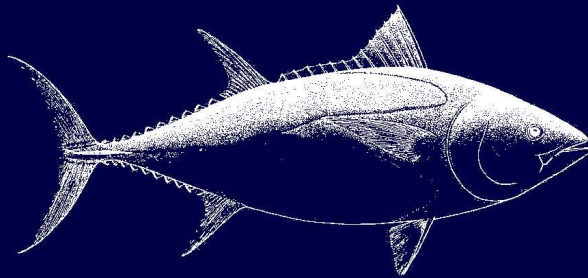


Commission for the Conservation  
of Southern Bluefin Tuna



# Report of ERSWG13 28-31 May 2019 Canberra, Australia



Cape Town, October 2019

## Overview

- **Recommendations for the EC to consider**
  1. **Revisions to the Data Exchange template**
  2. **Revisions to the ERSWG Annual Report template**
  3. **The overall objective and five specific objectives for a CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy**
  4. **Revisions to the “*Resolution to Align CCSBT’s Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs*” to reflect changes to ERS measures of IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT**

## Overview

- **Additional and updated advice on**
  - Seabirds
  - Sharks
- **Updates to the ERSWG Workplan**
- **Request for the ERSWG report be provided to other tRFMOs.**
- **In-principle support for the joint BirdLife/CCSBT Secretariat proposal “to enhance the implementation of ERS measures through outreach/education and to verify compliance with measures” that was requested by CC 13**

## Recommendations

### 1. Revisions to the Data Exchange template

- **Finer resolution:**
  - CCSBT Statistical Area → 5degree
  - Year → quarter
- **Remove calculated fields**
- **Add “Human Observer/EM” column to specify the data source**
- **Adding 3 columns for the proportion of single measures used**

## Recommendations

### 1. Revisions to the Data Exchange template

- o Table 1. Total fishing and observed effort per country, year, fishery and strata

Country / Fishing Entity <sup>9</sup>	Calendar Year	Quarter	Fishery		Human Observer / EM <sup>10</sup>	Area <sup>11</sup>		Total & Observed Effort	
			Gear Code <sup>12</sup>	Fleet Code <sup>13</sup>		Longitude	Latitude	Total Effort <sup>5</sup>	Total Observed Effort <sup>5</sup>

Proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures									
	TP + NS <sup>14</sup>	TP + WB <sup>14</sup>	NS + WB <sup>14</sup>	TP + WB + NS <sup>14</sup>	TP <sup>14</sup>	NS <sup>14</sup>	WB <sup>14</sup>	NIL <sup>14</sup>	Others (add additional columns if required)

## Recommendations

### 1. Revisions to the Data Exchange template

- o Table 2. Observed and estimated captures/mortalities for each species, by country, year, fishery and strata

Country / Fishing Entity <sup>9</sup>	Calendar Year	Quarter	Fishery		Human Observer / EM <sup>10</sup>	Area <sup>11</sup>	
			Gear Code <sup>12</sup>	Fleet Code <sup>13</sup>		Longitude	Latitude

Comments invited on proposed changes

# Recommendations

## 2. Revisions to the ERSWG Annual Report template

- Reflect changes to EDE template
- Retain % observer coverage

# Recommendations

## 2. Revisions to the ERSWG Annual Report template

**Table 1: Reporting form for estimation of total mortality of ERS in CCSBT fisheries**

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Year (calendar year) \_\_\_\_\_

Stratum (CCSBT Statistical Area or finer scale)	Total & Observed Effort <sup>1</sup>			Species <sup>5</sup>	Observed Captures				Proportion of observed effort with specific mitigation measures									
	Human Observer EM <sup>2</sup>	Total Effort <sup>3</sup>	Total Observed Effort <sup>4</sup>		Observer Coverage <sup>4</sup>	Fate (numbers)				TP + NS <sup>6</sup>	TP + WB <sup>6</sup>	NS + WB <sup>6</sup>	TP + WB + NS <sup>6</sup>	TP <sup>6</sup>	NS <sup>6</sup>	WB <sup>6</sup>	NIL	Others <sup>7</sup>
						Retained (dead)	Discarded (dead)	Released (live)	Other <sup>5</sup>									
TOTAL																		

