



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment

# Annual Report to the CCSBT Compliance Committee and the Extended Commission 2021



## Australia

Prepared for the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC16) and the Extended Commission for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT28)

September 2021

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

*(Revised at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting: 17 October 2019)*

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.

All Longline vessels in the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) and the Western Tuna and Billfish Fishery (WTBF) are now required to log their fisheries data electronically. The e-log system streamlines the collection of commercial catch data and ensures that it is provided in a more timely manner. Australia is looking to enable data collection systems to be further integrated with other on-board systems in the future, such as the vessel monitoring system, which tracks speed, course and location, and the e-monitoring system that records video of fishing activity.

## 1.2 Future planned improvements

Describe any MCS improvements that are being planned for future fishing seasons and the expected implementation date for such improvements.

### Stereo Video Monitoring

At CCSBT 27 Australia committed to conduct a trial of stereo video measurement technology to determine whether Australia's preconditions for implementation have been met. A report on the trial will be provided to the Extended Commission for information under item 4.1 of the agenda.

# 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 previous three fishing seasons in be provided in tonnes.

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 <sup>1</sup> | Quota Carried Forward to this Fishing Season | Total Available Catch <sup>2</sup> (B+C) | Attributable catch <sup>3</sup> |
| 2019/20        | 6,165                              | 0  | 6,124                                    | 5,679                           |
| 2018/19        | 6,165                              | 118  | 6,283                                    | 6,324                           |
| 2017/18        | 6,165                              | 362  | 6,527                                    | 6,409                           |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> '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.'

## 2.1.2 Allowances and SBT mortality for each sector

Specify the allowances and SBT mortality for each sector during the previous three 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: (Farm Sector)  |                      | Sector 2: (Longline/minorline) |                      |
| Fishing season | National allowance   | Mortalities (tonnes) | National allowance             | Mortalities (tonnes) |
| 2019/20        | 6,165  | 4,568                | 6,165                          | 861                  |
| 2018/19        | 6,165  | 5,291                | 6,165                          | 783                  |
| 2017/18        | 6,165  | 5,123                | 6,165                          | 1,035                |

| Sector cont.   | 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) |
| 2019/20        | 0                        | 0                    | 250                  | 250                  | N/A                                  | N/A                  | N/A                | N/A                  |
| 2018/19        | 0                        | 0                    | 250                  | 250                  | N/A                                  | N/A                  | N/A                | N/A                  |
| 2017/18        | 0                        | 0                    | 250                  | 250                  | N/A                                  | N/A                  | N/A                | N/A                  |

## 2.1.3 SBT Catch (retained and non-retained)

For the previous three fishing seasons, specify the weight 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 “Non-Retained SBT” includes 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         |                  |                                |                  | Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector |                  |                                      |                  |
|                | Sector 1 (Farm)            |                  | Sector 2 (Longline/ Minorline) |                  | 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 |
| 2019/20        | 4,568                      | N/A              | 861                            | [1615]           | 250                                  | unknown          | N/A                                  | N/A              |
| 2018/19        | 5,291                      | N/A              | 783                            | [3237]           | 250                                  | unknown          | N/A                                  | N/A              |
| 2017/18        | 5,123                      | N/A              | 1,035                          | [3693]           | 250                                  | unknown          | N/A                                  | N/A              |

### 2.1.4 The number of vessels in each sector

Specify the number of vessels that caught SBT in each sector during the previous three 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**

| Fishing season         | Number of vessels                |    |                               |                                      |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                        | Commercial sectors               |    | Sector 3: Recreational sector | Sector 4: Customary/artisanal sector |
| Sector 1 (Purse Seine) | Sector 2 (Long line/ Minor line) |    |                               |                                      |
| 2017/18                | 6                                | 27 | unknown                       | N/A                                  |
| 2018/19                | 7                                | 27 | unknown                       | N/A                                  |
| 2019/20                | 6                                | 32 | unknown                       | N/A                                  |

## 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 log books were required.

N/A, Daily logbooks are mandatory for all Commonwealth fisheries in Australia.

- 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.

Effort and catch information collected by AFMA logbooks for the SBT, ETBF and WTBF comply with that specified in the ‘Characterisation of the SBT Catch’ section of the CCSBT Scientific Research Plan.

### 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 method, specify if it was mandatory, and if not, specify the % of SBT fishing that was covered.

All relevant information is collected in the mandatory daily logbooks.

### 2.2.3 Scientific Observers

- i. Provide the percentage of the SBT catch and effort observed in the three previous 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, and sets for longline, and purse seine respectively.

**Table 5. Observer coverage of SBT catch and effort**

| Fishing season | Sector 1 (Purse seine) |              | Sector 2 (longline) |              |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                | % effort obs.          | % catch obs. | % effort obs.       | % catch obs. |
| 2017/18        | 20.9                   | 19.0         | 11.8                | 13.8         |
| 2018/19        | 14.3                   | 14.5         | 12.1                | 14.6         |
| 2019/20        | 9.9                    | 10.3         | 11.0                | 7.1          |

- 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 AFMA Observer Program complies with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards. The AFMA Observer Program has previously used scientific observers from other countries however no exchanges have taken place in recent seasons.

#### 2.2.4 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

For the most recent 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?

Yes. Since 1 July 2007, all boats operating in Australia's Commonwealth fisheries must be fitted with an operational VMS. This includes all boats authorised to take SBT under the SBT Plan, boats that provide support to SBT farming operations (e.g. tow boats) as well as all boats fishing on the high seas under the competence of a regional fisheries management body to which Australia is a party.

All vessels that were authorised to fish for SBT and that fished on the high seas were compliant with VMS requirements (no Australian vessels caught SBT on the high seas during this period).

- 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: 76  
2) CVs: N/A

- 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: 76  
2) CVs: N/A

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

Not Applicable - All vessels that were authorised to fish for SBT were compliant with VMS requirements.

- 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.

Not Applicable - In the event that a VMS stops reporting, AFMA contacts the boat's master and instructs them to manually report their position on a four hourly basis for the duration of the trip. Once a boat returns to port, AFMA requires that the VMS be operational before the boat is allowed to return to sea.

- 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.

Nil

### 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 previous fishing season (e.g. the percentage of SBT trips inspected).

