]						

2.1.4 The number of vessels in each sector

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

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

Table 4. Vessels by Sector

	Number of vessels			
	Commercial sectors		Sector 3: Recreational sector	Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector
Fishing season	Sector 1 (Longline)	Sector 2 (please name)		
April 2023-March 2024	73			
April 2024-March 2025	65			
April 2025-March 2026	61			

2.2 Monitoring catch of SBT

2.2.1 Daily logbooks

i. If daily logbooks are not mandatory, specify the % of SBT fishing where daily logbooks were required.
Reporting by daily logbooks is mandatory for all SBT fishers.

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.
Most of the data described in the section of "Characterisation of the SBT Catch" of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan is collected. Scientific data is collected by RTMP and the scientific observer program. RTMP data also includes size information (length / product weight) data by individual and record of live release or dead discard by three size categories.

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

i. If multiple reporting methods exists (e.g. daily, weekly and/or month SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc) then, for each reporting method, specify if it was mandatory, and if not, specify the % of SBT fishing the reporting method covered.
In addition to logbooks, daily RTMP reporting is required every 10 days for SBT IQ allocated vessels during their operation, regardless of whether or not SBT is caught.

2.2.3 Scientific Observers

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

Table 5. Observer coverage of SBT catch and effort

Fishing season	Sector 1		Sector 2	
	% effort obs.	% catch obs.	% effort obs.	% catch obs.
April 2023-March 2024	21.3	17.4		
April 2024-March 2025	31.3	22.0		
April 2025-March 2026	34.8	24.8		

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.
The observer program complies with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards. There has not been any exchange of SBT observers with other members.

2.2.4 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

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

i. Was a mandatory VMS that complies with CCSBT's VMS resolution in operation?
Domestic regulation (the Ordinance) requires all far seas fishing vessels to be equipped with VMS in line with the CCSBT 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

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: 70 vessels in the 2025/2026 fishing season
2) CVs: 6 vessels in the 2025/2026 fishing season

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: 70 vessels in the 2025/2026 fishing season
2) CVs: 6 vessels in the 2025/2026 fishing season

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

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

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

2.2.5 At-sea inspections

Specify the coverage level of at sea inspections of SBT authorised fishing vessels by Member's patrol vessels during the most recently completed fishing season (e.g. the percentage of SBT trips inspected).
During the 2025/2026 fishing season, no at-sea inspection of Japanese fishing vessels registered with the CCSBT was conducted by Japanese inspection vessel, because no vessel was dispatched to the Southern hemisphere. This was due to more urgent monitoring and inspection needs in the other water areas.

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.
Japan permits Japanese or Japanese subsidiaries to operate SBT fisheries in accordance with Ordinance, after checking its competence in terms of its legal compliance and finance for business continuity. Japan ensures that those authorized FVs keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish SBT.
Japan ensures that its FVs comply with all relevant CCSBT conservation and management measures by issuing Ordinance and instruction of FAJ. For example, under the RTMP, Japanese fishing vessels involved in SBT fishing must report the details of their catch throughout the fishing season. Fishery operators are also obliged to submit their logbook entries to the Fisheries Agency every ten days. All fishing vessels must be equipped with VMS. Fishers are required to submit relevant documents, including report on landing of SBT and copies of CDS documents, to FAJ by 10 days before the planned landing date.

Furthermore, 10 domestic ports have been designated as ports where SBT products may be landed and government officials inspect all (100%) the domestic SBT products at designated ports. In the 2025/2026 Fishing season, based on the findings of FAJ, a sanction was imposed on 1 vessel: detention of the fishing vessel at port. The detention is scheduled to take effect following the Annual meeting.

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.
N/A

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

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

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

Fishing season	Observer coverage of tows (%)	Observer coverage of transfers (%)

ii. Provide updates on 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 three most recently completed fishing seasons in Table 7.

