forestry, fisheries & the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# South Africa's 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

As in previous years, South Africa continues to maintain and strengthen its Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) enforcement obligations. The National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) reaffirms its commitment to go beyond the minimum requirements in fulfilling its compliance responsibilities. These include, but are not limited to, monitoring, sampling, investigations of contraventions, follow-ups, and inspections of transhipments by vessels in port.

During the period under review, all Fisheries Research and Fisheries Protection vessels of the DFFE were fully operational. These vessels were deployed for scientific research surveys as well as patrols along the South African coastline to ensure the sustainable utilisation of Marine Living Resources. This enabled DFFE to effectively conduct regular patrols aimed at deterring and addressing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Furthermore, South Africa maintains three designated ports where foreign fishing vessels may enter for activities such as the landing of Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT), transhipments, repairs, and bunkering. Inspections are conducted both at sea and in port to ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

Efforts made in 2023 has seen ZAD observer coverage increase to 13.9% in 2023, 19.7% in 2024 and 16.8% in 2025. The total number of SBT measurements taken by observers was N = 553 in 2024 and N=579 in 2025, which equates to 16.3% of the total retained catch by all vessels and represents a significant improvement compared to the 1.0% measured SBT in 2022 and 8.5% in 2023.

## 1.2 Extraordinary Circumstances

No extraordinary circumstances that led to rare and unpredictable events or problems in the normal operations and/or with a fishing vessel prevented South Africa from implementing CCSBT measures.

South Africa has experienced the loss of a number of key officials in recent years from its Research, Resource Management, and Compliance divisions who were responsible for matters relating to tuna and tuna-like species. This has created a significant gap in capacity and has negatively affected various areas, including the management of tuna and tuna-like species, research and management activities, as well as the timely submission of data and reports. In 2025, DFFE appointed a fisheries manager who has started to address operational and reporting issues and will improve South Africa’s compliance with management measures. South Africa has also.

## 1.3 Future planned improvements

In addition to the more than 200 monitors that were recruited to assist with the landing and monitoring of both local and foreign fishing vessels during the 2023/2024 fishing season, the Department has also appointed 5 additional officials to specifically work with the Catch Document Scheme forms (Catch Tagging Forms and Catch Monitoring Forms). It should be noted, however, that the Department is still in the process of upgrading and acquiring the necessary IT infrastructure to facilitate the efficient submission of reports. In addition, the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and the

Oceans and Coast Information Management System (OCIMS) continue to be deployed and regularly evaluated to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness.

### 1.4 Progress with actions taken to rectify any non-compliance

South Africa is required under the Scientific Data Exchange to submit direct ageing data from otolith collections. South Africa has not submitted these data but in 2025 started the collection of otoliths from SBT sampled at processing facilities. Close to 100 otoliths have been collected and the process of embedding, slicing and mounting of otolith slides has begun. At ESC31 South Africa submitted a proposal for an introductory workshop to otolith-based ageing of SBT, which was tabled as a capacity building project. The objective is to increase the number of appropriately trained scientists and technicians capable of collecting, preparing, interpreting and ageing SBT otoliths in accordance with standardised CCSBT procedures, to produce reliable, comparable age data. The outcome at ESC31 was to focus the workshop on South African participation and host the workshop alongside the ESC that will be hosted in South Africa in 2027. The hosting of the workshop will depend on the outcome of budget discussions at the Finance and Administration Committee.

Budget constraints limit South Africa's ability to attend meetings not supported by participation funding. Where resources permit, approvals for attendance will be granted in a timely manner. South Africa has also made efforts to enhance participation, particularly in meetings held online.

Last year, a number of issues were highlighted, including delays in vessel authorisations, as well as discrepancies such as duplicate entries and other errors. To address these challenges, South Africa has recruited a fisheries manager who is responsible for ensuring that all non-compliances are rectified and ensure continued compliance with all conservation measures. In addition, five (5) more officials have been recruited to assist with database management and the validation of CDS documents, and another five (5) officials were recruited to specifically focus on port inspections to ensure that South Africa complies with all RFMO conservation measures related to port inspections.

