



Progress on Action Items from the ERSWG 13 Workplan

Introduction

The last meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG 13) was held from 28-31 May 2019. That meeting developed a workplan for activities to be conducted between ERSWG 13 and ERSWG 14. This paper provides a brief update on progress with the workplan.

Progress against Workplan

The first three columns of the table below is the workplan from ERSWG 13. The additional columns of the table indicate the ERSWG 14 agenda item in which the activity may be further discussed together with a brief description of progress made.

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	Proposed ERSWG14 Agenda Item	Progress in Brief
1. Refine the proposal “to enhance the implementation of ERS measures through outreach/education and to verify compliance with measures”.	CC 14	BirdLife, Secretariat, Members	6	Refinements to the proposal were made and updates to the proposal were presented to CC14, CC15 and a work plan was presented to CC16. FAO has indicated that the project is expected to be funded in mid-2022 through the GEF ABNJ tuna II project. A Seabird Project Working Group was formed during 2021 to provide expert guidance for the project and to provide a forum for sharing updates on progress and outcomes. The project will be discussed further at agenda item 6.
2. Provide the Report of ERSWG13 to the other tuna RFMOs when it is made public.	November 2019	Secretariat	4	The report was sent to IOTC, IATTC, ICCAT, WCPFC and CCAMLR on 18 October 2019 (the day after it was made public).
3. 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	4	Documents that Members agreed to share were published on BMIS in December 2019.

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	Proposed ERSWG14 Agenda Item	Progress in Brief
4. Provide revised historical data for the EDE that includes all mortalities (i.e. both discard mortalities and retained commercial catch).	July 2020	Australia, Korea	4	Korea provided these data on 3 February 2022 ¹ . Australia had not provided its revised data at the time this paper was finalised.
5. 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	2.2	Except for South Africa, all Members have provided at least 2019 and 2020 EDE data in accordance with the new format. Attachment A provides a table showing the years for which revised EDE data has been provided by each Member.
6. 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	5.1.6	The ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide is available on the ACAP website at: https://www.acap.aq/bycatch-mitigation/seabird-bycatch-id-guide It includes photographs and descriptions to assist in identifying seabirds and is currently available in English, Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Portuguese, French and Spanish.
7. 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	5.1.6	The ACAP Seabird Bycatch Identification Guide mentioned above includes protocols for photographing bycaught seabirds and for collecting seabird feathers for DNA analysis.
8. Trial production of Table 1 of the revised ERSWG annual report template for each Member.	ERSWG 14	Secretariat, Members	2	The Secretariat has prepared the table for all Members (except the EU and South Africa) and has provided it to these Members for their information. Tables were not prepared for: (1) the EU because it has no SBT catch and therefore no ERS data to submit; and (2) South Africa because it has not yet submitted any ERS data for 2019 and 2020.

¹ Further revision is required for the 2013 data.

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	Proposed ERSWG14 Agenda Item	Progress in Brief
9. 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	4	A draft template is provided at Attachment B for consideration by the ERSWG. Items in the template highlighted in yellow are to be replaced with information about/from the relevant ERSWG meeting when that becomes available. The key points from each ERSWG meeting are recorded in the section of the meeting report that provides the recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission. The template is therefore focused on repeating this section of ERSWG reports, which are the agreed recommendations and advice from the ERSWG. The template also includes a brief listing of CCSBT's primary ERS measures for background and contextual purposes.
10. 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	5.1.5	Progress with this activity will be discussed separately at agenda item 5.1.5.
11. Update the seabird Ecological Risk Assessment, together with updated identification of high-risk areas.	ERSWG 14	New Zealand lead with collaboration from Members	5.1.3	Progress with this activity will be discussed separately at agenda item 5.1.3.
12. 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	5.1.7	Australia developed a paper on this and circulated the paper for Members' comments on 4 February 2022. Members comments will be considered for a final paper to be provided to ERSWG 14. Progress with this activity will be discussed at agenda item 5.1.7.

Years for which CCSBT Members have provided ERSWG Data Exchange (EDE) data in the new format with a 5x5 resolution².

Year	AU	ID ³	JP	KR	NZ	TW
2010		✓		✓		
2011		✓				
2012		✓		✓		
2013		✓		✓		
2014		✓		✓		
2015		✓		✓		
2016		✓		✓		
2017		✓		✓		
2018		✓		✓	✓	✓
2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2020	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

² The European Union and South Africa are not included in this table. The EU does not target SBT and it has reported no catch of SBT and therefore it has no related ERS data to report. South Africa has not provided any EDE data in the new format nor any EDE data for 2019 and 2020.

³ Indonesia's data is for its entire longline fleet, not just shots that targeted or caught SBT and it is not possible to separate the SBT related data from the information provided by Indonesia. Indonesia also has not provided information on its usage of mitigation measures with its data.

**Summary of Key Points from the
Meeting of the CCSBT Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG)**

The ## meeting of the ERSWG met from DD - DD Month, YYYY, Location. The full report of the ## meeting is available from the CCSBT website at:

[Link to the ## meeting](#)

The ERSWG meeting provided the following recommendations to the Extended Commission (EC) of the CCSBT:

{The ERSWG recommendations to the EC are to be copied to here, with minor editorial modifications (e.g., footnoting acronyms) where necessary to reflect the fact that this a standalone summary.}

The ERSWG meeting also provided the following advice to the EC

{The ERSWG advices to the EC are to be copied to here, with minor editorial modifications (e.g., footnoting acronyms) where necessary to reflect the fact that this a standalone summary.}

For background and contextual purposes, the primary Ecologically Related Species (ERS) measures of the CCSBT are described briefly below, together with links to the full measures.

- [Resolution to Align CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species Measures with those of other tuna RFMOs](#). Amongst other things, this binding Resolution requires CCSBT Members to implement Specified ERS measures of the IOTC⁴, WCPFC⁵ or ICCAT⁶ when fishing for southern bluefin tuna in the area of competence of these RFMOs. The Specified ERS measures are provided in Annex I of this Resolution, which is updated on an annual basis for changes to the measures of these RFMOs.
- [Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for Southern Bluefin Tuna](#). This recommendation encourages CCSBT Members to implement the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries, the IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks, and the FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations, if they have not already done so. The recommendation also authorises the CCSBT Secretariat to collect and exchange relevant data concerning ERS with the Secretariats of the IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT. Finally, this recommendation tasks the EC or its subsidiary bodies as appropriate to undertake an assessment of the risks to ecologically related species posed by fishing for southern bluefin tuna, and for the EC to consider whether any additional measures to mitigate risk are required.
- [Ecologically Related Species Working Group Data Exchange \(ERSWG Data Exchange\)](#). This measure specifies the ERS Data to be provided by Members and the frequency and timeframe for provision of data.
- Requirements for reporting ERS information in national reports to [meetings of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group \(ERSWG\)](#) and to [annual meetings of the Compliance Committee and EC](#).

⁴ Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

⁵ Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

⁶ International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas