



CCSBT-CC/1010/10

Potential Non-Member Fishing Activity and Non-Member Trade Queries and Associated Trade Correspondence

1. Introduction

This paper provides:

- A note about the Secretariat's contingency fund with Trygg Mat Tracking; and
- An update on contact made with various Non-Cooperating Non-Members (NCNMs) regarding trade of SBT and CCSBT's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). The NCNMs concerned are Canada, Lebanon, Namibia and the USA.

2. Potential Non-Member Fishing Activity

There is nothing to report under this item this year.

3. Contingency Fund with Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT)

In 2018 CCSBT 25 agreed to a small budget (AUD \$20,000) for the Secretariat to contract Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) on an ad-hoc basis to conduct analyses of Automatic Identification System (AIS) data and examine vessel company relationships as a follow-up to reports that may be provided to the Secretariat on suspicious fishing activity in SBT fishing grounds during 2019. An agreement for these services was signed on 1 February 2019 and an initial payment of \$9,969 (US \$7000) was made to TMT to be held in an operating fund pending CCSBT analysis requests. The Secretariat advises that to date it has not requested any ad-hoc analyses to be conducted by TMT, and therefore the operating fund has not yet been utilised.

4. Compliance Correspondence with NCNMs

During 2020 the Secretariat has made contact with various NCNMs concerning trade, catch and CDS queries.

Canada

Contact was re-initiated with relevant officials at Fisheries and Oceans, Canada concerning the Secretariat's query as to whether all recently reported SBT imports into Canada (for commodity codes HS 030236 and 030346) could be confirmed to be SBT. During August 2020, the Secretariat received a response advising that Canada has detected a processing error in its systems which is suspected of having inflated reported trade volumes for some countries. Canada has now corrected this error and revised some of its data accordingly. However, further internal processing is still required, and some revised figures may not be available online until early February 2021.

The Secretariat notes that some revisions to Canada's SBT import statistics are already evident on the Statistics Canada website (less SBT imports are now generally recorded from less export States), but that further revisions to those SBT trade statistics may not be available until at least February 2021 as indicated by Canadian officials.

Lebanon

The Secretariat continued its efforts to establish a cooperative relationship with Lebanon, especially given that CCSBT's CDS recorded that 23.7t of SBT were exported from Indonesia to Lebanon during 2019.¹

As reported to CC14, the Executive Secretary wrote an official letter to the Ministry of Agriculture in Lebanon in May 2019 requesting that it consider:

- not accepting imports of SBT product into Lebanon if unaccompanied by appropriate CDS documentation, and
- voluntarily sharing with the CCSBT any CDS documents received as well as SBT trade information.

No formal response was received and the Secretariat's contact in Lebanon² suggested that the Secretariat follow up with a new letter to the Customs Administration of Lebanon (CAL) which was initially sent on 02/10/2019 and then re-sent on 07/01/2020 (**Annex 1** – see Attachment B). The Secretariat received an email reply from CAL on 23/06/2020 including an import extract from CAL's database showing that it had not recorded any imports of SBT into Lebanon from 2010 to 2019 inclusive, and noting that, *“the Ministry of Agriculture is the competent authority regarding your request.”*

The Secretariat followed up by writing a new letter to its contact at the Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon in July 2020 (**Annex 1**), including a request that Lebanon review its process for recording imports of SBT. The Secretariat has not received an acknowledgment to this most recent letter and so has not been able to confirm whether it was received.

Namibia

Namibia has declared catches of SBT to ICCAT for 3 years since the year 2000: 1t (2005), 13t (2014) and 17t (2016).

During May 2019 Namibia made initial contact with the CCSBT Secretariat noting that: *“One of our vessels is fishing in the southern atmosphere and they are piking up some Bluefin tuna. I want to find out what are the procedures for us to export these Bluefin tuna.”*

Further, in August 2019 Namibia communicated that:

“Our vessels have not landed any Bluefin species yet. I will still discuss our membership in the future with our management and will follow the application procedures as outlined by you if approved by management.”

Following a request from one CCSBT Member and noting some finalised text from a yet to be published 2018-19 ICCAT report³, the Secretariat followed up with Namibia again during July and August 2020 with a query about its potential interactions with SBT.

Namibia has not yet responded to the Secretariat on this matter.

¹ Indonesia confirmed the names of the two intended importers of this SBT - both are located in Beirut

² An official at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon

³ *“Namibia introduced its request for a research allocation, noting that its longline vessels operating in the South Atlantic occasionally, though rarely, bycatch bluefin tuna when targeting albacore. The SCRS Chair explained that there was a very low probability that this bycatch came from the eastern stock of bluefin tuna and that it was likely to concern southern bluefin tuna. The Panel Chair noted that this matter should therefore be addressed by the CCSBT rather than ICCAT.”*

USA

The USA continues to cooperate with the CCSBT's CDS by providing quarterly reports of available SBT CDS import documents and following up with respect to some missing import documents.

5. Summary of Trade Data from UN COMTRADE

The Secretariat is not providing a summary of trade data from the UN COMTRADE this year as compliance resources were instead prioritised to the additional work associated with the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the QAR of the European Union.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that CC15:

- Notes the information presented in this paper and recommends any required follow-up actions.

Prepared by the Secretariat