## 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) |
| (Mar 2023 – Feb 2024) | 455.3 | 84.6 | 512.9 | 114.1 |
| (March 2024-Feb 2025) | 527 | 100 | 627 | 248.7 |
| (March 2025-Feb 2026) | 527 | 0 | 527 | 231.5 |

### 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: Domestic Longline Fleet | | Sector 2: Charter Longline Fleet | | Sector 3: Domestic Pole-line Fleet | |
| Fishing season | National allowance | Mortalities (tonnes) | National allowance | Mortalities (tonnes) | National allowance | Mortalities (tonnes) |
| (Mar 2023 – Feb 2024) | 410.3t | 108.7t | 0 t | 0 t | 40 | 0.39t |
| (Mar 2024 – Feb 2025) | 482 t | 243.3t | 0 t | 0 t | 40 | 0.43t |
| (Mar 2025 – Feb 2026) | 482 t | 224.9 | 0 t | 0 t | 40 | 1.6t |

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

### 2.1.3 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 (Domestic Longline Fleet) | | Sector 2 (Charter Longline Fleet) | | Sector 3: Recreational sector | | Sector 4: Domestic Pole-line Fleet | |
| | Retained SBT | Non-Retained SBT | Retained SBT | Non-Retained SBT | Retained SBT | Non-Retained SBT | Retained SBT | Non-Retained SBT |
| (Mar 2023 – Feb 2024) | 108.7 t (1456) | 36 (Discards reported by the fleet and by observers) | N/A | N/A | 0 t | No reliable estimate | 0.4 t (5) | No reliable estimate |
| (March 2024- Feb 2025) | 243.3t (3384) | 22 (Discards reported by the fleet and by observers) | N/A | N/A | 0 t | No reliable estimate | 0.4t (6) | No reliable estimate |
| (Mar 2025 – Feb 2026) | 224.9t (3329) | 26 (Discards reported by the fleet and by observers) | N/A | N/A | 0 t | No reliable estimate | 1.6t (18) | No reliable estimate |

### 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 4: Recreational sector | Sector 5: Customary/artisanal sector |
| Fishing season | Sector 1: (Domestic Longline Fleet) | Sector 2: (Charter Longline Fleet) | Sector 3: (Tuna Pole-line) | | |
| (Mar 2023 – Feb 2024) | 23 | N/A | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| (Mar 2024 – Feb 2025) | 27 | N/A | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| (Mar 2025 – Feb 2026) | 19 | N/A | 8 | 0 | 0 |

## 2.2 Monitoring catch of SBT

### 2.2.1 Daily logbooks

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

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.

Characterisation of the SBT Catch" (Attachment D of the SC5 report):

| Longline fisheries | Information collection |
|---|---|
| 1. Details of effort, including:<br>1.1. Number of hooks set<br>1.2. Position of set and haul<br>1.3. Date and time of set and haul | All reported by the fleet and observers. |
| 2. Details of the catch, including:<br>2.1. Catch composition (number and length or weight for SBT, other tuna and tuna like species)<br>2.2. Catch retained and discarded | 2.1. Number of SBT and other tuna species reported by the fleet and observers. Length or weight reported by observers only.<br>2.2. Catch retained and discarded reported by the fleet and observers |
| 3. Length, weight, sex and other biological data for SBT | Reported by observers only |

| | |
|---|---|
| 4. Otoliths of SBT for age determination | Not reported |
| 5. Any tags recovered | Reported by observers only |
| 6. Environmental data that may influence SBT CPUE (sea surface temperature, wind direction and speed, etc.) | Reported by the fleet and observers. |

| Pole and line fishery | Information collection |
|---|---|
| 1. Details of effort, including:<br>1.1. Number of poles (automatic and manual)<br>1.2. Position at start and end of poling activity<br>1.3. Date and time of start and end of poling activity<br>1.4. Utilization of any spotting devices including aerial spotters<br>1.5. Information of schools spotted (number of schools, size of schools, etc.) | 1.1-1.3: Reported by the fleet<br>1.4-1.5: not reported |
| 2. Details of the catch, including:<br>· Catch composition (number and length or weight for SBT, other tuna and tuna like species)<br>· Catch retained and discarded | 2.1. Number of SBT and other tuna species reported by the fleet and observers. Length or weight not reported by fleet.<br>2.2. Catch retained and discarded reported by the fleet |
| 3. Length, weight, sex and other biological data for SBT | Not reported |
| 4. Otoliths of SBT for age determination | Not reported |
| 5. Any tags recovered | Not reported |
| 6. Environmental data that may influence SBT CPUE (sea surface temperature, wind direction and speed, etc.) | Reported by the fleet |

### 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.

It is mandatory for Permit Holders to submit daily logbook data by the end of each month, following the month in which the SBT were caught, containing SBT catches. Additionally, Permit Holders are required to submit trip summaries containing total weight of SBT per vessel per trip, within two weeks after the vessel has discharged.