Comments invited on proposed changes

## Recommendations

### 3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy

#### Agreed at ERSWG 12:

- Seabird strategy considerations
  - Research needs,
  - Monitoring needs,
  - Actions for reducing uncertainty and associated risks, and
  - Recommendations from the Report of the Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group.
- The issues in the strategy are of specific importance to CCSBT but some actions will involve other t-RFMOs

## Recommendations

### 3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy

#### Overall Objective

- To reduce or eliminate seabird bycatch, such that SBT fisheries do not impose a significant adverse impact on seabirds.

## Recommendations

### 3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy – Specific Objectives

#### Outcome

1.To reduce the level of impact of seabird bycatch by SBT fishing operations on seabird populations

#### Monitoring

2.To ensure the collection of timely, reliable, representative data to support accurate regular estimations of total seabird mortality in SBT fisheries and its impact on seabird populations

#### Improved mitigation

3.To develop and refine, in collaboration with industry and ACAP, practical, cost-effective and safe seabird bycatch mitigation technologies and techniques.

## Recommendations

### 3. Multi-year Seabird Strategy – Specific Objectives

#### Compliance

4.To develop and refine compliance approaches to ensure fleet-wide compliance with seabird bycatch mitigation measures required while conducting fishing for SBT.

#### Education / Outreach

5.To enhance education and outreach programs highlighting the importance of mitigating seabird interactions while fishing, and advocating effective implementation of mitigation measures

A revised list of strategic actions is to be considered at next ERSWG.

**Comments invited on Overall and Specific Objectives**

## Recommendations

### 4. Revisions to the “*Resolution to Align CCSBT’s Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs*”

- These reflect changes made to ERS measures by
  - the IOTC
  - the WCPFC and
  - the ICCAT
- (Changes that do not refer to seabirds, sea turtles, sharks or cetaceans have not been included)

**Comments invited on proposed revisions  
(for Agenda Item 10 – Secretariat’s Paper 13)**

## Updated advice to the EC

### Seabirds - Overview

- Updates on status & best practice mitigation
- Results of FAO ABNJ Global Seabird Assessment
- Definition of high risk areas

## Updated advice to the EC

### Seabirds

- Confirmation of ongoing concern with level of seabird bycatch in longline fisheries.
- ACAP recommended Best practice mitigation measures remains the simultaneous use of
  - weighted branch lines
  - night setting and
  - bird streamer lines.
  - Hook-shielding devices are considered as stand-alone alternative best practice mitigation measures.

## Updated advice to the EC

### Seabirds

- 2019 FAO ABNJ Southern Hemisphere assessment
  - to estimate global seabird bycatch in pelagic longline fishing in the Southern Hemisphere
  - to assess the population level impact of bycatch for key species
  - to develop a toolbox of methods to estimate bycatch
- Total longline effort from t-RFMOs used
- Seven different analytical methods used
- Analyses indicated that ~36,000 seabirds were killed south of 20° S in 2016



## Updated advice to the EC

### Seabirds - Definition of High Risk Areas

- ERSWG 9 (2012) – Best practice mitigation should be applied in high risk areas
- Under current mitigation, bycatch exceeds the population productivity for 9 of 25 albatross and petrel species
- Previous ERSWG advice has been that mitigation measures should be strengthened
- 90% of effort in High Risk Areas is by CCSBT members