Australian fisheries officers conduct inspections of landings at key SBT ports, as well as at sea boarding's and inspections of boats taking SBT in the longline and farm sectors. In 2019/20 Australian fisheries officers conducted 31 SBT inspections, 10 at sea and 21 in port.

### 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 Attachment A, including any punitive and sanction actions taken.

All Australian vessels licensed to fish for SBT were compliant with the CCSBT Authorised Vessel Resolution.

### 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.

At CCSBT27 Australia reported that it funded a recreational catch survey which was conducted by the University of Tasmania during December 2018 to November 2019. The survey was peer-reviewed by Mr. B. Hartill of NIWA, New Zealand. It estimated a total recreational SBT harvest of 270 t during the 12 months of the survey. Australia advised that in future, 5% of its national allocation will be set aside for the recreational sector. The amount set aside for Australia's recreational sector is greater than the total annual recreational catch estimated by the survey, therefore this additional amount can be considered as a buffer to allow for some growth and fluctuation in recreational catch and cover any recreational release/discard mortality that may occur.

Australia has no other sources of mortality (artisanal, customary or traditional).

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

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 previous three 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 (%) |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2019-20        | 7.7                           | 100                                |
| 2018-19        | 7.7                           | 100                                |
| 2017-18        | 6.8                           | 100                                |

- i. Plans to allow adoption of the stereo video systems for ongoing monitoring.

At CCSBT 27 Australia committed to conduct a trial of stereo video measurement technology to determine whether Australia's preconditions for implementation have been met. A report on the trial will be provided to the Extended Commission for information under item 4.1 of the agenda.

## 2.4 SBT transshipment (in port and at sea)

In accordance with the Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels, report.

- i. The quantities and percentage of SBT transhipped at sea and in port during the previous three 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 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2019-20        | N/A                                 | N/A   | N/A                                  | N/A  |
| 2018-19        | N/A                                 | N/A   | N/A                                  | N/A  |
| 2017-18        | N/A                                 | N/A   | N/A                                  | N/A  |

- 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 previous fishing season.

During the reporting period, Australian-flagged boats did not tranship or receive SBT to/from large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs) with freezing capacity. AFMA has not authorised any Australian-flagged boats to receive at sea transhipments from LSTLVs.

- 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 previous fishing season.

N/A

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

For the three previous 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 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 |
|---------------------|--------------|---|---|--|
| 2020                | N/A          | 0   | 0   | 0  |
|                     | N/A          | 0   | 0   | 0  |
| 2019                | N/A          | 0   | 0   | 0  |
|                     | N/A          | 0   | 0   | 0  |
| 2018                | N/A          | 0   | 0   | 0  |
|                     | N/A          | 0   | 0   | 0  |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER</b> |              | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   |

## 2.6 Monitoring of trade of SBT

For the last whole calendar year or fishing season,

- i. Provide the percentage of landings of SBT that were inspected.



100% of landings in the purse seine sector are inspected by AFMA or its contractor.

AFMA fisheries officers also conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments.

- ii. Provide the percentage of exports of SBT that were inspected.

AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments.

- iii. Provide the percentage of imports of SBT that were inspected.

Australia typically import small amounts (less than five tonnes) of SBT annually, although this may fluctuate according to market conditions. AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments.

## 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<sup>4</sup> of the Resolution, and the level of compliance.

Copies of all documents issued and received are provided to the CCSBT on a quarterly basis to be compiled in an electronic database. This is an effective auditing mechanism which allows AFMA to analyse, identify discrepancies, reconcile and report all CCSBT CDS documents submitted by Australia. In conjunction with this process, AFMA commenced audits of fish tagging in accordance with the CCSBT CDS in the 2010/11 financial year. At the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT.

The level 1 audit includes the following:

- monthly breakdowns of receipt and sale of SBT including mortalities;
- verified counts of SBT conducted during transfer from tow pontoons into farms;
- CCSBT CDS figures and domestic sales; and
- mortalities recorded by the SBT fish receiver.

Each season selected farming companies and wild caught fish receivers also undergo a level 2 audit, aiming to capture in excess of 10% of all commercially landed SBT. This audit includes a full assessment conducted by AFMA officers who review company records which may include spread-sheets, feed boat logs, dive logs, sales and export documentation, including CDS documentation. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS documents for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. As part of the level 2 audit, two AFMA officers independently recount all video/DVD recorded by AFMA's agent during the verified count of SBT transferred into those farms included in the audit. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic compliance officers were unable to attend premises to conduct level 2 audits for the 2017/18 season and it was decided that no level 2 audit would be undertaken for that season. The 2019/20 season audits are yet to be completed however preliminary figures indicate that they will account for in excess of 13% of SBT received by fish receivers.

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<sup>4</sup> 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."

In addition, compliance with the CCSBT CDS is monitored in accordance with AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. AFMA conducts a biennial risk assessment process to determine those prioritised areas that require targeted compliance and enforcement activity. This risk assessment process is conducted across major Commonwealth Fisheries, such as the SBT fishery. As a result Australian fisheries officers conducted targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea, in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export/import establishments. The inspection process includes the inspection of relevant documentation such as CDS documents. In 2019/20 Australian fisheries officers conducted 31 SBT inspections, 10 at sea and 21 in port.

### **3 Changes to sections in Annex 1**

List any sections of Annex 1 that have changed since the previous year.

There have been no changes 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).

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 2).

| Monitoring Methods | Description   |
|--------------------|---|
| Daily log book     | <p><i>Specify:</i></p> <p>i. <i>Whether this was mandatory.</i></p> <p>It is a provision under Section 42 of the FM Act that AFMA may require SFR holders to keep and maintain logbooks. The following logbooks are mandatory for the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF:</p> <p><b><u>Farm sector</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Purse Seine and Pole Daily Fishing Log (TPB03) – for purse seine and pole fishing boats for farming purposes;</li> <li>• Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Farm Transit Log (SBT03B) – for SBT tow boats.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Longline sector</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Pelagic Longline Daily Fishing log (AL06) – pelagic longline method only;</li> <li>• Purse Seine Daily Fishing Log (PS01A) – purse seine method only for non-farming purposes;</li> <li>• Australian Tuna Purse Seine and Pole Logbook (TPB01) – pole method only for non-farming purposes.</li> </ul> <p>ii. <i>The level of detail recorded (shot by shot, daily aggregate etc):-</i></p> <p>The catch data collected by AFMA logbooks for the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF is on a shot by shot basis.</p> <p>iii. <i>What information on ERS is recorded in logbooks:-</i></p> <p>AFMA logbooks provide for the recording of ERS interactions. Further, all AFMA logbooks contain specific reporting forms for protected species. Interactions with ERS are also recorded by scientific observers.</p> <p>iv. <i>Who are the log books submitted to<sup>5</sup>:-</i></p> <p><b><u>Farm sector</u></b><br/>SFR holders targeting SBT in the farm sector are required to record interactions with ERS in the TPB03 and SBT03B logbooks. Numbers and life status must be reported to the species level where possible. Interactions with ERS are also recorded by scientific observers on-board purse seine fishing boats or SBT tow boats.</p> <p><b><u>Longline sector</u></b></p> |

<sup>5</sup> 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.

SFR holders capturing SBT using pelagic longline must record interactions with ERS in the AL06 logbook. Numbers of retained and discarded fish (including sharks) must be recorded to species level, in addition to an estimate of the retained processed weight. For listed protected species (including seabirds, sea turtles, marine mammals, great white sharks, grey nurse sharks and whale sharks) the number of interactions per species must be recorded in addition to life status (alive, dead or injured).

SFR holders capturing SBT using purse seine and pole for non-farming purposes must also record interactions with ERS in the PS01A and TPB01 logbooks, respectively.

v. *What is the timeframe and method<sup>6</sup> for submission:-*

**Farm sector**

- TPB03 – must be submitted by the 14th day of the following month;
- SBT03B – must be submitted immediately on arriving at location where the fish are transferred to farm pontoons.

**Longline sector**

- AL06 – must be submitted within three calendar days of the completion of each fishing trip;
- PS01A – must be submitted within three calendar days of the consignment being unloaded;
- TPB01 – must be submitted by the 14th day of the following month.

vi. *The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-*

**Farm sector**

At the end of each fishing season, all farming companies are audited by AFMA to review compliance with SFR holdings. Further information on these audits is provided in Section 2.

**Longline sector**

At the end of each fishing season, all SFR holders that have caught SBT are audited by AFMA to review compliance with SFR holdings. Further information on these audits is provided in Section 4.

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

CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. Breaching a condition of a concession is an offence under Section 95 of the FM Act. Penalties include fines (under Section 95(5) of the FM Act), suspension or cancellation of concessions (under Section 98(3) of the FM Act), an order directing a person not to be on a boat for a specified time (under Section 98(1) of the FM Act) and forfeiture of the boat, equipment, catch and/or proceeds of catch (under Section 106 of the FM Act).

viii. *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*

Nil

<sup>6</sup> In particular, whether the information is submitted electronically from the vessel.

<sup>7</sup> Including information on ERS, and comments on the effectiveness of the controls or monitoring tools and any plans for further improvement.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><i>Additional reporting methods (such as real time monitoring programs)</i></p> | <p><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), create a separate row of in this table for each method. Then, for each method, specify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. Whether this is mandatory.</i></li> </ul> <p>All relevant information is collected in the mandatory daily logbooks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>ii. The information that is recorded (including whether it relates to SBT or ERS):-</i><br/>N/A</li> <li><i>iii. Who the reports are submitted to and by whom (e.g. Vessel Master, the Fishing Company etc)<sup>5</sup>:-</i><br/>N/A</li> <li><i>iv. What is the timeframe and method<sup>6</sup> for submission:-</i><br/>N/A</li> <li><i>v. The type of checking and verification that is routinely conducted for this information:-</i><br/>N/A</li> <li><i>vi. Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i><br/>N/A</li> <li><i>vii. Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-</i><br/>N/A</li> </ul>  |
| <p><i>Scientific Observers</i></p>   | <p><i>Specify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. The system used for comparisons between observer data and other catch monitoring data in order to verify the catch data:-</i></li> </ul> <p>Scientific observers are briefed before each trip and debriefed by AFMA following each trip. Issues identified in these briefings and in observer reports are analysed by AFMA on a case by case basis and may be investigated if necessary.</p> <p>For longline vessels an audit process is undertaken using EM footage to verify the accuracy of catch data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>ii. What information on ERS is recorded by observers:-</i></li> </ul> <p>Observer and EM reports include details of daily fishing operations, the mitigation measures employed and any non-target species interactions. In terms of ERS interactions, the number (and weight where appropriate) of each species caught is recorded for each shot observed as well as the life status (alive, dead, injured) and whether it was retained or discarded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>iii. Who are the observer reports submitted to:-</i></li> </ul> <p>Observer reports are submitted to AFMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>iv. Timeframe for submission of observer reports:-</i></li> </ul> <p>Observer reports are submitted at the completion of each fishing trip. Data from observer reports is provided to the CCSBT Secretariat by the Australian Government Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>v. Other relevant information (including plans for further improvement – in particular to reach coverage of 10% of the effort):-</i></li> </ul> <p>Australia has implemented compulsory EM in the ETBF and WTBF and has committed to the future use of EM in other fisheries.</p> |
| <p><i>VMS</i><br/><i>The items of “i” are required in</i></p>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>i. For Member-flagged authorised carrier vessels and fishing vessels fishing for or taking SBT reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-</i></li> </ul> <p>CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. Breaching a</p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>association with the Resolution on establishing the CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System</i> | condition of a concession is an offence under Section 95 of the FM Act. Penalties include fines (under Section 95(5) of the FM Act), suspension or cancellation of concessions (under Section 98(3) of the FM Act), an order directing a person not to be on a boat for a specified time (under Section 98(1) of the FM Act) and forfeiture of the boat, equipment, catch and/or proceeds of catch (under Section 106 of the FM Act). |
| <i>Other (for example, use of electronic monitoring etc.)</i>                             | Compulsory EM has been introduced into the ETBF and WTBF fleets. EM provides the potential to monitor 100% of fishing activities on each vessel and is used to verify catch data, ensure mitigation measures are employed and record any non-target species interaction. An audit is performed on 10% of the recorded footage to ensure daily catch reporting (logbooks) is accurate.   |

## 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*

Under the SBT Plan, SFR holders must carry a scientific observer on a nominated boat if instructed by AFMA. The scientific observer coverage target is 10% of purse seine operations and 10% of towing operations. This is communicated to SFR holders each year in the SBT farm sector pre-season briefing guide.