### 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: Domestic Longline | | Sector 2: Charter Longline | | Sector 3: Domestic Pole-line | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % effort obs. * | % catch obs.** | % effort obs.* | % catch obs. | % effort obs.* | % catch obs. |
| (Mar 2023 – Feb 2024) | 13.9% | 10.9% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| (Mar 2024 – Feb 2025) | 19.7% | 17.4% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| (Mar 2025 – Feb 2026) | 16.8% | 19.1% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

*Only sets that caught SBT are included in terms of % effort observed
** % of nr SBT caught that were observed

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.

Components of the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards:

- Target observer coverage of 10% for catch and effort monitoring for each fishery and representative information and sampling for the entire fleet: In 2026, the permit conditions were further improved through the development of an observer coverage schedule based on recent fishing activity (2021–2025). It provides Permit Holders with a practical framework for achieving the required observer coverage while maintaining spatio-temporal representativeness. The schedule converts the required observer coverage into the number of trips to be observed for each vessel, based on average number of fishing days per year, average trip duration, proportion of trips conducted per quarter, proportion of trips conducted in ICCAT and IOTC regions. Observer trips are then allocated across quarters according to each vessel's historical seasonal fishing patterns, ensuring that coverage reflects when vessels typically operate without requiring changes to normal fishing behaviour. The schedule is intended as a guideline to support compliance with observer coverage requirements, which is now 15-20%, while recognising that actual fishing activity may vary between years, and that right holders remain responsible for ensuring the required level of observer coverage is achieved.
- Tag recapture reporting: observers have been trained in tag reporting.
- Recruitment and training of observers: observers deployed on South Africa's fleets meet the qualification requirements, they are independent, and their training meets the program requirements.
- Vessel minimum requirements to accommodate an observer: the company deploying the observer ensures that the vessel meets accommodation and safety requirements before deployment.
- EMS is being trialled voluntarily by vessels within the fleet, and no footage is yet available to date.
- Information and data categories: observers collect the information listed under each category listed.

- Confidentiality of data and information: observers fulfill data and information confidentiality requirements.

There has been no exchange of observers between Members and non-members from the fleets that fish for SBT.

### 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?
Mandatory and has been in operation since 1998. VMS complies with CCSBT's VMS Resolutions.

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: Thirty (30) domestic longline, fifty one (51) domestic pole-line vessels in the 2024/2025 fishing season were required to report to the Department's national VMS centre.

2) CVs: N/A – South Africa does not have any registered CVs.

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: Thirty (30) domestic longline, fifty one (51) domestic pole-line vessels in the 2024/2025 fishing season were required to report to the Department's national VMS centre.

2) CVs: N/A – South Africa does not have any registered CVs.

v. Reasons for any non-compliance with VMS requirements and action taken by the Member. N/A
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. Procedures are in place in terms of permit conditions (Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line) that the vessel would have to follow in the event that the vessel experiences technical failure of the VMS while at sea.

vi. 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).

South Africa has four offshore patrol vessels, they have been conducting inspections of tuna longline and pole-line vessels at sea. Fishery Control Officers conduct 100%

inspections in all landing areas as well as random sea inspection on all domestic fishing vessels.

### 2.2.6 Authorised vessel requirements

South African vessels authorised to fish for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) have fulfilled the requirements and responsibilities set out under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and its associated Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs).

South Africa has implemented a range of measures to ensure that authorised vessels comply with all relevant CCSBT CMMs. Prior to the commencement of each tuna fishing season, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) convenes a meeting with Rights Holders, departmental officials, and relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with an interest in conservation. These meetings focus on permit conditions and the mandatory adherence to conservation measures adopted by relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), including the CCSBT.

A key requirement for the issuance of a catch permit to Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Right Holders is compliance with all relevant RFMO conservation measures and resolutions. In accordance with national regulations, no vessel is permitted to fish without a valid catch permit. To obtain such a permit, the applicant must submit a valid vessel licence and vessel registration certificate issued by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA). These original documents must be retained at the Permit Holder's registered place of business throughout the fishing season. In addition, certified true copies must be kept onboard the vessel authorised to harvest large pelagic species.

South Africa prohibits all transhipment-at-sea activities in its fisheries, including those targeting SBT. Only in-port transhipments are permitted, and these are subject to strict regulatory conditions. Vessels intending to tranship in port must apply for and obtain a valid transhipment permit in advance.

To date, none of the South African vessels authorised to fish for SBT have been reported for engaging in Illegal, Unreported, or Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. South Africa reaffirms its commitment to compliance and enforcement: any breach of the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA), its regulations, or the conditions of a permit—by the Permit Holder, vessel crew (permanent or temporary), contractors, agents, advisers, or the skipper—may lead to legal action. This may include proceedings under Section 28 of the MLRA and/or criminal prosecution.

