



CCSBT-EC/0510/04

## 2. Report from the Secretariat

### Purpose

To submit a report to the Extended Commission on the activities of the Secretariat since the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in October 2004.

### Secretariat Staff and Office Management

For 2005, the Secretariat's staff has comprised:

- Executive Secretary
- Deputy Executive Secretary
- Database Manager
- Office Administrator
- Data Entry Officer

The Executive Secretary's contract expires on 28 February 2006. Arrangements for his replacement are to be discussed separately under Agenda Item 15.

The Deputy Executive Secretary's contract expires in May 2005. The Executive Secretary will commence the recruitment process for the Deputy's replacement following CCSBT 12.

The office administrator position is job-shared. Ms Chika Scally commenced maternity leave in August 2004 and returned to work on 17 August 2005 working two days a week. The other three days are worked by Ms Mari Warren. Both employees speak Japanese and English.

The Data Entry Officer is a new part time position created to input the tagging program and Trade Information Scheme data into the database. The position represents about one sixth of a full time position.

Workload in the Secretariat has been increasing and new tasks identified at SC10 associated with data processing, data management and implementation of the management procedure will add to this pressure. If the Extended Commission were to take decisions at CCSBT12, which added to SBT management activities such as catch monitoring, it is unlikely that the Secretariat could cope with existing resources.

The first response to this increase in workload will be to reorganise work responsibilities among the existing staff but this may not be sufficient.

## **Financial**

An operating surplus in the general budget of about \$112,500 is estimated for 2005. The main reasons for the surplus are the movement in the Australian dollar, which has reduced the cost of meetings, and the anticipated UN adjustment to salary levels being less than estimated. A comparison between the approved budget and the estimated outcome is included in meeting document **CCSBT-EC/0510/ 05**. That document also provides a detailed explanation of the reasons for variations from the approved budget.

The Secretariat applied the full amount of \$50,233 in the special fund established to manage the net proceeds from the mortalities from the 2004 Australian east coast tagging pilot to the CCSBT tagging program.

A further special fund has been established for the proceeds of the 2005 Australian east coast tagging program. At the time of writing this report a net amount of \$3,611 was held in this account.

A proposed budget for 2006 with indicative figures for 2007 has been prepared for Commission consideration taking into account the recommendations of the Extended Scientific Committee. The proposed budget with supporting documentation is set out in meeting document **CCSBT-EC/0510/06**.

## **Organisation of CCSBT Meetings**

The Secretariat organised and supported the following meetings and workshops:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| - Special Management Procedure Workshop                    | 15-18 February 2005 |
| - 4th Management Procedure Workshop                        | 16-21 May 2005      |
| - Special Consultation – Management Procedure              | 23 May 2005         |
| - 6 <sup>th</sup> Stock Assessment Group Meeting           | 29 Aug-3 Sept 2005  |
| - Extended Scientific Committee of the 10 <sup>th</sup> SC | 5-8 September 2005  |
| - 10 <sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee Meeting            | 9 September 2005    |
| - Extended Commission of CCSBT 12                          | 11-14 October 2005  |
| - CCSBT12  | 15 October 2005     |
| - ERS Working Group  | 20-23 February 2006 |

## **Meetings of Other Organisations**

The Secretariat represented the Extended Commission at the following meetings and conferences since CCSBT11:

- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) 10-12 November 2004
- FAO Committee of Fisheries (COFI) 7-11 March 2005
- 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies 14-15 March 2005
- Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Bodies 11 March 2005
- ICCAT Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs 25-27 April 2005

## **Trade Information Scheme**

The Secretariat issued the report on TIS exports for the final six months of 2004 in May 2005. The report for the first six months of 2005 is due on 1 December 2005.

The Secretariat continued efforts with Indonesia to seek improvement in accurate completion of the TIS forms sent with consignments of SBT. Indonesia is cooperating, but progress is slow. However, from 1 July 2005 members and cooperating non-members should not be accepting SBT imports from vessels that are not on the CCSBT authorised vessel list. Consequently, no further TIS documents should be obtained from Indonesia or any other non-cooperating non-member.

The U.S.A. has implemented legislation with effect from 1 July 2005 to allow it to cooperate with the CCSBT TIS scheme for imports by the U.S.A.

A report on compliance with the TIS scheme is at Attachment A.

## **CCSBT Website**

The CCSBT website continues to be an actively updated and used information tool for both CCSBT members and the general public.

