



CCSBT-EC/1710/14

Relationship with Non-members

Purpose

To provide an update concerning discussion or issues with Non-Member and Non-CNM (Cooperating Non-Member) States/Entities.

Identification of States that have or are likely to become important port or market States for SBT, for consideration at CCSBT 24

CCSBT 18 agreed that the following process would be used for nominating States that have or are likely to become important port or market States for SBT:

- Members nominate important States whose cooperation is desired, together with background information supporting that nomination and provide this information to the Executive Secretary at least 6 weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting.
- The Executive Secretary incorporates this information in the Secretariat's agenda paper for the standing agenda item on "Relationship with Non-Members" for consideration by the Extended Commission.
- With the Extended Commission's endorsement, the Executive Secretary write to the nominated State(s) seeking their cooperation.
- The nominating Member follow-up the Executive Secretary's letter with bilateral discussion. This is an important step because experience has shown that many States do not respond to written communication.

No nominations were provided to the Secretariat in advance of CCSBT 24.

Interactions with Non-members

In accordance with the decision of CCSBT 23, the Secretariat has invited the USA, China, Fiji and Singapore to attend the October 2017 Annual Meetings of the Compliance Committee and Extended Commission.

The main interactions with non-Members since CCSBT 23 have been with China and the USA.

1. People's Republic of China (China)

There has been several items of correspondence with China in relation to the CCSBT Draft IUU Vessel list. This correspondence is described in paper CCSBT-CC/1710/07 that was provided to the Compliance Committee. Issues relating to the CCSBT Draft IUU Vessel list are not described further in the current paper.

In accordance with the request of CCSBT 23, the Secretariat wrote to China on 8 March 2017 seeking its cooperating with the CCSBT's Catch Documentation Scheme, requesting further information in relation to the SBT catch and operation of the Chinese flagged *FuYuan Yu* drift net vessels and requesting information concerning any other catches of SBT by Chinese flagged vessels. The Secretariat's letter is provided at **Attachment A**. The European Union also raised this matter bilaterally with China in the context of its High Level Bilateral Dialogue with China on Fisheries and Maritime affairs on 31 March 2017. The European Union presented the matter and indicated that a formal letter had been sent to China by CCSBT. The European Union invited China to follow-up on the letter.

As at the time of preparing this paper, the Secretariat has not received a response to its above mentioned letter.

As part of the same correspondence to China on 8 March 2017, the Secretariat provided a copy of TRAFFIC's report to the CCSBT on the southern bluefin tuna market in China. This report was commissioned by the CCSBT.

2. USA

The USA has continued its cooperation with the CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) by providing the Secretariat with information relating to the CCSBT CDS Documents it receives on a quarterly basis. Further information is presented in paper CCSBT-CC/1710/06 that was provided to the Compliance Committee.

3. Cambodia

The Secretariat received a letter from Cambodia on 18 April 2017 which advised that the Royal Government of Cambodia has taken measures to exercise effective control over the vessels authorised to fly its flag. This letter is provided at **Attachment B**.

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

Mr Jiang Bo
Director
Division of Fisheries Resources and Environmental Conservation
Bureau of Fisheries and Fisheries Law Enforcement
Ministry of Agriculture
P. R. CHINA

8 March 2017

Dear Director Bo,

Nihao,

I present my compliments to you. On behalf of the Members of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), I have the honour to write this letter to you.

The CCSBT has noted the presence of Chinese flagged vessels in areas where southern bluefin tuna (SBT) are caught, and high seas patrols conducted by CCSBT Members have confirmed that vessels flagged to the People's Republic of China (China) are catching SBT. CCSBT also notes the growing importance of China as a market for SBT¹. The CCSBT believes that implementation of appropriate measures on the catch of SBT by China would contribute to the conservation and optimum utilization of SBT. Consequently, as a matter of our mutual concern and interest, the CCSBT is seeking the cooperation of China to assist with the conservation and management of southern bluefin tuna. The CCSBT considers that this would be consistent with the obligation to cooperate in the conservation and management of living resources on the high seas contained in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

As part of the process to establish cooperation between China and the CCSBT, I am pleased to extend an invitation to China to participate as an observer at the following meetings of the CCSBT in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, during October 2017:

- The Twelfth Meeting of the Compliance Committee from 5 to 7 October 2017; and
- The Twenty Fourth Annual Meeting of the Commission, from 9 to 12 October 2017.