Only vessels authorised by the DFFE and registered on the CCSBT's official Authorised Vessel List are permitted to harvest, catch, or land SBT. Any vessel not included on this list is strictly prohibited from engaging in such activities.

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

Not applicable to South Africa.

## 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 6. 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Mar 2023 – Feb 2024) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (Mar 2024 – Feb 2025) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| (Mar 2025 – Feb 2026) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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.
Not applicable – South Africa does not have LSTLV registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List.

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.

Not applicable – South Africa does not have LSTLV registered in the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List.

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

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

**Table 7. Port inspections of foreign FVs and CVs with SBT/SBT products on**

| 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 | Japan | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| | Taiwan | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| | Spain | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| | Uruguay | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Vanuatu | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2024 | Taiwan | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | Japan | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2025 | Republic of Korea | 5 | 1 | 0? |
| | **TOTAL NUMBER** | **24** | **20** | **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.
2025/2026 (Mar 2026 to Feb 2026).

ii. Provide the percentage of landings of SBT that were inspected.
There is 100% inspection and monitoring of SBT landings

iii. Provide the percentage of exports of SBT that were inspected.
There is 100% inspection of SBT exports.

iv. Provide the percentage of imports of SBT that were inspected.
N/A – no imports of SBT in 2025.

## 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.

Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification is undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.

[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."*

Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by an authorized Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators. Verification by the authorized Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form, Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRO/DRT) and then signed by the authorized Official at the time of export.

# 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. 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).

During the 2025/2026 fishing season, the Department set aside 5t for recreational fishing. The remainder of the SBT quota was allocated to two tuna fisheries in South Africa, the Large Pelagic Longline and the Tuna Pole-line sectors. South Africa did not notify CCSBT of its intention to carry-forward unfished SBT allocation from the 2024/2025 fishing season, consequently, South Africa's SBT quota for the 2025/2026 fishing season was 527 t. The SBT quota was caught on an Olympic System by both the Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line sectors.

A management provision is made for in the Permit Conditions that, once 80% of the SBT has been caught, the remaining 20% of the allocation shall be subdivided equally among active Rights Holders in the Large Pelagic Longline sector.

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:*<br>*i. Whether this was mandatory.*<br>Mandatory.<br>*ii. The level of detail recorded (shot by shot, daily aggregate etc):-*<br>o Longline: Date, latitude, longitude, time of start and end set, number of hooks set, reason for set, float line length, branch line length, bait type, SST, observer present (y/n), catch by species (weight and number), non-retained species in numbers. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | ○ Tuna Pole: Date, latitude, longitude (1 x 1 degree) of start of fishing day, number of crew, gear (Pole, line), SST, live bait used, hours spent fishing, catch by species (weight and number).<br><br>*iii. What information on ERS is recorded in logbooks:-*<br>Longline: Incidental shark, seabird, turtle and mammal capture. Tuna Pole: Incidental shark, seabird, turtle and mammal capture<br><br>*Who are the logbooks submitted to*[5]*:-* Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).<br>*iv.*<br><br>*v. What is the timeframe and method*[6] *for submission:-*<br>Right holders are required through permit conditions to submit logbooks monthly, by the 15th of every month for the previous month's trips. The pages in the logbook are perforated, which allows the original to be removed immediately after the fishing trip. Either the original logbook form is submitted to DFFE or a scanned copy of the form can be emailed or the data is entered into an electronic version of the form (excel spreadsheet) and emailed to DFFE. At the end of every season, all original forms must have been submitted and is recognised as the official catch statistics records. DFFE countersigns the logbook to indicate that the catch statistics have been submitted.<br><br>*vi. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-*<br>Data capturers will check that all fields have been completed correctly, that set/catch locations are not far off or on land, that the average weight per fish is within expected ranges, and naming of additional species is clear. The estimated weights in the logbooks are checked against the offloading landing declarations that have been verified by a Fishery Control Officer or Fishery Monitor. The catch statistics are also compared with CDS documents to reconcile catches across data sources and identify discrepancies and outstanding trips.<br><br>*vii. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*<br>- Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998) (MLRA) and the Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;<br>- General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2021;<br>- Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2021;<br>- The 2025/26 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions<br><br>Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in |

[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.*

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| | the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:<br>(a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;<br>(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence<br>or permit;<br>(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;<br>(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or<br>(e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.<br><br>*viii. Other relevant information*[7]*:-* |