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

Fishing season	Kilograms of SBT transhipped at sea	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped at sea	Kilograms of SBT transhipped in port	Percentage of the annual SBT catch transhipped in port
April 2023-March 2024	667,407	10.45%	586,034	9.16%
April 2024-March 2025	594,897	9.01%	406,571	6.16%
April 2025-March 2026	1025,749	13.55%	534,622	7.06%

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

CCSBT List#	Vessel Name
FV664	WAKASHIO MARU NO. 128
FV701	WAKASHIO MARU NO. 8
FV699	WAKASHIO MARU NO. 108
FV666	WAKASHIO MARU NO. 118
FV568	CHOKYU MARU NO.8
FV644	CHIHO MARU NO. 18
FV7833	FUKURYU MARU NO. 21
FV517	FUKUSEKI MARU NO.27
FV299	FUKUSEKI MARU NO. 3
FV516	FUKUSEKI MARU NO. 15
FV521	FUKUSEKI MARU NO. 35
FV282	RYOAN MARU NO. 85
FV323	SHOFUKU MARU NO. 58
FV258	KINEI MARU NO. 81
FV537	KINEI MARU NO. 85

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

There were 11 cases of SBT transhipments at sea in 2025/2026, by 10 Japanese LSTLVs. All such transhipped SBT products were physically inspected by government officials when the products were landed at Japanese ports.

During the period, no possible infractions related to SBT transshipments were pointed out by transhipment observers.

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

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

Calendar year	Foreign Flag	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations (that occurred)	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations Inspected	No. of Landing/ Transhipment Operations where an Infringement of CCSBT's Measures was Detected
2023	Panama	1	1	0
	Republic of Korea	1	0	0
	Singapore	1	0	0
2024	Panama	3	1	0
	Singapore	1	0	0
2025	Panama	2	1	0
	Singapore	2	0	0
	TOTAL NUMBER	11	3	0

2.6 Monitoring of trade of SBT

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

i. Record the calendar year/ fishing season.
2025

ii. Provide the percentage of landings of SBT that were inspected.
100%. From 2006, all the domestic SBT products are inspected by government officials at the designated ports.

iii. Provide the percentage of exports of SBT that were inspected.
All SBT products caught by Japanese vessels have to be landed in Japan, and direct landings and export at foreign ports are prohibited. All SBT products, including products to be exported, are strictly inspected at the time of landing at the designated port in Japan as described in the previous sections.

iv. Provide the percentage of imports of SBT that were inspected.
Inspections are conducted, when necessary, based on results of strict examination of the relevant documents submitted to Fisheries Agency, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Customs by importers.

2.7 Coverage and Type of CDS Audit undertaken

As per paragraph 5.9 of the CDS Resolution, specify details on the level of coverage and type of audit undertaken, in accordance with 5.8[4] of the Resolution, and the level of compliance.
All SBTs caught by Japanese vessels are inspected by government officials at the time of landing in Japan. If discrepancy of more than 2 % between the weight at landing inspection and reported weight in CMF is found, additional investigation is conducted.

3 Changes to sections in Annex 1

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

- 1.4 Landings of Domestic Product (from both fishing vessels and farms) (c)
- 1.5.2 SBT Imports (c)
- 2 Additional Reporting Requirements Ecologically Related Species (a)ii and (c) i

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

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

1 Monitoring catch of SBT

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

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

Monitoring Methods	Description
Daily log book	*Specify:* *i. Whether this was mandatory.* Reporting by daily log book is mandatory for all SBT fishers. *ii. The level of detail recorded (shot by shot, daily aggregate etc):-* Shot by shot data has to be recorded on the logbook. *iii. What information on ERS is recorded in logbooks:-* For sharks, sea turtles and seabirds, information including date of by-catch and number of by-caught individuals is recorded. *iv. Who are the logbooks submitted to[5]:-* Log books are submitted to Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). *v. What is the timeframe and method[6] for submission:-* Log books for every 10-day period have to be submitted within the next 10-day period to MAFF by post. *vi. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-* Cross checking of the data from the log books with the data obtained from RTMP. *vii. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-* Legislation : Ordinance 26 (1) Penalty : One hundred thousand yen fine for failure in recording data on log books/in equipping logbooks on board (contravention of Ordinance 26 (1)) *viii. Other relevant information[7]:-* As described in the following section, RTMP is also used for monitoring fishing activities of individual fishing vessels, including the amount of SBT catch, and collecting CPUE data.