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

SFR holders are required to progressively record SBT mortalities as follows:

- during catching – in the TPB03 logbook;
- when transferring to a tow boat – in the SBT02 CDR;
- during the tow to a farm – in the SBT03B logbook;
- following final count into farm – in the SBT04B CDR.

(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*

AFMA (or its agent) observes and verifies the count and weight estimate for 100% of transfers from tow pontoons into farms. SFR holders are required to record details of each transfer in the SBT04B logbook.

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

SFR holders who capture SBT for farming purposes using purse seine must record daily catch activity in an approved TPB03 logbook. Details to be recorded include date of fishing, search details (including the use of a spotter plane), fishing location, and estimated weight of SBT per shot and, if transferring to a tow pontoon, the carrier boat name and date and weight of transfer. Any interactions with ERS must also be reported. Copies of TPB03 must be forwarded to AFMA on a monthly basis.

On transfer to a tow pontoon, catcher boats must also complete the SBT02 CDR. This form is designed to meet the requirement that operators provide a catch estimate at the start of the tow operation. This form must be faxed to AFMA within 24 hours of the carrier boat commencing the operation to tow the catch to a farm. Information provided must include

- the name of the SFR holder;
- purse seine boat name;
- date and time of last transfer to a tow pontoon;
- tow boat name, pontoon identification;
- estimated total weight of fish transferred to that pontoon; and
- estimated weight of mortalities during each catch and transfer.

AFMA uses this catch estimate to deduct quota from an operator's holdings at the time of the estimate, to later be replaced by the estimate obtained from the average weight sample and verified count in the SBT04B CDR.

Tow boats must complete details in the SBT03B logbook. Information to be collected in this book includes details of the permit holder and boat, transfer details including name of purse seine boat, estimate of weight of SBT and a reference to the SBT02 book used and page number, a record of mortalities for each day of the tow operation, and details of transfer of pontoon to another tow boat or to a SBT fish receiver. This form must be updated daily commencing on the day of the first transfer of fish to the tow pontoon or on the day that the permit holder accepts responsibility for towing the tow pontoon from another boat. Separate SBT03B forms must be completed for each tow pontoon if a boat is towing more than one pontoon.

If the tow pontoon is transferred to another carrier boat, AFMA must be notified within 24 hours of the transfer. A separate SBT03B form must be completed by each carrier boat. If the tow pontoon returns immediately to the farm pontoon(s) or when the tow pontoon reaches the farm pontoon(s), the SBT03B form(s) must be completed and forwarded to an AFMA official or agent acting on AFMA's behalf before the transfer of fish into the farm pontoon(s) commences.

A verified count of SBT transferred from each tow pontoon into a farm must be conducted by AFMA or a government contractor (the agent) acting on AFMA's behalf. A weight estimate is obtained for each transfer by sampling at least 100 live fish of 10 kg or greater then multiplying the average weight by the verified number of fish in the transfer. The methods by which the verified count and weight estimate must be conducted are described in Clause 22B of the SBT Plan. The details of the average weight sample and verified count must be recorded in the SBT04B CDR.

The SBT04B CDR is used to determine the number of fish to be deducted from quota. The following information must be recorded by an AFMA official or agent acting on AFMA's behalf: details of the catcher boat, tow boat and tow pontoon identification number (obtained from the SBT02 CDR), a reference to the SBT02 book and page number, mortalities during pursing, transfer to tow pontoon and tow operations (obtained from the SBT02 CDR), average weight sample from the tow pontoon (obtained through the above counting method), and count of fish transferred from tow pontoon to farm. The number of fish taken from the tow pontoon to obtain the sample of fish of 10 kg or greater must also be recorded. The AFMA official (or agent acting on AFMA's behalf) who carried out the sampling procedure must be identified on the SBT04B CDR. The form must be forwarded to AFMA as soon as it is completed.

The CMAU02C form must accompany all transshipments, landings of domestic products, exports, imports and re-exports of SBT. This form must be completed on catch or harvest of SBT (Catch/Harvest Section), at the point of transshipment or export (Intermediate Product Destination Section), and on receivership of SBT product at its final destination (Final Product Destination Section). AFMA authorises competent authorities to validate and verify CMAU02C forms.

The CTAU02A form must be completed and submitted to AFMA when completing the associated CMAU02B form. Details include the boat or farm name, boat or farm registration number, unique document number of the associated CMAU02C form, CCSBT tag number, weight, fork length, gear code (if applicable), CCSBT statistical area of catch, and month of harvest.

With respect to the REAU02 form, it must be specified whether product is being re-exported or exported after landing of domestic product and whether the document accompanies a full shipment or partial shipment. The form details the port of export, any applicable catch tagging form document numbers, a description of fish from previous CCSBT CDS forms, a description of the fish being exported, the export destination, and final point of importation. AFMA authorises competent authorities to validate and verify REAU02 forms.

*(c) For "b" and "c" above, describe the process used for completing, validating<sup>8</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Farm Stocking Form, Farm Transfer Form):-*

Copies of all documents issued and received by Australia are compiled in an electronic database. This is an effective auditing mechanism which allows AFMA to analyse, identify discrepancies, reconcile and report all CCSBT CDS documents submitted by Australia. These documents are provided to the CCSBT Secretariat on a quarterly basis. All documents required to be submitted by SFR holders in the SBT are legislative instruments and include the requirements of the CCSBT CDS. These documents are specified in the conditions placed on SFRs.

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<sup>8</sup> Including the class of person who conducts this work (e.g. government official, authorised third party)

Further, at the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts an audit of all farming companies. The level 1 audit includes the following:

- monthly breakdowns of receipt and sale of SBT including mortalities;
- verified counts of SBT conducted during transfer from tow pontoons into farms;
- CCSBT CDS figures and domestic sales; and
- mortalities recorded by the SBT fish receiver.

Each season selected farming companies and wild caught fish receivers also undergo a level 2 audit, aiming to capture in excess of 10% of all commercially landed SBT. This audit includes a full assessment conducted by AFMA officers who review company records which may include spreadsheets, feed boat logs, dive logs, sales and export documentation, including CDS documentation. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS documents for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. As part of the level 2 audit, two AFMA officers independently recount all video/DVD recorded by AFMA's agent during the verified count of SBT transferred into those farms included in the audit. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic compliance officers were unable to attend premises to conduct level 2 audits for the 2017/18 season and it was decided that no level 2 audit would be undertaken for that season. The 2019/20 season audits are yet to be completed however preliminary figures

AFMA fisheries officers also conduct targeted compliance operations inspecting fishing boats at sea and in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments. These operations are in addition to AFMA's general program of deterrence across all Commonwealth fisheries. Any incidents of non-compliance are subject to investigation consistent with the Australian Government Investigations Standards.

AFMA has developed a CCSBT CDS handbook for SFR holders in the SBTF, describing the procedures that must be followed to comply with the CDS including the mandatory tagging of whole fish.

Compliance with the CCSBT CDS is monitored in accordance with AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS document for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements.

*(d) Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>*

Australia has submitted a list of authorised SBT farms to the CCSBT Secretariat, as required. Australia notifies the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from or modification required to the CCSBT Record of Authorised Farms as soon as this information becomes available. Through its domestic implementation of the CCSBT CDS, Australia has taken measures to not permit landings of domestic product, exports, imports and/or re-exports of SBT into and from farms which are not registered on the CCSBT Record of Authorised Farms.

## **1.2 SBT Transshipment (in port and at sea)**

*(a) Describe the system used for controlling and monitoring transshipments 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 transshipments of SBT are prohibited:-*

During the reporting period, all SBT product from the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF were landed in Australian ports. Further, Regulation 9I of the FM Regulations requires that all fish must be landed to an AFMA authorised SBT fish receiver. Should an operator of an Australian-flagged boat seek to land Australian SBT product at a foreign port, Australia will notify the CCSBT Executive Secretary of the nominated port.

Australia will notify the Executive Secretary if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that Australian-flagged boats not on the CCSBT Authorised Vessel List are engaged in commercial fishing for and/or transshipment of SBT.



ii. *Flag State inspection requirements for in-port transhipments of SBT (include % coverage):-*

Not applicable

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

In the event that a foreign fishing vessel seeks access to an Australian port to unload or tranship SBT, Australia must issue a port permit (except in cases of force majeure). In addition, landing of fish and fish products by foreign vessels is prohibited unless written approval is given by the Australian Government Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Information on any inspection or other action that is undertaken is shared with relevant States in accordance with Australian Government legislation, recognising that Australia has ratified the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

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

Not applicable

v. *Process for validating<sup>8</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, Catch Tagging Form):-*

Not applicable

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

Section 95(5) of the FM Act lists the maximum penalty to be applied in the event of an offence.

vii. *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*

Nil

(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:-*

Under the SBT Plan, SFR holders must not tranship SBT that is not alive to a boat unless the transhipment is monitored by an officer appointed under the FM Act and acting under direction by AFMA. SBT must not be transhipped to a boat unless the boat is being used by a person who is, or is acting for, the holder of a fishing permit (or foreign fishing licence if applicable) for the SBT that authorises receipt of the transhipped tuna.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Section 95(5) of the FM Act lists the maximum penalty to be applied in the event of an offence.

v. *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*

Nil

### **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 transshipment. Only information for landings/transshipments 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:-*

Australia allows foreign fishing vessels into its ports and the landing of catch from such vessels only with explicit approval. Applications for port access are considered consistent with AFMA's client service charter.

It is envisaged that Australia's designated ports under the PSMA (Article 7) will reflect those ports that have been determined as first points of entry under Australia's Biosecurity Act 2015.

- (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:-*

Permits are issued on a case by case basis. AFMA's client service charter states that it has up to 7 days to consider an application.

### **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:-*

SBT product from the SBTF, ETBF and WTBF can be landed in any Australian port. Boats are monitored through VMS and may be inspected upon arrival in port.

- (b) *Inspections required for landings of SBT.*

In 2019/20 Australian fisheries officers conducted 31 SBT inspections, 10 at sea and 21 in port

*Details of genetic testing conducted and any other techniques that are used to verify that SBT are not being landed as a different species:-*

Australia is not a range State for Pacific bluefin tuna which is the species most commonly mistaken for SBT. All bluefin tuna caught in the ETBF or WTBF are deemed as Southern Bluefin Tuna unless the SFR holder proves otherwise through genetic testing or exports the fish to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market and it is deemed to be a Pacific Bluefin Tuna on the sales documentation.

- (c) *Monitoring systems for recording the quantity of SBT landed:-*

The below information relates to the longline sector. Please refer to Section 1.1 and Appendix 1 for details on the landings of domestic product from the farm sector.

SFR holders who capture SBT for non-farming purposes using pelagic longline, purse seine or pole must record daily catch activity in an AL06, PS01A or TPB01 logbook, respectively. Details to be recorded include date of fishing, fishing location and estimates of weight of SBT discarded/retained. Any interactions with ERS must also be recorded.

The PT02B CDR is for recording pelagic species including SBT and Pacific Bluefin Tuna taken for non-farming purposes. A separate PT02B CDR form must be completed each time a boat disposes of SBT or NBT. Relevant details in the PT02B CDR must be completed before the fish are taken onto the premises of a SBT fish receiver. Where catch is disposed of to multiple locations or buyers, separate PT02B forms must be completed for each consignment. A consignment is defined as fish taken from a single unloading and sent to a single receiver. A copy of the PT02B form must be forwarded to AFMA within three days of unloading. As with the farm sector, the longline sector is also required to complete and submit CMAU02C, CTAU02A and REAU02 forms.

- (d) *Process for validating<sup>8</sup> and collecting the relevant CCSBT CDS documents (Catch Monitoring Form, and depending on circumstances, Catch Tagging Form):-*

As with the farm sector, copies of all documents issued and received by Australia are provided to the CCSBT. Further, at the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT. AFMA fisheries officers also conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea, in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments.

As provided previously AFMA has developed a CCSBT CDS handbook for SFR holders in the SBTF including the longline sector, describing the procedures that must be followed to comply with the CCSBT CDS. Compliance with the CCSBT CDS and other obligations is monitored in accordance with AFMA's National Compliance and Enforcement Policy. SFR holders must retain original copies of each CDR and CCSBT CDS document for five years from the date of completion to meet audit requirements. A schematic detailing the systematic verification of catch data for SBT and ERS for the longline sector is provided at Appendix 2.