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

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| *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:*<br><br>*i. Whether this is mandatory.*<br>Mandatory<br>*ii. The information that is recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):-*<br>All caught and landed species including SBT.<br><br>*iii. Who the reports are submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc)[5]:-*<br>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).<br><br>*iv. What is the timeframe and method[6] for submission:-*<br>Within two weeks after landing.<br><br>*v. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-*<br>Compared with landing declarations verified by Fishery Control Officers/ Fishery Monitors and occasionally checked with logbooks and Catch Monitoring Forms submitted by the fishing industry.<br><br>*vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*<br>Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);<br>The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;<br>General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2021;<br>Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2021;<br>The 2025/26 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;<br>Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:<br>(a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;<br>(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;<br>(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;<br>(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or<br>(e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.<br><br>*vii. Other relevant information[7]:-* |
| *Scientific Observers* | *Specify:*<br><br>*i. The system used for comparisons between observer data and other catch monitoring data in order to verify the catch data:-*<br>Observer data is routinely used to validate landing declarations, but the main purpose of the observer programme is to collect length frequency data and information on by-catch and incidental catch, and discards. The observer |

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| | programme also plays an important role to ensure compliance with bird mitigation measures and record any transgressions of permit conditions.<br><br>*ii. What information on ERS is recorded by observers:-*<br>Observations of bird mitigation measures used.<br>Bird mortality by species.<br>Discards and releases by species.<br>Length frequencies.<br><br>*iii. Who are the observer reports submitted to:-*<br>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).<br><br>*iv. Timeframe for submission of observer reports:-*<br>Within two weeks of the disembarking of the Observer.<br><br>v. *Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):-*<br>Permit Conditions makes it mandatory for Right Holders to carry one or more Scientific Observers on board for 15 - 20% of all fishing days per season and observer coverage must be spatially and temporally representative of the vessel's seasonal fishing effort. |
| *VMS* | *i. For Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT provide references to applicable legislation and penalties:-*<br>Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);<br>The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;<br>General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2021;<br>Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2021;<br>The 2025/26 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;<br>Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:<br>ii. has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;<br>iii. contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;<br>iv. contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;<br>v. is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or<br>vi. fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit. |
| *Other (for example, use of electronic monitoring etc.)* | |

**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:*

Not applicable in South Africa

*i. Observation required for towing of SBT*

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

*(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*

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

*(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):-*

*(d) Other relevant information[7]*

**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:-*
All domestic tuna vessels may only tranship in ports, which have been designated as landing ports in accordance with the 2025/26 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line permit conditions. A permit to tranship is required for any transhipment and transhipment can only take place in the presence of a Fisheries Compliance Officer.

South African vessels are only permitted to tranship in South Africa.

*ii. Flag State inspection requirements for in-port transhipments of SBT (include % coverage):-*
South Africa ratified the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing in 2014. All vessels fishing in the South African fishery which wishes to tranship in port needs to apply for a transhipment permit. The application form makes provision for the applicant to provide all the relevant information such as vessel names, quantities by species to be transhipped and port where transhipment will take place. Only on the authority of a permit and subject to monitoring may the vessel tranship. There's 100% inspection of all in-port transhipments. Monitoring is mandatory.

*iii. Information sharing with designated Port States:-*

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

As a port state, South Africa requires Flag States to acknowledge the quantity of SBT on board their vessels before the foreign fishing vessel is authorised to enter South Africa's ports. Vessels fishing in the South African fishery have only landed or transhipped product in designated South African ports.

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

Fishery Control Officers/Fish Monitors (FCOs/FMs) are required to monitor every offload and transhipment for all vessels fishing in the South African Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line fisheries as well as foreign fishing vessels. Fish are sorted by species on deck before being weighed in order to determine the weight by species. The FCOs/FMs record the information and signs off a landing declaration form which the representative of the right holder is also required to sign.

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

Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification is undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.

Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by an authorised Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators. Verification by the authorised Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form. Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRT) and then signed by the authorized Official at the time of export.

*vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);
The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;
General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2021;
Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2021;
The 2025/2026 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;
Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:

(a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;
(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;
(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;
(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or
(e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.

*vii. Other relevant information[7]:-*

*(b) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transhipments at sea. This should include details of:*
Not applicable - Transhipment at sea is not permitted under South African laws.

*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:-*

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

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

*iv. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

*v. Other relevant information[7]:-*

**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:-*
Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth.

*(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:-*
*72 hours*

**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:-*
Landing ports in South Africa are documented in terms of the permit conditions. South African flagged vessels, operating in the tuna sectors are only permitted to offload their catches in South Africa's designated ports as stipulated in the permit conditions.

*(b) Inspections required for landings of SBT.*
There is 100% inspection and monitoring of SBT landings.

*(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:-*
None currently. All right holders and Fisheries Compliance Officers are given Species Identification Booklet to improve on the accuracy of identifying SBT.

*(d) Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:-*
Fishery Control officers (FCOs)/ Fishery Monitors (FMs) are required to monitor every offload of vessels fishing in the South African large pelagic longline and Tuna Pole-line fisheries. Fish are sorted by species on deck before being weighed in order to determine the weight by species. The FCOs/FMs record the information and signs off a landing declaration form which the representative of the right holder is also required to sign.

*(e) Process for validating[8] and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form):-*
Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification is undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.

Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by an authorised Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators. Verification by the authorised Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form. Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRT) and then signed by the authorised Official at the time of export.

The feedback received from the CCSBT on reconciliation of CDS data, eSBT data and the Scientific Data Exchange has identified areas for improvement when CDS documents are verified and prior to reporting data to CCSBT. The identified issues and the solutions that South Africa is working on implementing are:

| Issue | Solution |
|---|---|
| Duplicate CMF, CTF and tag numbers | A database has been developed with validation rules that aim to resolve and reduce these errors before reporting. |
| Copies of CMFs that have not been submitted to CCSBT | The central storage and standardised naming scheme of all scanned in progress. |
| Validated CMFs received by CCSBT but not reported to CCSBT by South Africa | Instances occur where validated CMFs are not scanned and stored centrally. CMFs recorded by government officials are compared with a tally of all CMFs used by exporters, monthly, to identify missing validated CMFs. |
| CMF and CTF weight discrepancy exceeding 5% | The weight of SBT on CTFs may not be accurate due to, i) scales not accurately calibrated at the quayside, and 2) ice packaging that artificially increases the weight. The "Resolution on the Implementation of a CCSBT Catch |

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| | Documentation Scheme" states in paragraph 4.2 that: *where length and weight measurements cannot be accurately done on board the vessel, they may be made at the time of landing or transhipment, provided the measurement and the associated CTF are filled in before any further transfer of the SBT*. In South Africa, once SBT are landed they are taken straight to the factory/fish processing establishment (FPE), to maintain the cold-chain and maximise the quality. Upon entry at the FPE, SBT are weighed for the purposes of planning shipments so weighing before processing (GGO), which is equivalent to the CTF weight, and after processing (DRO), which is the CMF weight, is conducted and is accurate. To minimise the CMF and CTF weight discrepancy, in 2026/2027 Permit Holders have been permitted to complete the CTF weight at the FPE. |
| CMF weight greater than CTF weight | Improved validation checks are required, and a basic spreadsheet to compare the number and weight (total weight) of SBT between the CTF and CMF has been created. |
| Nr of tagged fish on CTF differs with CMF | |
| Reporting on local sales | A tally of all CMFs used by exporters, monthly, to identify missing validated CMFs. |
| CMFs not validated, CMFs missing validation seal/signature/date | Identifying new exporters that are not familiar with CDS processes, and providing training.<br>Increased training of validators to improve on errors when validating |
| Discrepancy between SDE, CDS, eSBT and Carry Forward notification | Increased cross-checking among these data sources is conducted prior to data submissions. |

*(f)* *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*
Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);
The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;
General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2021;
Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2021;
The 2025/26 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;
Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:

(a) has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;
(b) contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;
(c) contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;
(d) is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or
(e) fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.
*(g) Other relevant information[7]:-*

## 1.5. Monitoring of trade of SBT

### 1.5.1. SBT Exports

(a) 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:

All SBT is inspected and monitored when a vessel offloads or transhipsin port. There is insufficient capacity to monitor product at the points of export. Only through random sampling or through a tip off are consignments physically inspected at the airports.

(b) Inspections required for export of SBT –

All SBT is inspected and monitored when a vessel offloads or transhipsin port.

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

None currently. All right holders and Fisheries Compliance Officers are given Species Identification Booklet to improve on the accuracy of identifying SBT.

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

The main system used to record the quantity of SBT exported are the CMFs. In addition, all marine products to be exported, require an export permit. In terms of the export permit conditions, the exporter has to provide prior notification to DFFE's compliance office of all consignments to be exported. Monthly summaries of export by species are also required to be electronically submitted by the exporter to DFFE.

(e) 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):-

Landing Declaration Sheets are used together with submitted Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) and Catch Monitoring Forms (CMF's) to assess quota uptake against each individual Rights Holder. Verification is undertaken following the initial validation undertaken during vessel landing. Electronic catch summaries or hard copies submitted by Fishing Skippers two weeks after landing are used to verify catch data.

(f) Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs) must be signed by an authorised Official whose name appears on the Official List of CCSBT authorised validators.

Verification by the authorised Official entails cross-checking with fish details (Product Type; Date of harvest; Vessel Gear Code; Statistical Area of Capture; Fish weight (kg) and other information listed on the Catch Tagging Form. Landing declarations and Invoices, before the CMF can be signed. The CMF is then completed with details of either the intermediate or final product destination, dressed or 'flying weight' of the fish (Conversion Factor DRT) and then signed by the DFFE Official at the time of export.

(g) Lastly, it is an export permit condition that validated CDS documents accompany the consignments of all SBT for export.
Yes

(h) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-
Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);
The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;
General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2021;
Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2021;
The 2025/26 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;
Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit: has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;
contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;
contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;
is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or
fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.
Other relevant information[7]:-

### 1.5.2. SBT Imports

(a) Rules for designating specific ports for the import of SBT:-
There are no specific rules designating ports for the import of SBT. However, foreign vessels are limited in that they can use, only one of three ports, namely Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban. It is possible for SBT to be imported by air freight, but this is unlikely as South Africa is unable to pay the international market price for SBT.

(b) Inspections required for imports of SBT
There are no routine inspections in place for the importing of SBT. However, it is a requirement that an import permit be applied for and be issued before any imports of fish fishery products can enter South Africa. CDS documents are also required in this regard as stipulated in the Import Permit Conditions.

(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:-

None currently. National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), the government agency responsible for the administration of compulsory specifications and other technical regulations with the view to protect human health, safety, the environment and ensure fair trade in accordance with government policies and guidelines, is responsible for the random testing of fish and fisheries products being imported. In addition, all Importers and Fisheries Compliance Officers are given Species Identification Booklet to improve on the accuracy of identifying exports of 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):-
For import of any marine/fishery product, including SBT requires a valid import permit. The import permit conditions require that a validated CDS document be submitted to DFFE for all imported consignments of SBT.

(e) Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-
Marine Living Resources Act, (Act No 18 of 1998);
The Regulations promulgated under the MLRA;
General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights: 2021;
Policy on the allocation and management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Large Pelagic Longline Fishery: 2021;
The 2025/26 Large Pelagic Longline and Tuna Pole-line Permit Conditions;
Penalties could range from revocation of the right, licence or permit; suspension of the right, licence or permit for a period determined by the Minister; cancellation of the right, licence or permit from a date determined by the Minister; or alter the terms or conditions of the right, licence or permit in the case of serious offences. Section 28 of the MLRA makes provision for sanctions in the event that the holder of a right, licence or permit:
has furnished information in the application for that right, licence or permit, or has submitted any other information required in terms of this Act, which is not true or complete;
contravenes or fails to comply with a condition imposed in the right, licence or permit;
contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of the Act;
is convicted of an offence in terms of the Act or
fails to effectively utilise that right, licence or permit.

(f) Other relevant information[7]:-

### 1.5.3. SBT Markets

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

South Africa is not generally regarded as a market state for SBT. Hence the questions below may not be relevant to South Africa

*(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):-*

*(c) Other relevant information[7]*

## 1.6. Other

*Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.*
The Department is currently in the process of exploring the application of technology to improve MCS systems. These technologies include traceability and surveillance systems.

## 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:*
  The National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries was published in August 2008 and implemented, with good results in reducing seabird mortality in the longline fishery. South Africa is in the process of reviewing and updating its NPOA-seabirds and a final draft is expected to be completed shortly.

- *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:*
  The South African National Plan of Action for sharks (NPOA-Sharks SA) was finalised in 2013 and provided information on the status of chondrichthyans in South Africa and examined structure, mechanisms and regulatory framework related to research, management, monitoring and enforcement associated with shark fishing and trade of shark product in the South African context. This information was used to identify, group and prioritize issues particular to South African chondrichthyan resources that require intervention in the forms of specific actions, associated responsibilities and timeframes in an Action Table. It provided a guideline for identifying and resolving the outstanding issues around management and conservation of sharks to ensure their optimal, long term, sustainable use for the benefit of all South Africans. Following an internal review completed in 2018, the Minister of DFFE called for the review of the NPOA – Sharks SA by a Panel of International Experts. The Panel was mandated to provide an independent critical appraisal of the NPOA – Sharks SA and to provide comments specifically on the Action Table which forms the core of the NPOA – Sharks SA to update it. The expert panel comprised of experienced scientists and resource managers with proven expertise related to South African and/ or international fisheries management, bycatch mitigation, biodiversity assessment and development and implementation of policy. The Panel commended the external review process as a unique example of accountability and transparency, and found the NPOA – Sharks SA to be comprehensive, albeit too ambitious in both extent and timeframes.