[5] *If the reports are not to be submitted to the Member's or CNM's government fisheries authority, then also specify whether the information will later be sent to the fisheries authority, including how and when that occurs.*
[6] *In particular, whether the information is submitted electronically from the vessel.*
[7] *Including information on ERS, and comments on the effectiveness of the controls or monitoring tools and any plans for further improvement.*

Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)	*If multiple reporting methods exists (e.g. daily, weekly and/or month SBT catch reporting, reporting of tags and SBT measurements, reporting of ERS interactions etc), create a separate row of in this table for each method. Then, for each method, specify:* *i. Whether this is mandatory.* In addition to log books, reporting by RTMP is required every 10 days for SBT vessels during operation, regardless of whether SBT catch occurs. *ii. The information that is recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):-* Date of catch, vessel position, date and time of set and haul, number of hooks set, individual measurements of SBT (tag number, length, product weight and sex), number and status of SBT caught and released/discarded (weight categories, alive/dead). *iii. Who the reports are submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc)[5]:-* *iv.* Fishers submit RTMP reports to the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) and the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA).*What is the timeframe and method[6] for submission:-* RTMP reporting is made by reporting system on every 10 days.. *v. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-* FAJ and FRA check the data received from fishers. Such checking includes position of fishing operations, number of SBT caught and individual product weight. *vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-* Instruction of FAJ *vii. Other relevant information[7]:-* N/A
Scientific Observers	*Specify:* *i. The system used for comparisons between observer data and other catch monitoring data in order to verify the catch data:-* Data from observer reports, RTMP reports and log books are cross checked to verify fishery data, including vessel position, number of hooks and number of SBT caught. *ii. What information on ERS is recorded by observers:-* For by-catch species including sharks, sea turtles, sea birds, and others, data such as date of by-catch, time when by-caught individual was pulled up on board, length, species and their status (alive/dead) is recorded by individual. *iii. Who are the observer reports submitted to:-* Reports are submitted to FAJ and FRA. *iv. Timeframe for submission of observer reports:-* Reports are submitted within one week after disembarking from the vessels. v. *Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):-* N/A
VMS	*i. For Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT provide references to applicable legislation and penalties:-* Legislation : Paragraph 2 of Article 52 of the Act Penalty : Up to 6-month imprisonment and/or up to three hundred thousand yen fine for failure in equipping VMS
Other (for example, use of electronic monitoring etc.)	N/A

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

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

i. *Observation required for towing of SBT*
N/A
ii. *Monitoring systems for recording losses of SBT (in particular, SBT mortality).*
N/A

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

i. *Inspection/Observation required for transfer of SBT*
N/A
ii. *Monitoring system used for recording the quantity of SBT transferred:-*
N/A

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

(d) Other relevant information[7]
N/A

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:-
In accordance with the 2009 Resolution on action plans, Japan designated those ports registered by Members/ and CNMs (https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/ccsbt-register-designated-ports-and-contacts) and 18 foreign ports (Port Luis (Mauritius), Walvis Bay (Namibia), Mahe (Seychelles), Montevideo (Uruguay), Benoa (Indonesia), Dalian (China), Suva (Fiji), Noumea (New Caledonia), Maputo, Beira, Nacala (Mozambique), Honiara (Solomon Islands), Ponape (Micronesia), Tarawa (Kiribati), Nuku-Hiva, Papeete (French Polynesia), Balboa (Panama), Callao (Peru)) in accordance with the Ordinance Article 59. FAJ has authorized all vessels which operate SBT fisheries to conduct in-port transhipment. These fishers are required to submit a notification of transhipment each time to FAJ by 10 days before the planned transhipment date. They also have to submit a transhipment report within 15 days after transhipment. Transhipment in ports other than the above mentioned ports is prohibited.

