



CCSBT-EC/0610/15

17. Relationship with Non-members

Purpose

To discuss the situation with non-members.

Discussion

Indonesia

Indonesia continues to catch significant numbers of SBT. Preliminary estimated catch in 2005 was 1,799 tonnes, a significant increase on the estimates for 2003 and 2004, which were 564 tonnes and 677 tonnes respectively. It would seem from some reports and data supplied to the Secretariat by the IOTC that the catch will be lower in 2006 because of constraints on fishing imposed by increased fuel costs and the effects of closing member markets to Indonesia.

The current situation with Indonesia is outlined in document CCSBT13-EC/0610/13, which was prepared for discussion under Agenda Item 15 – Cooperating Non-members.

In broad summary, that paper advises that Indonesia may be re-considering its decision not to apply for Cooperating Non-membership. Advice from the Indonesian observer to CCSBT13 should be sought on this matter.

China

The Executive Secretary wrote to China most recently on 7 February 2006 seeking advice on China's intentions with regard to the SBT fishery. China responded on 13 March 2006 indicating that it has no intention to exploit the southern bluefin tuna resource. China indicated however, that it was difficult to avoid bycatch and some time in the future it may seek a small number of vessels to be added to the authorised vessel list and a nominal catch quota.

A copy of the exchange of correspondence is at Attachment A.

European Union

As requested at CCSBT12, the Executive Secretary wrote to Spain concerning reported catch of southern bluefin tuna. The European Union replied on behalf of Spain advising that the EU fleet would not be targeting southern bluefin tuna although some bycatch was likely from the fishing activities of the fleet. A copy of the European Union's letter is at Attachment B.

The European Union will be sending observers to CCSBT13 and this will give an opportunity for members to seek any further clarification of the European Union's intentions.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Commission for the Conservation of
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

7 February 2006

Mr Liu Xiaobing
Deputy Chief
Division of International Cooperation
Bureau of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
No 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Dear Mr Xiaobing

On 19 May 2004 I wrote to you on behalf of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna seeking advice on the fishing intentions of the People's Republic of China that might impact on the southern bluefin tuna fishery. My letter was prompted by information that the People's Republic of China was catching southern bluefin tuna and exporting at least some of the catch to Commission members.

At the Commission's 2005 annual meeting I advised the Commission that I had not received a reply to my letter. The Commission also discussed the developing domestic market in the People's Republic of China for sashimi grade tuna, which was being supplied by far seas fishing fleets.

The Commission has therefore asked me to write on its behalf seeking advice on China's intentions in regard to the southern bluefin tuna fishery. The Commission would also be grateful if you could provide information on any southern bluefin tuna caught and consumed domestically by China.

The Commission will be holding a Special Meeting in 2006 where China's catch may be discussed. I would therefore be grateful if you could reply to my letter by 31 March 2006.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Brian Macdonald
Executive Secretary

中华人民共和国农业部渔业局

BUREAU OF FISHERIES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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To: Mr. Brian Macdonald

Executive Secretary

CCSBT

March 13, 2006

Dear Mr. Macdonald,

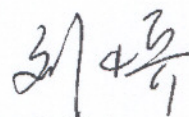
Thank you for your letter of February 7, 2006. I understand your concern about Chinese condition on southern bluefin tuna. On your require, I'd like to provide the information as follows:

1. Currently, China has no intention to exploit the southern bluefin tuna resource;
2. The tuna fishing vessel, which had 3 tons bycatch of southern bluefin tuna in 2004, has been required to improve its fishing techniques to avoid the bycatch;
3. According to the Chinese Custom Statistics, the total trade amount of southern bluefin tuna was 7.6 tons in 2004. All the amount are imported product, among which 5.9 tons were imported from Indonesia, and the rest were from Japan, Taiwan Province of China and Canada respectively. (Please see attached table for details)
4. The southern bluefin tuna is an item separately listed in the Chinese Custom Statistics. If necessary, we could inform you on the data of Chinese imported quantity.
5. Even we have take measures, since it's very difficult for us to avoid the bycatch of southern bluefin tuna completely, we hope a few Chinese fishing vessels could be listed in the CCSBT positive list and be awarded trifle quota in the future, if possible. The above-mentioned requirement will only be put forward at suitable time.

I hope your organization can manage the resources well, so that there still be some possibility for us to make quota requirement in the near future.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Liu Xiaobing



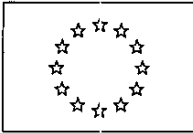
Director of International Cooperation Division

Bureau of Fisheries

Ministry of Agriculture, P. R. China

Chinese Custom Statistics on SBT data in 2004

Aquatic Products	From	EXPORT (tons)	IMPORT (tons)
Southern Bluefin Tuna	Indonesia	-	5.902
	Japan	-	0.575
	Taiwan Province of China	-	0.646
	Canada	-	0.515
	TOTAL	-	7.638



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS
External Policy and markets
International and regional arrangements

Brussels, 27.02.2006 D 02596
FISH/B-2 RC/ms D(2006)

Mr. Brian MACDONALD
Executive Secretary CCSBT
PO Box 37
Deakin West ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Mr. Macdonald,

I have been asked by my Director General, Mr. Holmquist, to answer your letter to him dated 30 January 2006, which included an annex (your note to Spanish Director General Mr. Fernando Curcio) concerning the possibility that Spain would develop a fishery of Southern Bluefin Tuna in the area of competence of your organisation.

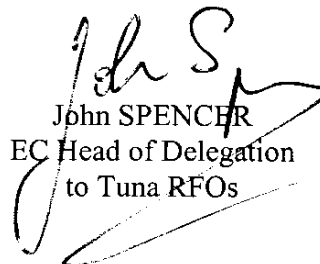
After a rapid inquiry with the concerned Member State, and acting as the unique competent body to deal with international fisheries matters within the EU, the European Commission would like to point out that, as indicated during the IOTC Working Group on By-catch, the catches of southern bluefin tuna of the Spanish fleet during the year 2004 are only small quantity by-catch catches, which have been caught by the Spanish longliner fleets operating in Area 57. The total quantity of those catches were of 1,03 tons and they were just a consequence of the exploratory fisheries for swordfish which has been conducted in the area 90°-120° E.

There is no intention to develop a commercial directed fishery exploitation of this species by the Community fleet.

Such by-catches are inevitable as you well know in longline fisheries and I trust that the transparency which is illustrated by our information to RFOs, is replicated by other Parties.

I hope this clarifies the issue for to CCSBT and please distribute our reply to the Parties.

Yours sincerely,


John SPENCER
EC Head of Delegation
to Tuna RFOs

C.c.: Mr. Fernando Curcio (Spanish Administration)