  Emanating from this review, after an extensive stakeholder consultation phase, the revised NPOA (NPOA-Sharks II) was completed in 2022. An implementation plan has been developed to ensure the completion of the NPOA Sharks II within stipulated time- frames. Research prioritisation, gap analyses and collation of information for 103 shark species have already been accomplished, and training programmes with simplified identification guides for compliance staff to improve shark identification have started.

- *FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations:*
  The use of only large circle hooks or use of only finfish bait is in permit conditions (section 5.4). The pelagic longline permit conditions include an annexure on the safe handling and release of turtles, which includes an infographic depicting the actions to take and the gear to use (net, de-hooker, wire cutters, line cutter, mouth gag).

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:*
  South Africa complies with IOTC resolutions relating to ERS (12/04, 12/06, 12/09,13/05,13/06 , 17/05, 18/02, 19/03, 23/06, 23/07, 25/08, 25/09, 26/03) primarily through clauses in the permit conditions.

- *WCPFC, when fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*
  Not applicable - South African operators do not fish in the WCPFC's Convention Area.

- *ICCAT, when fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*
  South Africa complies with ICCAT recommendations and resolutions relating to ERS (95-02, 03-10, 04-10, 05-08, 07-06, 07-07, 09-07, 10-06,10-07, 10-08, 11-08, 11-09, 11-10, 13-10, 14-06, 15-06, 22-12, 25-07) primarily through clauses in the permit conditions.

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]:*
  The ERSWG Data Exchange and ERSWG report were provided in 2026, for 2025 data.

- *IOTC, for fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*
  The ERS data on seabird, turtle and shark captures and release mortalities obtained from the observer are reported to the IOTC, together with observer size data for sharks.

- *WCPFC, for fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*
  Not applicable - South African operators do not fish in the WCPFC's Convention Area.

- *ICCAT, for fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*
  The ERS data on seabird, turtle and shark captures and release mortalities obtained from the observer are reported to the ICCAT, together with observer size data for sharks.

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*[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.*
*[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.*

*(b) Mitigation – describe the current mitigation requirements:*

*(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):*
When fishing in South Africa's EEZ the start and completion of the line setting is conducted at night only; defined by the period between nautical dusk and nautical dawn. In addition to night setting, the vessel shall choose between using a bird-scaring line(s) or using line weighting.

If a bird-scaring line(s) is used as the second seabird bycatch mitigation measure, vessels shall have on board an approved bird-scaring line, which must be deployed before setting starts each night and may only be retrieved after setting ends. If line weighting is used as the second seabird bycatch mitigation measure, the branch lines (snoods) shall be properly weighted; 40 g or greater attached within 0.5 m of the hook (to minimize gear loss from shark bite-offs), or 60 g or greater attached within 1 m of the hook, or 80 g or greater attached within 2 m of the hook. The gear shall be configured with weights attached for port inspections if this measure is chosen by the vessel

Vessels may use 'hook shielding devices' (as approved by the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels).

Vessels fishing on the high seas may set during daylight hours subject to the following conditions: 1) the vessel shall have an observer on board; 2) the vessel shall deploy two tori lines and; 3) the branch lines shall be weighted as specified in permit conditions.

The right holder is restricted to an initial seabird mortality limit of 25 birds per year irrespective of vessel replacements. Once this limit is reached the vessel is required to use additional mitigation measures. No further setting shall be permitted once this limit has been reached.

Sharks
In terms of the Permit Conditions, Large Pelagic Longline vessels are not allowed to use wire traces. The entire Large Pelagic Longline fleet is restricted to a Precautionary Upper Catch Limit of 1000 t. The following shark species are prohibited from being landed: hammerheads; porbeagle, silky; threshers, dusky and; oceanic whitetip.

Sea Turtles
All sea turtles must be handled and released safely, according to procedures as prescribed in permit conditions.

*ii. Describe the type of information that is collected on mitigation measures as part of compliance programmes for SBT vessels:*
An Observer is required to confirm the deployment of Tori line every day, as well as weighted lines, as per the requirements in the Large Pelagic Longline permit conditions (Annexure 3 of the permit conditions).

## 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 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.