## Updated advice to the EC

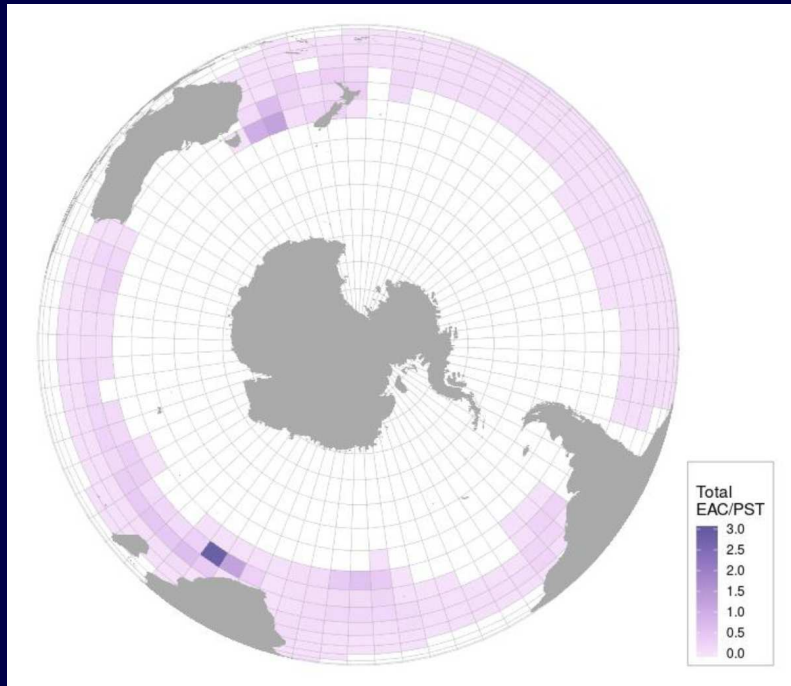
### Seabirds - Definition of High Risk Areas

- Three options considered for definition of high risk areas:
  - High threshold; Medium threshold; All areas
- 7 Criteria for evaluation of threshold for high risk:
  - % of risk within areas (across all spp)
  - % of CCSBT effort within areas
  - Number of at-risk seabirds included
  - Robustness to distributional changes
  - Is this a precautionary approach?
  - Potential burden on fishers
  - Potential practicality of achieving changes

# Updated advice to the EC

## Definition of High Risk Areas

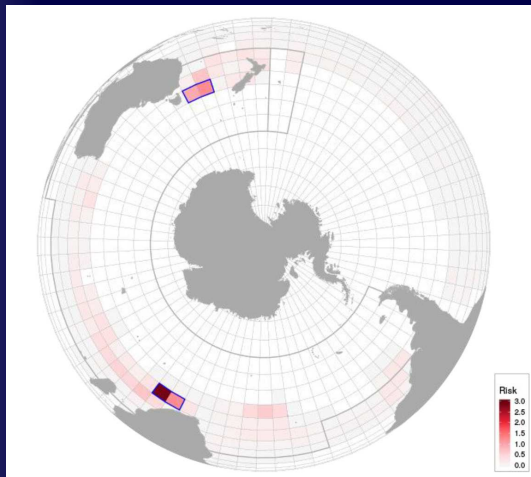
### Distribution of total risk



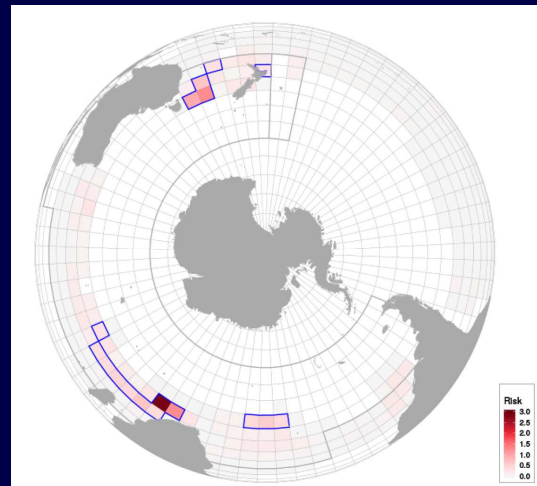
# Updated advice to the EC

## Definition of High Risk Areas

### High risk threshold



### Medium risk threshold



## Updated advice to EC

CRITERIA	HIGH THRESHOLD	MEDIUM THRESHOLD	ALL AREAS
RISK WITHIN	26%	50%	100%
EFFORT WITHIN	18%	39%	100%
NO. SPP	1	6	9
ROBUSTNESS	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
PRECAUTION	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
BURDEN	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
PRACTICALITY	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