- (e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. Breaching a condition of a concession is an offence under Section 95 of the FM Act. Penalties include fines (under Section 95(5) of the FM Act), suspension or cancellation of concessions (under Section 98(3) of the FM Act), an order directing a person not to be on a boat for a specified time (under Section 98(1) of the FM Act) and forfeiture of the boat, equipment, catch and/or proceeds of catch (under Section 106 of the FM Act).

- (f) *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*  
Nil

## **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 –*

To export SBT and other fish products from Australia for consumption, all processing establishments (land based and boats) require registration with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. All fish and fish products that are exported from Australia are prescribed goods and all registered establishments must meet the requirements of the Export Control Act, Export Control (Prescribed Goods General) Orders and the Export Control (Fish & Fish Products Orders) 2005 in order to export these goods. Registered establishments and boats are audited by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment food auditors to ensure compliance with the above legislation. The number of audits annually is linked to the level of risk and performance of the establishment to meet the appropriate legislation.

- (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:-*

Australia is not a range State for Pacific Bluefin Tuna which is the species most commonly mistaken for SBT. All Bluefin Tuna caught in the ETBF or WTBF are deemed as Southern Bluefin Tuna unless the operator obtains genetic testing or exports the fish to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market and it is deemed to be a Pacific Bluefin Tuna on the sales documentation.

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

The CMAU02C form must accompany all transshipments, landings of domestic products, exports, imports and re-exports of SBT. The CTAU02A form must be completed and submitted when

completing the associated CMAU02C form. In addition the REAU02 form must specify whether product is being re-exported or exported after landing of domestic product and whether the document accompanies a full shipment or partial shipment. The form details port of export, any applicable catch tagging form document numbers, a description of fish from previous CCSBT CDS documents, a description of the fish being exported, the export destination and final point of importation.

- (d) *Process for validating<sup>8</sup> 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):-*

Copies of all documents issued and received are provided to the CCSBT on a quarterly basis to be compiled in an electronic database. This is an effective auditing mechanism which allows AFMA to analyse, identify discrepancies, reconcile and report all CCSBT CDS documents submitted by Australia. In conjunction with this process, AFMA commenced audits of fish tagging in accordance with the CCSBT CDS in the 2010/11 financial year. At the end of each fishing season AFMA conducts a level 1 audit of all SFR holders that have caught SBT.

- (e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. Breaching a condition of a concession is an offence under Section 95 of the FM Act. Penalties include fines (under Section 95(5) of the FM Act), suspension or cancellation of concessions (under Section 98(3) of the FM Act), an order directing a person not to be on a boat for a specified time (under Section 98(1) of the FM Act) and forfeiture of the boat, equipment, catch and/or proceeds of catch (under Section 106 of the FM Act).

- (f) *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*  
Nil

## 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:-*

SBT product can be landed in any Australian port by Australian fishing boats but must be landed to a registered fish receiver. Foreign fishing boats wishing to enter an Australian port must have a port permit issued by AFMA however landing of fish and fish products is prohibited unless written approval is given by the Australian Government Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

(b) *Inspections required for imports of SBT*

Australia typically import small amounts (less than five tonnes) of SBT annually, although this may fluctuate according to market conditions. The importation of some products is, by law, subject to certain biosecurity conditions. Australia's biosecurity policy is based on risk assessment and management of the potential introduction of exotic pests or diseases.

(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:-*

Australia is not a range State for Pacific Bluefin Tuna which is the species most commonly mistaken for SBT. All Bluefin Tuna caught in the ETBF or WTBF are deemed as Southern Bluefin Tuna unless the operator obtains genetic testing or export the fish to the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Wholesale Market and it is deemed Pacific Bluefin Tuna.

(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):-*

The appropriate CCSBT Catch Monitoring and Re-Export/Export After Landing of Domestic Product Forms are required to be forwarded onto AFMA by the receiver of any SBT import consignment.

(e) *Reference to applicable legislation and penalties:-*

CCSBT obligations are given effect via concession conditions. Breaching a condition of a concession is an offence under Section 95 of the FM Act. Penalties include fines (under Section 95(5) of the FM Act), suspension or cancellation of concessions (under Section 98(3) of the FM Act), an order directing a person not to be on a boat for a specified time (under Section 98(1) of the FM Act) and forfeiture of the boat, equipment, catch and/or proceeds of catch (under Section 106 of the FM Act).

(f) *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>:-*

Nil

## 1.5.3 SBT Markets

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

As previously provided (Sections 2 and 5), AFMA fisheries officers conduct targeted compliance operations to inspect fishing boats at sea and in port, and also conduct random audits of fishing companies, fish receivers and export establishments.

(c) *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):-*

CCSBT CDS documents are required to accompany all movements of SBT both domestically and internationally from capture to first point of sale.

(d) *Other relevant information<sup>7</sup>*

Nil

## 1.6 Other

*Description of any other MCS systems of relevance.*

Nil

## 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:*

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:

Australia has endorsed the International Plan of Action (IPOA) - Seabirds, and has put in place the Threat Abatement Plan 2018 for the Incidental Catch (or bycatch) of Seabirds During Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations (2018 TAP). The 2018 TAP is a legislative instrument that directs mandatory seabird bycatch management measures, and applies to all longline fisheries managed by the Australian Government. The 2018 TAP is Australia's key measure for mitigating the impact of longline fisheries on seabird populations, and is consistent with the IPOA-Seabirds. The 2018 TAP replaced the previous 2014 TAP.

A National Plan of Action for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) has also been developed by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The NPOA-Seabirds outlines a series of actions to be taken to reduce the likelihood of seabird mortalities within Australian longline fisheries and provides a clear direction for the collection of information on seabird interactions.

As a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and WCPFC, which have adopted the following measures for the conservation and management of seabirds, Australia is compliant with the following measures adopted by these Commissions:

- The WCPFC adopted:
  - CMM 2017-06 Conservation and Management Measure for Mitigating Impacts of Fishing on Seabirds.
- The IOTC has adopted:
  - Resolution 12/06 On reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.

- *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks:*

Australia first adopted a National Plan of Action for Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) in 2004. The NPOA-Sharks has since been reviewed and the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2012 (Shark-plan 2) was released in July 2012. Shark-plan 2 focuses on a range of issues for action, including five high priority issues. These five issues relate to species identification; data collection and research, stock assessments, and management performance. The Australian Government finalised a review of Shark-plan 2 in 2018 and agreed to continue the current approach. Legislation of some Australian States and the Commonwealth provides for the listing and protection of threatened shark species. Currently there are nine shark species that are protected in Australian waters.