ii. *Flag State inspection requirements for in-port transhipments of SBT (include % coverage):-*
Transhipments of SBT are subject to the port state inspections in ports where the inspection system is implemented, such as Cape Town. (Cape Town is the most frequently and predominantly used designated port for transhipments by Japanese vessels.)

iii. *Information sharing with designated Port States:-*
Information including total weight by fish species onboard at the time of transhipment is provided to states of the designated ports in accordance with rules of the states.
Especially, when SBT is transhipped at ports of the Republic of South Africa (RSA), Japanese vessels submit the relevant CDS documents including Catch Tagging Form (CTF) to RSA. In addition to this, FAJ issues a document to RSA, which confirms that; 1) each vessel is authorized to conduct transhipment, and 2) all of the transhipped SBT will be transferred to Japan, and Catch Monitoring Form (CMF) will be validated after full inspection at a Japanese port by Japanese government officials.
Even in the case the vessel does not intend to tranship SBT, FAJ issues a document of confirmation (no SBT transhipment by the vessel) to RSA.

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

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

FAJ cross checks information obtained from the relevant documents submitted by fishers, including reports on transhipments and CMFs, with information obtained from inspections of landing of the transhipped products at a designated Japanese port by Japanese Government officials.

v. *Process for validating[8] and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-*
Fishers are required to obtain approval from FAJ for in port transhipments in advance. To apply for in port transhipment, fishers have to submit the relevant documents, including the application form and CDS documents, to FAJ 10 days before the planned transhipment date. At the time of transhipment, the fishing vessel obtains the certification from the Master of the receiving vessel on CMF. CMF and CTF are handed over to the Master of the receiving vessel, which are to be brought to the landing port in Japan. CMFs are validated when the products are landed and inspected by Government officials at the designated Japanese port. This CMF is eventually submitted to FAJ by the fisher after completion of domestic sales of the products.

vi. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
Up to 2 year imprisonment and/or up to five hundred thousand yen fine for transhipment without approval (contravention of Ordinance Article 59), and for non compliance with the Restrictions and Conditions on the fishery permit, including transhipments to the vessels that are not registered to RFMOs, and transhipments at non designated foreign ports (contravention of Ordinance Article 59).

vii. *Other relevant information[7]:-*
As Cape Town is the most frequently and predominantly used designated port for transhipments by Japanese vessels, Japan has been communicating with RSA on sharing relevant information, according to the Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transhipment by Large Scale Fishing Vessels paragraph 21.

(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:-*
Japan controls at sea transhipments by its vessels in accordance with the 2017 CCSBT Resolution on transhipment by large scale fishing vessels. FAJ has authorized all vessels which operate SBT fisheries to conduct at sea transhipment. These fishers are required to submit a notification of transhipment and relevant CDS documents each time to FAJ by 10 days before the planned transhipment date. At the time of transhipment, the fishing vessel obtains certification and signature from the Master of the receiving vessel and the transhipment observer on CMF. CMF and CTF are handed over to the Master of the receiving vessel to be brought to a designated landing port in Japan. The master of the receiving vessel submits a transhipment report immediately to FAJ after the transhipment. The fisher is required to submit the transhipment report to FAJ within 15 days after the transhipment. CMFs are validated when the products are landed and inspected by Government officials at a designated Japanese port. This CMF is eventually submitted to FAJ by the fisher after completion of domestic sales of the products.

ii. *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT transhipped:-*
FAJ cross checks information obtained from relevant documents submitted by fishers, including reports on transhipments and CMFs, with information obtained from inspections of landing of the transhipped products by government officials at a designated port in Japan.

iii. *Process for collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-*
Copies of CMF and relevant information are submitted to FAJ 10 days before the planned transhipment date. FAJ issues CTFs based on the information on relevant CMFs and RTMP data before landing. CMFs are validated when the transhipped products are landed and inspected by Japanese Government officials at a Japanese port. CMFs are submitted by fishers to FAJ after completion of domestic sales of the products.