These meetings will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the options for China to become a Member or Cooperating Non-Member of the CCSBT, as well as to discuss other possible forms of cooperation.

¹ For your information, please find attached the report of a recently completed study, of the southern bluefin tuna market in China, which I wrote to you about in October 2015.


As a market state for SBT, the CCSBT asks that China cooperate, including by participating in the CCSBT's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). The CDS documents the catches, landings and trade of southern bluefin tuna, and provides an important mechanism for both quantifying the global catch of southern bluefin tuna and to help minimise IUU fishing and illegal trade of southern bluefin tuna. Again, the CCSBT's October meetings would provide a valuable opportunity to discuss how China can cooperate with the CDS.

In the interim, the CCSBT would appreciate if China could provide details to me of the catch of southern bluefin tuna taken by Chinese flagged vessels. It would also be helpful if you could advise me of any constraints in the Chinese data that should be considered as part of this information.

Finally, the CCSBT would appreciate receiving any information from China concerning the claimed southern bluefin tuna catch and operation of the "*Fu Yuan Yu*²" fleet of drift net vessels that were observed by the "Sea Shepherd's" "*M/Y Steve Irwin*" from January to March 2016.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance in relation to matters concerning the CCSBT.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Kennedy
Executive Secretary

CC: Ms. Li Ling Zhao
Director,
Division of Deep Sea Fishing
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
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Mr Chen Wan
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² *Fu Yuan Yu 070, Fu Yuan Yu 071, Fu Yuan Yu 072, Fu Yuan Yu 073, Fu Yuan Yu 075 and Fu Yuan Yu 076.*



ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា

Kingdom of Cambodia
ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ
Nation Religion King

ក្រសួងកសិកម្ម រុក្ខាប្រមាញ់ និងនេសាទ
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

N° 3175.....MAFF

Phnom Penh...11 April, 2017.....

To: **Mr. Robert (Bob) Kennedy**
Executive Secretary of CCSBT
81A Denison Street, Deakin,
ACT, Australia
Email: rkennedy@ccsbt.org

Dear Mr Robert (Bob) Kennedy,

Recognizing that, in the past, there had been reports and sightings of Cambodian-flagged vessels fishing or operating in the CCSBT area of competence and that these fishing vessels were suspected of undermining CCSBT's conservation measures, the Royal Government of Cambodia would like to inform you that it has taken measures to exercise effective control over the vessels authorized to fly its flag. In particular, the Royal Government of Cambodia deregistered all the fishing vessels and reefers (vessels transshipping fish at sea) flagged of Cambodia and issued a registration certificate by the South Korean Company, Cosmos. This measure became effective as of 31st August 2016. As a result of this decision, the sole competent authority to register vessels on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia is now the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. This means that there are currently no fishing vessels or reefers (vessels transshipping fish at sea), entitled to fly the Cambodian flag, which are authorized to operate in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Therefore, should there be any reports or sightings of above said vessels claiming to be registered in Cambodia and/or using the Cambodian flag operating in the CCSBT area of competence, it is fair to assume that these vessels are using either expired or fraudulent documents. In case of any such occurrence, be assured that the Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to investigating along with CCSBT any cases that would be brought to its attention and to taking any appropriate legal action against these vessels.

For further communication with CCSBT, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries would like to assign **Dr. Kao Sochivi**, Deputy Director General of Fisheries Administration to be a focal person with her official contact address: Email: kaosochivi2017@gmail.com and Tel: (855) 12 202 805.

The Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries would highly appreciate of your kindly supporting and cooperating with us. *[Signature]*

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Veng Sakhon
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