As a member of the IOTC and WCPFC, which have adopted the following measures for the conservation and management of sharks, Australia is compliant with the following measures adopted by these Commissions:

- The WCPFC adopted:
  - CMM 2010-07 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks

CMM 2011-04 Conservation and Management Measure for Oceanic Whitetip Shark  
CMM 2012-04 Conservation and Management Measure on the Protection of Whale Sharks from Purse Seine Operations  
CMM 2013-08 Conservation and Management for Silky Sharks entered into force on the 1 July 2014.  
CMM 2014-05 Conservation and Management Measure for Sharks

- The IOTC has adopted:  
Resolution 12/09 on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks (Family Alopiidae) caught in association with fishers in the IOTC area of competence.  
Resolution 13/05 on the Conservation of Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) caught in association with purse seine fishers in the IOTC area of competence.  
Resolution 13/06 on a scientific and management framework on the Conservation of Shark species caught in association with IOTC managed fisheries, which targets the conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks.  
Resolution 17/05 On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by the IOTC.

- *FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations:*  
Interactions between sea turtles and Australian pelagic longline fisheries are rare. Australia considers that current sea turtle bycatch management and mitigation measures in place in its pelagic longline fisheries, principally the ETBF and WTBF fulfil Australia's obligations with FAO-Sea turtles.

Australia is also compliant with IOTC Resolution 12/04: On the Conservation of Marine Turtles and WCPFC CMM 2008-03: Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles. Additionally the Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles in Australia was developed by the then Department of the Environment and Energy and adopted in July 2003. The primary objective of the plan is to reduce the detrimental impacts on Australian populations of sea turtles and promote their recovery in the wild.

- ii. *Specify whether all current binding and recommendatory measures<sup>9</sup> aimed at the protection of ecologically related species<sup>10</sup> 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:*
- *ICCAT, when fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*

As provided previously Australia complies with all current binding and nonbinding measures adopted by IOTC and WCPFC aimed at the protection of ERS (including seabirds, sharks and sea turtles) from fishing.

Australia collects data on ERS and reports these on an annual basis to the scientific committees of IOTC, WCPFC and CCSBT. Australia's national reports to meetings of the scientific committees of IOTC and WCPFC provide full details on Australia's efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS. Australia's report to the ERSWG also presents this information for all Australian fisheries in which SBT is targeted or interacted with.

Australia does not fish in the ICCAT area.

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<sup>9</sup> Relevant measures of these RFMOs can be found at: [http://www.ccsbt.org/site/bycatch\\_mitigation.php](http://www.ccsbt.org/site/bycatch_mitigation.php).

<sup>10</sup> Including seabirds, sea turtles and sharks.

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<sup>11</sup>:*
- *IOTC, for fishing within IOTC's Convention Area:*
- *WCPFC, for fishing within WCPFC's Convention Area:*
- *ICCAT, for fishing within ICCAT's Convention Area:*

Australia does not fish in the ICCAT area.

Australia collects data on ERS and reports these on an annual basis to CCSBT and its subsidiary bodies (including the Compliance Committee on an annual basis, and the Ecologically Related Species Working Group when the working group meets).

Australia's national reports to meetings of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group provides full details on Australia's efforts to mitigate the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS.

Australia endeavours to comply with all IOTC and WCPFC data requirements. In one case, for the IOTC, Australia, along with many other Contracting Parties, was found non-compliant for data relating to 'size frequency data for sharks'. The IOTC has requested the IOTC Scientific Committee identify possible means to improve the submission of complete, accurate data for sharks. Australia acknowledges it is unable to fully meet the requirement for reporting size frequency of sharks (Resolution 17/05). Sharks are not a target species in Australia's tuna fisheries and Australia has a very low catch of sharks in these fisheries (many species cannot be landed and all live sharks must be released. Many are cut off the line and not landed, to maximise post release survival). As such, Australia is currently unable to meet the relevant sampling coverage owing to our current sampling requirement in the WTBF.

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

### **Seabird mitigation requirements**

As provided previously (Part III Section 2a), Australia has put in place the Threat Abatement Plan 2018 for the Incidental Catch (or bycatch) of Seabirds during Oceanic Longline Fishing Operations (2018 TAP). The 2018 TAP is a legislative instrument that directs mandatory seabird bycatch management measures, and applies to all longline fisheries managed by the Australian Government. The 2018 TAP is Australia's key national measure for mitigating the impact of longline fisheries on seabird populations, and is consistent with the IPOA Seabirds.

The following mitigation measures are prescribed for Australian longline boats under the 2018 TAP:

At all times the holder must ensure:

- a. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board one or more assembled tori lines. Each tori line must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
  - i. must be a minimum of 100 metres in length;
  - ii. must be deployed from a position on board the boat and utilise a drogue so that it remains above the water surface for a minimum of 90 metres from the stern of the boat;
  - iii. must have streamers attached to it with a maximum interval between the streamers of 3.5 metres;
  - iv. in addition to part i. a) above, all streamers must be maintained to ensure their lengths are as close to the water surface as possible;
- b. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of either:
  - i. 1,000 weighted swivels each weighing at least 60 grams; or
  - ii. 1,000 weights each of at least 40 grams;
- c. When fishing south of the parallel of latitude 25 degrees South:
  - i. non-frozen baits are attached to the hooks; and
  - ii. prior to longlines entering the water he/she deploys a separate tori line at each point at which hooks enter the water. All tori lines must comply with part (a) above; and

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<sup>11</sup> *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.*



- iii. longlines are weighted with either a minimum of:
- a. 60 gram swivels at a distance of no more than 3.5 metres from each hook; or
  - b. 98 gram swivels at a distance of no more than 4 metres from each hook; or
  - c. 40 gram weights immediately adjacent to the hook with dead non-frozen baits attached to the hooks.
  - d. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of one dehooking device, the purpose of which is to enable hooks embedded in bycatch species to be removed with minimum damage to the fish. The device must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
    - i. The device must enable the hook to be secured and the barb shielded so that the barb does not re-engage with the fish while the hook is being removed;
    - ii. The device must be blunt with all edges rounded;
    - iii. Where more than one size of hook is to be carried, a dehooking device (or devices) must be carried that can be used with all hooks on the boat; and
    - iv. The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.
  - e. The boat nominated to this concession carries on board a minimum of one line cutting device. The line cutting device must be constructed and used in accordance with the following specifications:
    - i. The device must be constructed to allow the line to be cut as close to the hook as possible;
    - ii. The blade of the device must be enclosed in a blunt rounded (arcshaped) cover with the hook exposed on the inside of the arc;
    - iii. The shaft of the device must be a minimum of 1.5 metres in length.

