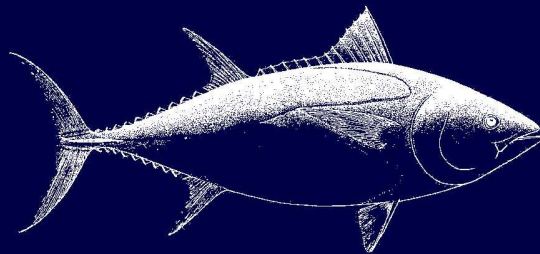


Commission for the Conservation
of Southern Bluefin Tuna



ERSWG12 Report



Yogyakarta, October
2017

Recommendations and advice to EC

Seabirds

- ACAP advice on best practice mitigation measures has been updated. It remains the simultaneous use of
 - weighted branch lines (with updated weighting configurations),
 - night setting and
 - bird streamer lines.
 - In addition, hook-shielding devices are considered as stand-alone alternative best practice mitigation measures.

Recommendations and advice to EC

Seabirds

Responses to requests from 2016 EC meeting:

“examine seabird bycatch mitigation measures currently in place in the ‘spatially-based’ RFMOs”

- There is a degree of inconsistency among the current requirements of the ‘spatially-based’ tuna RFMOs.
- Branchline weighting and night setting requirements currently substantially coincide
- There is variability in the specification of bird scaring lines.
- These tRFMOs are currently considering updated ACAP advice concerning line weighting and new information on hook shielding.

Recommendations and advice to EC

Seabirds

Responses to requests from 2016 EC meeting:

“the best available information on the distribution and population status of seabirds”

- the status of ACAP listed species has changed little
- Status and distribution maps are to be updated in 2017
- The area in which there is fishing for SBT is still expected to represent a large proportion of many species’ distribution in both breeding and non-breeding periods.

Recommendations and advice to EC

Seabirds

Responses to requests from 2016 EC meeting:

“provide advice to ESC22 and EC24 on whether these mitigation measures should be strengthened”

- The preliminary risk assessment for 26 ACAP listed species attributed a large proportion of the estimated Annual Potential Fatalities of these seabird species to SBT fisheries.
- The level of interaction between seabirds and SBT fisheries has remained at a high level and is still a significant level of concern
- This suggests that mitigation measures and their implementation should be further promoted.

Recommendations and advice to EC

Seabirds

Responses to requests from 2016 EC meeting:

“if they should be strengthened, how they should be strengthened”

- Improvements could be made to the implementation of current seabird mitigation requirements, such as through education and outreach, and verification that fishing vessels are applying the requirements according to specifications.

Recommendations and advice to EC

Sharks

- There is a need to clarify which sharks are caught during fishing for SBT.
- Members agreed to report on recent catches of the 12 shark species listed by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS-sharks) secretariat as being “CCSBT-relevant”.
- Three of these 12 species are on CMS Appendix I (White shark, Basking shark, Giant manta ray)
- The other 9 species are on Appendix II.
- The CCSBT Secretariat will also examine shark catches reported by Members in the ERSWG data exchange and provide ERSWG 13 with a summary of shark species that have been reported by Members as being caught.

Recommendations and advice to EC

Sharks

- The meeting agreed that there were currently no specific concerns about shark bycatch in SBT fisheries that warranted additional mitigation requirements at this stage.
- There is an ongoing project on the status of southern hemisphere populations of Porbeagle that will report later in 2017.
- The ERSWG suggested that it would be useful if the impact of fishing for SBT on porbeagle stock abundance could be separately estimated.

Referral of ERS matters for consideration by CCSBT subsidiary bodies

Compliance Committee

- ERSWG requested the Compliance Committee to consider how to effectively monitor seabird mitigation measures through mechanisms such as port inspections and transshipment observers. This could include the examination of fishing gear for evidence of tori lines and tori poles, the presence of line weights, and the inspection of log books for evidence of night setting.

Referral of ERS matters for consideration by CCSBT subsidiary bodies

Extended Scientific Committee

- ERSWG requested the ESC to perform a review of the Scientific Observer Program Standards.
 - The review should consider the incorporation of electronic monitoring, and
 - consider harmonising the life status codes used by observers with the codes used by scientific observers for other tRFMOs.
- Currently footnote 10 on page 11 says
“The observer program will, as a minimum, distinguish the following life status categories: dead and damaged; dead and undamaged; alive and vigorous; and unknown.”
- These codes are not at the level currently used in the other tRFMOs. A small change to the wording (using only one category for dead animals but two categories for alive animals) would more closely align them.

Issues for CCSBT to consider

What are the limits of CCSBT's responsibility for bycatch mitigation?

The ERSWG has not yet identified which species SBT fishing interacts with and those that it doesn't.

Therefore, it is unclear as to which species the ERSWG should concern itself with and those of little or no relevance.

Issues for CCSBT to consider

Billfish:

Criticism of CCSBT for not addressing issues of bycatch of billfish

Juan-Jordá (2017)

Garcia and Koehler (2014)

Gilman et al. (2012)

Gilman (2011)

All from CCSBT (2008) "Indonesia also claims that SBT are by-catch in a much more substantial fishery targeted at tropical tunas and billfish".

I would suggest that fishery impacts on billfish are best managed by other t-RFMOs.

= Not an issue for CCSBT

Issues for CCSBT to consider

Seabirds:

CCSBT was one of the first t-RFMOs to introduce a binding measure for the use of seabird mitigation measures (in 1997)

Fishing for SBT has the largest overlap with seabird distributions of all t-RFMOs.

= Clearly an issue for CCSBT

Issues for CCSBT to consider

Sharks:

The ERSWG has been collaborating with an assessment of the status of porbeagles.

11 other shark species have been identified as “CCSBT relevant”.

It is likely that there is minimal catch of at least some of these species by fishing for SBT

= Maybe an issue for CCSBT

Issues for CCSBT to consider

Way forward:

- Better identify the bycatch from fishing for SBT
- Agree on criteria for deciding for which species CCSBT might take a lead role with respect to mitigation measures
- Apply the criteria

Issues for CCSBT to consider

Suggested framework:

Relative importance of SBT fishing as a source of mortality for ERS

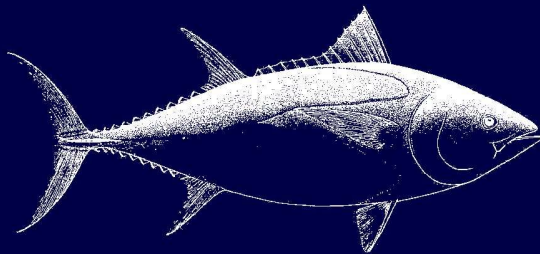
MAJOR*	SHARED	MINIMAL
CCSBT TAKES THE LEAD ON MITIGATION MEASURES	CCSBT WORKS COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER T-RFMOS	CCSBT LETS OTHER T-RFMOS DETERMINE MITIGATION MEASURES
	ENSURES MITIGATION MEASURES ARE COMPLEMENTARY	

* Criteria to be agreed

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Thank-you



**Yogyakarta, October
2017**