Since CCSBT 11, the public side of the web site has been modified to:

- Incorporate reports from meetings held in the CCSBT 11 calendar year and to ensure that the information presented on the web site was up to date and correct as at the end of CCSBT 11;
- Extend the availability of meeting reports back to CCSBT 2 (previously, reports prior to CCSBT 6 were not available on the web site);
- Japanese translations for some historical documents were added
- Incorporate additional data sets (catch effort and size data) on the data page;
- Incorporate all updates provided by members and cooperating non-members for the authorised vessel list (which now includes all authorised vessels, not just vessels over 24 metres); and
- Provide six monthly updates of TIS reports.

The private section of the CCSBT web site has continued to be actively used for the distribution of meeting documents<sup>1</sup>. The use of the private area has also recently expanded to become the primary mechanism for sharing data provided for the annual data exchange and to provide validation details for the TIS scheme.

## **Action Plan**

No activity has been undertaken under the Action Plan since CCSBT10.

## **CCSBT Surface Tagging Program**

---

<sup>1</sup> Over 40 different people (all authorised by members) accessed this area between May and August 2005 and most people accessed the private area on many occasions during this period.

The Secretariat managed the fourth year of the program and has begun preparations for the fifth year of activity, which is scheduled to commence in December 2005.

In total, 16,832 fish were tagged in the surface fishery and another 341 fish were tagged and seeded into sea cages this season (since 1 December 2004). Final outlays on tag deployment for the program totalled \$671,006. Tags from a total of 821 fish, excluding seeded tags, have been recaptured this season at the time of writing this report taking total recaptures to 3,139 or 7.2% of releases.

In addition to the deployment of tags, the Secretariat continued efforts on tag recovery activities. Members have assisted the Secretariat in this activity by publicising the need for recovery of tags with their fleets.

The special budget for the tagging program is presented to the Extended Commission in **CCSBT-EC/0510/06**.

### **Database Developments**

At the time of finalising this report, the database was up to date for most data received. Exceptions include TIS data recently received from some exporters and some data provided in the data exchange that were not required for use at SAG6/SC10. These data will be loaded to the database as time permits.

Some minor technical modifications have been made to the database to incorporate new types of data provided through the data exchange and to implement additional functionality where required. In addition, a significant quantity of scientific data on the database is now made available to members for stock assessment purposes through the provision of an annual data CD. The data on the CD is an extract from the CCSBT database and is accompanied with extensive documentation.

A deficiency and risk with the database at the present time is the lack of technical documentation for the database. Development of adequate documentation<sup>2</sup> is considered a high priority for the Secretariat in 2006, but this is also subject to time availability.

Processing data for the database (including electronic assessment related data from members, TIS data, tag & recapture data, and authorised vessel list data) continues to be a significant task for the Secretariat. An emerging suite of tasks for the Secretariat is the post-processing of data requested by the Extended Scientific Committee. This includes a variety of calculations required to produce the inputs for the operating model and management procedure; preparation of the CPUE inputs for assessments; and comparisons of data provided to the CCSBT and the IOTC.

### **Participation in FAO's Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)**

---

<sup>2</sup> This being documentation that would describe the basic design concepts of the database and provide another developer with the minimum information necessary to navigate around the database and understand how the database operates. This is an essential pre-cursor to using the database or to making changes to the database.

The CCSBT is a partner in FAO's FIRMS system. During 2004/05, the Secretariat met its obligations to FIRMS by:

- Loading the Scientific Committee's stock status report (incorporating some of CCSBT 11's decisions) into the FIRMS system;
- Supplying agreed data to FIRMS; and
- Contributing to developments of the FIRMS system through e-mail discussion.

### **Development of Discussion Papers**

A discussion paper has been prepared for the Extended Commission on the approach to be adopted by the CCSBT towards the international review of regional fisheries management organisations.

### **Interaction with Non-members**

The Secretariat organised and participated in meetings with Indonesia for discussions with a CCBT delegation concerning cooperating non-membership.

The Executive Secretary wrote to South Africa concerning participation in CCSBT12 and the provision of SBT catch data. South Africa has not been cooperating.

The Executive Secretary wrote to China in 2004 enquiring as to its intentions for developing a SBT fishery. No reply has yet been received at the time of writing this report.

**Prepared by the Secretariat**

## Compliance with the CCSBT Statistical Document Program

This attachment provides a summary of compliance with the CCSBT Statistical Document Program.

### A. Information Required (Section 2 of SDP)

Section 2.1 requires that the Statistical Documents be completed and checked in accordance with the minimum standards.