### **Shark mitigation requirements**

Australia is fully compliant with the IOTC and WCPFC conservation and management measures outlined in Part III Section 2(a) i.

The following mitigation measures are prescribed for concession holders of Australian longline boats:

- a ban on the use of wire leaders;
- must not take more sharks than the number of tuna and billfish quota species taken per trip to a maximum limit of 20 sharks per trip, excluding school shark, gummy shark, elephant fish (*Callorhynchidae*), chimaerids (*Chimaeridae* and *Rhinochimaeridae*) and sawshark which are quota managed species. This limit does not apply to great white sharks and grey nurse sharks, which are no-take TEP species;
- prohibited from carrying, retaining, or landing all shark dorsal, pectoral and caudal, fins that are not attached to their carcass;
- prohibited from carrying, retaining and landing livers obtained from sharks unless the individual carcasses from which the livers were obtained are also landed;
- prohibited from retaining oceanic white tip sharks and silky sharks.

### **Turtle mitigation requirements**

As provided previously (Part III Section 2a), Australia is also compliant with IOTC Resolution 12/04: On the Conservation of Marine Turtles and WCPFC CMM 2008-03: Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles. The concession holder must use large circle hooks if less than 268 hooks per bubble are set. It is also compulsory to carry line cutters and de-hookers. In addition, a video ‘Crossing the line: sea turtle handling guidelines for the longline fishing industry’ has been produced by the Australian Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to help the Australian longline fishing industry minimise its impact on sea turtle populations. It shows how to use de-hooking devices on deck and on turtles still in the water, how to safely bring turtles aboard and handle them on deck, how to help comatose turtles recover and how to release them back into the water. Similarly, AFMA conducted port visits in 2011 in the ETBF to provide de-hookers to all boats with instructions on how to use them and on safe handling of sea turtles. Interactions with the purse seine fishery are negligible and there has been no need to develop mitigation measures for this sector.

Australia continues to support research on mitigation measures to reduce interactions with ERS including methods to increase line sink rates; new tori line designs; weighting regimes and underwater bait setting regimes. Australia reports the status and results of this research to the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group.

(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):*

Australia uses a number of methods to monitor compliance, including compliance with bycatch mitigation measures. These methods include electronic monitoring, observer reports, vessel monitoring system, aerial surveillance, at sea inspections and port inspections.

Australian fisheries officers conduct inspections of landings at key SBT ports, as well as at sea boarding's and inspections of boats taking SBT in the longline and farm sectors. In 2019/20 Australian fisheries officers conducted 31 SBT inspections, 10 at sea and 21 in port.

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

The information collected on mitigation measures includes;

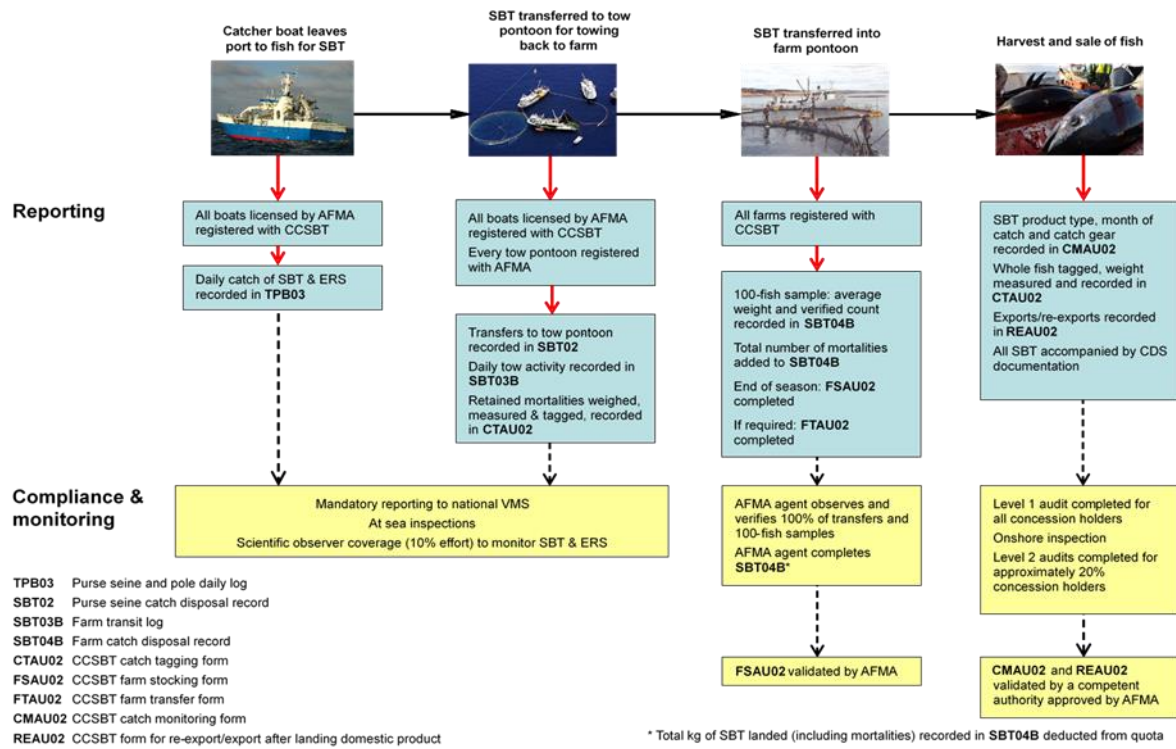
- whether bycatch mitigation, such as tori lines, is being carried on board the vessel,
- whether bycatch mitigation has been deployed appropriately
- whether the bycatch mitigation complies with specifications.

#### **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.

## Appendix 2 Farm Catch Verification Process



### Appendix 3. Longline Catch Verification Process