## Updated advice to the EC

### Seabirds - Definition of High Risk Areas

- Given the tradeoffs involved, ERSWG did not have a preferred option. All three options have been provided to the EC to consider
  - its preferred definition
  - any responses it considers to be appropriate
  - any further guidance to the future workplan of the ERSWG

## Updated advice to EC

### Sharks

- Review of CCSBT relevant species
  - The three most commonly caught species (blue shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako) are already reported by species
  - Many other species caught already reported to species in IOTC and WCPFC.
  - No agreement to expand the list of spp in EDE template

## Updated advice to EC

### Sharks

- Final report on status of porbeagle
  - Status based on Maximum Impact Sustainability Threshold (MIST)
  - Pelagic LL fleets greatest source of mortality
  - 70-90 % of this from fleets targeting SBT or mix of SBT and ALB.
  - At most 8% probability of  $F > MIST$
  - ERSWG saw no need to revise advice on porbeagle
- Still no specific concerns about shark bycatch that warranted additional mitigation requirements

## Updated advice to EC

### ERSWG Workplan

- An updated workplan has been developed

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource
Refine the proposal “to enhance the implementation of ERS measures through outreach/education and to verify compliance with measures”.	CC 14	BirdLife, Secretariat, Members
Provide the Report of ERSWG13 to the other tuna RFMOs when it is made public.	November 2019	Secretariat
Share documents, formats and procedures for observer and electronic monitoring, seabird bycatch data collection through a centralised portal, e.g. the Bycatch Mitigation Information System hosted by WCPFC.	July 2020	Members, Secretariat
Provide revised historical data for the EDE that includes all mortalities (i.e. both discard mortalities and retained commercial catch).	July 2020	Australia, Korea

## Updated advice to EC

### ERSWG Workplan

Provide 2019 EDE data in accordance with the new EDE template. Members are also encouraged to voluntarily provide revised historical data in the same format.	July 2020	All Members
Translate the ACAP seabird species identification guide into key languages (e.g. Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese) and by establishing a reference library of seabird bycatch photographs to assist observers in identifying bycaught seabirds to specific levels.	July 2020	CCSBT and ACAP Secretariats, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan
Customise ACAP guidelines for photographing and sampling dead bycaught seabirds for DNA, as an additional aid to identifying seabirds to specific levels. The ACAP guides to photographing dead seabirds and collecting feather samples for DNA analysis provide a template for the improved procedures and methods.	December 2020	CCSBT and ACAP Secretariats
Trial production of Table 1 of the revised ERSWG annual report template for each Member.	ERSWG 14	Secretariat, Members

## Updated advice to EC

### ERSWG Workplan

Develop a template for summarising the key points of the ERSWG report that could be provided to other tuna RFMOs in the future.	ERSWG 14	Chair, Secretariat
Investigate the use of the new 5*5 by quarter to be provided for the modified ERSWG Data Exchange, for analyses of issues relating to seabird bycatch.	ERSWG 14	New Zealand
Update the seabird Ecological Risk Assessment, together with updated identification of high-risk areas.	ERSWG 14	New Zealand lead with collaboration from Members
Develop a revised draft list of strategic actions under each of the specific objectives of the Multi-year seabird strategy.	ERSWG 14	Australia with collaboration from all Members

## Advice to EC

### Improved engagement with other t-RFMOs

- ERSWG proposed sharing the ERSWG report with other t-RFMOs
- Chair and Secretariat will develop a template for summarizing key points from the report

## Advice to EC

### New Birdlife proposal for additional work on seabirds

- In principle support given by ERSWG
- Some details to be revised
- Objective: to use technological advances and capacity-building to enhance the capacity of ABNJ pelagic longline fleets to monitor and report on the use of seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

Commission for the Conservation  
of Southern Bluefin Tuna



Thank-you

