

Update on the Project for Enhancing the Implementation of Ecologically Related Species Seabird Measures within CCSBT Fisheries

CCSBT/BirdLife International

Background

Members of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), with support from BirdLife International and the CCSBT Secretariat, developed a project for enhancing the implementation of Ecologically Related Species (ERS) conservation measures in CCSBT fisheries. The project includes outreach, training and further development of systems to verify onboard implementation of the ERS measures. The project was developed in response to a recommendation from the 2018 meeting of CCSBT's Compliance Committee (CC 13 paras 101 and 111).

Project Concept Development

An outline proposal was first discussed at the meeting of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG 13) in early 2019. The proposal was further developed by an intersessional group involving CCSBT Members, BirdLife International and the CCSBT Secretariat. An updated proposal was submitted to CC 14 and was approved and adopted at EC 12 as Attachment 12 of the [CCSBT Commission meeting report](#). It was agreed that the intersessional seabird correspondence group would continue during 2020 to further develop the proposal into specific funding proposals.

At CC 15 two papers were presented as an update to paper CCSBT-CC/1910/15 (Rev.1) following further development, in consultation with Members. The proposal was split into two separate proposals with the same activities, but with different funding streams, depending on Members' eligibility for GEF funding. Minor changes to the proposal were suggested and incorporated to the revised papers [CCSBTCC/2010/15 \(Rev.2\)](#) and 16 [\(Rev.2\)](#). The meeting endorsed the project proposals and it was agreed that the intersessional seabird correspondence group would continue to further refine the project activities and develop the budgets of the project.

In the intersessional period between CC 15 and CC 16 Terms of Reference for the Intersessional Seabird Working Group (SBWG) were adopted, and Ms. Stephanie Prince of BirdLife International was elected as Chair of the SBWG. A draft workplan (see Annex 1) was developed by BirdLife International and the CCSBT Secretariat and comments from the SBWG have been incorporated.

The expected start date of the project has been delayed from the start of 2022 to mid-2022 due to delays to the release of funding from the FAO. Before the project officially commences consultations with members on preparedness for project implementation, and recruitment of a Project Coordinator to be housed within the CCSBT Secretariat will be completed. The SBWG will continue to meet on an 'as required' basis.

Element 4 Update global seabird risk assessment

Ref	Activity	Date(s) to be refined	Responsible	Apr-Jun 2022	Jul-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Apr-Jun 2023	Jul-Sep 2023	Oct-Dec 2023	Jan-Mar 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025
4.1	Meeting to define the objective, methodology of the assessment and corresponding data requirements	Q4, 2022	Project Coordinator													
4.2	Preliminary data call, for data mapping and identifying possible data sharing mechanisms (to CCSBT Members, and other relevant data holders including information on bird population and distribution)**	2023	Project Coordinator				-	-	-	-						
4.3	Data preparatory meeting to agree on a set of standard data to be used, data format, data sharing mechanisms and appropriate confidentiality rules	Q4, 2023	Project Coordinator													
4.4	Data assemblage and sharing	Q1, 2024	Project Coordinator													
4.5	Risk assessment using the shared standard data by any interesting participants	2024	CCSBT Members									-	-	-		
4.6	Joint workshop to discuss outcomes and agree on overall assessment	Q1, 2025	Project Coordinator													
4.7	Report writing and submission	Q2, 2025	Project Coordinator													

* The seabird project working group meets on a when needed basis, so the timing shown here is therefore highly indicative

** For effective seabird risk assessment, it is essential to incorporate information and expert participation from CCSBT Members as well as non-CCSBT organizations, including US, Brazil, Uruguay, ACAP, BirdLife International

*** The schedule shown here is indicative only and the actual timing may change depending on circumstances (such as with COVID-19) and between Members