iv. *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
Up to 2 year imprisonment and/or up to five hundred thousand yen fine for at sea transhipment without approval (contravention of Ordinance Article 59), and for non compliance with the

Restrictions and Conditions on the fishery permit, including transhipments to vessels that do not have transhipment observers on board (contravention of Ordinance Article 59).

v. Other relevant information[7]*:-*
N/A

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

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

(a) Provide a list of designated ports into which foreign FVs/ CVs carrying SBT or SBT product may request entry:-
Japan designated seven ports for inspection as follows;

Name of Port	Name of prefecture where inspection port is located
Yokosuka	Kanagawa
Yaizu	Shizuoka
Shimizu	Shizuoka
Oigawa	Shizuoka
Makurazaki	Kagoshima
Kushikino	Kagoshima
Yamakawa	Kagoshima

(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:-
168 hours before.

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:-
10 domestic ports have been designated as ports where SBT products can be landed

(b) Inspections required for landings of SBT.
100%. From 2006, all the domestic SBT products are inspected by government officials at designated ports.

(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:-
In accordance with the agreement at CCSBT20, Japan has expanded the scope of its genetic test to domestic products since 2014/15 fishing season. Japan conducted no genetic tests on samples of declared Bigeye tuna or yellowfin tuna from Japanese vessels during 2025/2026 fishing season. Accordingly, there were no test results to report.

(d) Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:-
FAJ cross-checks information obtained from relevant documents, including reports on SBT landing as domestic products, CMFs, total weight measurement certificate, individual product weight measurement information, invoice etc., at the time of inspection of landings.

(e) Process for validating[8] *and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form):-*
Fishers are required to submit relevant documents, including report on landing of SBT and copies of CDS documents, to FAJ by 10 days before the planned landing date. CMFs are validated when the products are inspected by Japanese government officials at the time of landing. Relevant documents (copies of CMF, total weight measurement certificate, individual product weight measurement information, invoice etc.) are submitted to FAJ immediately after the landing. The original CMFs are eventually submitted to FAJ by the fisher after completion of domestic sales of the products.

(f) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
Up to 2 year imprisonment and/or up to five hundred thousand yen fine for landing at a port other than the 10 designated ports (contravention of Ordinance Article 24)

(g) *Other relevant information[7]:-*

- 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 -*
All SBT products caught by Japanese vessels have to be landed in Japan, and direct landings and export at foreign ports are prohibited. All SBT products, including products to be exported, are strictly inspected at the time of landing at a designated port in Japan as described in the previous sections.

(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:-*
No test is conducted.

(c) *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT exported:-*
Quantity of exported SBT is recorded using information from the CDS documents, including CMF and REEF (Re-Export / Export after landing of domestic product Form), submitted by exporters.

(d) *Process for validating[8] and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form or Re-export/Export after landing of domestic product Form):-*
Exporters have to submit relevant documents, including copies of CMF, REEF and sales contract, to FAJ. FAJ validates REEF after examination of such documents. At the time of validation, FAJ obtains copies of the CDS documents.

(e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
Guideline in accordance with Article 3 and 5 of the enforcement regulation of Act on Facilitating the Export of Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Products and Food

(f) *Other relevant information[7]:-*
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:-*
Japan does not designate ports and airports for imports of SBT.

(b) *Inspections required for imports of SBT*
Inspections are conducted when necessary, based on results of the strict examination of the relevant documents submitted to Fisheries Agency, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Customs by importers.

(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:-*
During the 2025/2026 fishing season, Japan conducted genetic tests for 750 samples of declared bigeye and yellowfin tuna which were imported. The tests did not find any disguised SBT.

(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):-*
Importers are required to obtain approval from the Government of Japan for imports of SBT. To apply for imports, importers have to submit the relevant documents, including the application form and CDS documents (CMF, REEF), to FAJ, and/or Customs. FAJ, and/or Customs approve imports based on the results of strict examination of the submitted documents. CDS documents are collected by Customs when the SBT products are imported.