The Secretariat has monitored the accuracy and completeness of all statistical documents received and has contacted the countries/fishing entities involved to obtain corrected information as is required by Annex 5, section 3. Table 1 reports on the problems remaining in statistical documents after this process. Indonesia has continued to make a significant effort to correct its statistical documents through this process<sup>1</sup>, but there has been no improvement in the initial completion of documents by Indonesia (most documents having at least 1 problem). It is worth noting that many of the problems with Indonesia (and China) are a result of using the incorrect statistical document (e.g. an ICCAT document). Harmonisation of statistical documents amongst RFMO's would help to overcome such problems.

The process of following up all incorrect/incomplete statistical documents is time consuming for both the Secretariat and the countries/fishing entities involved, so it is important to achieve improvements in the completion of the original documents.

Table 1: Summary of problems remaining in Statistical Documents after the Secretariat sought corrections from issuing countries/fishing entities. This summary is for exports in the 12 months from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 (which is the last data held by Secretariat at the time of preparing this report).

Type of Problem	AU	CC <sup>2</sup>	TW	NZ	KR	PH	ID	CN
Number of documents received	1306	7	132	222	18	4	167	1
Number of incomplete/incorrect documents	32	0	0	1	0	0	127	1
<b>Percentage incomplete/incorrect</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>76%<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100%</b>
Missing document number	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1
Capture or Farmed not specified	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Missing processor name	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	1
Missing export city	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0
Missing export country	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0
Missing destination country	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	1
Missing or invalid product state (F/FR)	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Missing or invalid processed state (type)	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Missing date of harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	1
Missing or invalid gear code	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0
Missing or invalid statistical area	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	1
Missing number of fish	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	1
Fish description records with an average weight of <10 kg	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fish description records with an average weight of >300 kg	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Missing exporter signature	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0

<sup>1</sup> The percentage of errors for Indonesia of 76% in Table 1 is misleading because at the time of preparing this report, Indonesia had not had sufficient time to correct TIS documents for the January to March 2005 period (which accounted for 62% of Indonesia's TIS documents). Indonesia's error rate (after corrections by Indonesia) for April to December 2004 was only 37.5%, which is a considerable improvement on previous years.

<sup>2</sup> "CC" represents CCSBT, which is the "flag" used for reporting the sale of mortalities from the tagging program on the east coast of Australia.

Type of Problem	AU	CC <sup>2</sup>	TW	NZ	KR	PH	ID	CN
Missing export date	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	0
Missing validator signature	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing validation stamp	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undecipherable validation stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Validation stamp not on CCSBT's record of authorised stamps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

In accordance with Section 2.2 (d) and (e) members are required to maintain aggregated information on their tuna farms and submit such information to the Secretariat every six months on average. Australia provided aggregated information on tuna farms to the Secretariat on 2 March 2005 and 19 August 2005.

#### B. Exchange of Information (Section 4 of SDP)

The following validation updates have been provided by members since CCSBT 11.

- Australia advised the Secretariat of changes to its validation system on 8 February 2005 and provided 10 updates containing additional validator names and signatures from April to July 2005.
- Australia also provided regular updates of its export registered establishments<sup>3</sup>.
- Taiwan provided details of its changed validation official (January 2005) and a change in the title of that official (May 2005).
- Japan provided details of a changed validation official (April and July 2005).
- New Zealand provided two updates of all of its validators (August 2005).

#### C. Record and Report and Re-export (Sections 5 & 6 of SDP)

Japan and Korea have complied with the requirement in Section 5.1 to forward SDP documents on a quarterly basis. No other member has provided standard SDP documents for SBT imports since CCSBT 11. Korea has also reported as required on its imports of SBT that were re-exported from Japan.

The Secretariat has complied with Sections 5.3 and 6.4, and provided reports to members for the export periods of January-June 2004 and July-December 2004 on 29 November 2004 and 25 May 2005 respectively. The Secretariat also posted modified versions of these reports to the web site as required by Section 5.3 on 20 December 2004 and 29 June 2005 respectively.

With the exception of some late submissions, all members and cooperating non members complied with the requirement in Section 5.8 to provide an electronic record of exports for the periods January-June 2004 and July-December 2004, and Section 5.10 to resolve discrepancies identified by the Executive Secretary in the reconciliation of import and export documents. However, some documents are “missing”. These are documents reported by exporters that have not been received from Japan. It is not known whether these are problems at the exporter end (e.g. cancelled documents being incorrectly recorded as “sent”) or at the importer end (e.g. some documents not being collected for transmission to the Secretariat).

---

<sup>3</sup> However, this is not a requirement of the CCSBT SDP