From 1st January 2010, Japan requires SBT importers to submit tagging data of the imported wild SBT products, including tag number, length and weight, in order to ensure that the products was caught in accordance with all the relevant CCSBT conservation and management measures.

(e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
Up to 1 year prohibition of any import of SBT and/or imprisonment or fine (Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, Article 53 etc)

(f) *Other relevant information[7]:-*
N/A

1.5.3 SBT Markets

(a) Describe any activities targeted at points in the supply chain between landing and the market:-
All SBT caught by Japanese vessels are inspected by government officials when landed at a Japanese designated port. FAJ accompanies research of major markets regularly , which collecting the latest information on origin (catching/farming CCSBT Member), weight, length and tag data of the SBT products traded in Japanese markets.
(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):-
Through analysis of the data obtained from the research of Japanese SBT market every month, Japan monitors the amount and origin (catching/farming CCSBT Member) of SBT products traded in Japan, and confirms compliance of Japanese vessels with relevant CCSBT conservation and management measures, especially national TAC allocation to Japan.
(c) Other relevant information[7]
Not only fishers, but also traders that knowingly purchase or process illegally caught and/or landed SBT will be considered as contravening Ordinance Article 96 (3) and will be subject to penalties. The penalties could be up to 2-year imprisonment and/or up to five hundred thousand yen fine.

1.6 Other

Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.
N/A

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:*
  In accordance with FAO International Action Plans on seabirds, Japan established its National Action Plans on seabirds in 2001, and revised them in 2005, 2009 and 2016.
- *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:*
  In accordance with FAO International Action Plans on sharks, Japan established its National Action Plans on sharks in 2001, and revised them in 2005, 2009, 2016 and 2023.
  FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations:
  Japan has been taking actions in accordance with the FAO Guidelines on sea turtle bycatch.

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

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

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

- *ICCAT, when fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*
  Longline fishing vessels operating to catch SBT are obliged to comply with respective rules of each tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organization, such as IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT in each area.
  At the most recent Commission meetings of ICCAT (November 2025)and WCPFC (December 2025), it was agreed that Japan was compliant with the related requirements prescribed in those measures of ICCAT and WCPFC for the 2024/2025 fishing season. Furthermore, no significant non-compliant issue was identified at IOTC for the 2024/2025 fishing season.

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

- *CCSBT*[11]*:*
  Japan collects and reports the relevant data in accordance with the CCSBT requirements.
- *IOTC, for fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*
- *WCPFC, for fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*
- *ICCAT, for fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*
  When operating in the Convention areas of IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT, Japan collects and reports the relevant data in accordance with the requirements of respective RFMOs.

(b) Mitigation – describe the current mitigation requirements:
Seabird: Tori lines, night setting and weighted line etc. in accordance with each RFMO's requirements.

Turtle: Circle hooks, line cutters and dehookers in accordance with each RFMO's requirements

Shark: At least one of the following options in accordance with WCPFC's requirement;
a. do not use or carry wire trace as branch lines or leaders: or
b. do not use branch lines running directly off the longline floats or drop lines, known as shark lines.

(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):*

Monitoring Japanese fishing vessels registered with the CCSBT through vessel radio communication. FAJ randomly confirms proper implementation, based on real time monitoring program (RTMP) reporting and VMS as well as inquiry. During the 2025/2026 fishing season, no at-sea inspection of Japanese fishing vessels registered with the CCSBT was conducted, because MCV was not dispatched to the Southern hemisphere for more urgent monitoring and inspection needs in other water areas.
At the landing ports, FAJ inspects all SBT catching vessels flying Japanese flag to identify-any infringements on seabird mitigation measures. During 2025/2026 fishing season, 44 vessels were inspected, and based on the findings, FAJ imposed a sanction on 0 vessels: detention of the fishing vessel at port.

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

Fishers have been mandated to write down seabird bycatch mitigation measures applied to their operations in the logbook since 2014.

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

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.