



### 6.3 Scientific Observer Program Standards

#### Purpose

To discuss the draft Scientific Observer Program Standards developed inter-sessionally by members and the Secretariat.

#### Background

A 7<sup>th</sup> version of the draft standards is at **Attachment 1**.

The process followed in preparing the draft was as follows:-

- A draft set of scientific observer standards was considered at SC7 in September 2002. It was agreed that the standards would be further developed inter-sessionally.
- The inter-sessional work culminated in a 6<sup>th</sup> draft being circulated late in 2002 for comments by members.
- Following the receipt of comments the Secretariat prepared a 7<sup>th</sup> draft, which was circulated to members on 23 June 2003. There remained some outstanding issues in the 7<sup>th</sup> draft and it was therefore suggested that resolution of these matters be finalised at SC8 rather than go through another iteration inter-sessionally.

#### Issues for Consideration

The issues for consideration are highlighted in the 7<sup>th</sup> draft at Attachment 1. In summary the issues are:

- The terminology used to define the program's coverage.
- The linkage of the target level of observer coverage with the tagging program.
- Specification of the data to be collected on species other than SBT.

- Some specifics of the reporting requirements.
- The life status codes to be used.
- Hierarchies for data collection.

### **Discussion**

The Scientific Committee consider the 7<sup>th</sup> draft of the Scientific Observer Program standards and resolve the substantive issues outlined in **Attachment 1**.

**Prepared by the Secretariat**

**Attachment 1**

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなまぐろ保存委員会

7<sup>th</sup> Draft

CCSBT Scientific Observer Program  
Standards

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**1. BACKGROUND**

**2. OBJECTIVES**

**3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRAM OPERATION**

**4. COVERAGE**

**5. LEVELS OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER COVERAGE**

**6. ASSIGNMENT OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS TO VESSELS**

**7. TAGGING PROGRAM**

**8. RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING**

**9. THE OBSERVED VESSEL**

**10. INFORMATION AND DATA**

**11. REPORTING**

**12. CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA AND INFORMATION**

## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A	Type and Format of Scientific Observer Data
Attachment B	Reporting Requirements

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) has adopted a Scientific Research Program (SRP) with an overall objective of improving the quality of the data and information used as input to the stock assessment for Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT), contributing to the development of reliable indices to monitor future trends in SBT stock size and identifying directions for further scientific research.

At CCSBT7 in April 2001 the Commission adopted the report of the Fifth Meeting of Scientific Committee, which recommended a SRP incorporating a Scientific Observer Program as one of four priority elements. The Observer Program endorsed by the Commission comprised the following features:-

- an observer coverage of 10% for catch and effort as a target level
- the level of observer coverage for estimation of tag reporting rates will depend on the scale of the tagging program subsequently agreed by the Commission and the tag recapture rate.
- standards for training of observers, operation of observer programs and the data to be collected including the forms to be used will be prepared
- data collected would become part of the CCSBT database as subsequently agreed in CCSBT protocols
- member countries will be responsible for operation of observers in high seas and domestic EEZ fisheries on their flag vessels
- all fleet components should be observed and target levels of observer coverage should be the same for all fleet components
- an exchange of observers between countries on a regular basis should be encouraged to maintain consistency and increase mutual trust in the results of the observer program
- recruitment of some observers from non-member nations would be encouraged

To facilitate implementation, the 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee agreed that:-

- there would be an exchange of data sheets and standards for longline fleets between member countries through the Secretariat
- Australia would develop proposed program standards and data forms for the surface fisheries, taking note of the characteristics of observer programs administered by other fisheries management organizations
- the information gathered would be exchanged through the Secretariat
- proposals on draft CCSBT observer program standards will be presented and finalized at the 7<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee meeting in 2002

Dr. Ianelli of the Advisory Panel together with the SC chair developed an initial draft of proposed outline of a CCSBT scientific observer program at the 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee to serve as a basis for further discussion (See the Attachment F of the 6<sup>th</sup> SC Report.).

CCSBT8 endorsed the 6<sup>th</sup> Scientific Committee's proposals in October 2001.

The standards set out in this document reflect these decisions of the Commission and were developed in consultation with national observer program coordinators. A target level of observer coverage to meet tag reporting rate objectives has not yet been determined. When determined, the standards will be updated.

In developing the standards, the Secretariat has prepared a generic document for both surface and longline fisheries. Where the natures of the two types of fishery are differentiated in terms of observer activity, this is identified.

The tasks and record keeping requirements have been formulated to gather only that information, which is relevant to the objectives of the SRP. Consideration was also given to the practical limitations on the ability of observers to complete tasks in the fishing environment they would be operating in.

In order to facilitate implementation of the standards, the term “member” in this document means any Member of the Extended Commission of the CCSBT.

[Reference to the acronym CCSBT is inclusive of the Commission and Extended Commission.](#)

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The standards set out below provide the framework for the operation of the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program by members.

The objectives of the standards are:

1. To provide a framework for the alignment of members’ scientific observer programs with the objectives of the SRP.
2. To standardize scientific observer programs across fleets and fisheries among members.
3. To specify minimum standards for the development of a scientific observer program for members without a program.

All members are expected to adapt their respective programs taking into account the standards but recognizing that members may have additional requirements they wish to maintain in their respective programs.

## **3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROGRAM OPERATION**

Responsibility for the operation of the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program on the high seas and in domestic EEZ fisheries will lie with the member whose flag is flown on the vessel.

Each member’s Scientific Observer Program will be managed taking into account these standards.

Where there is an external observer exchanged under agreements concluded between members or an observer recruited from a non-member nation, that observer shall comply with the laws and regulations of the member which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.

#### **4. COVERAGE**

The CCSBT Scientific Observer Program will cover the fishing activity of CCSBT members and cooperating non-members wherever southern bluefin tuna are targeted or are a significant bycatch.

**Comment:** Members are generally comfortable with a generic statement but there are some concerns over those elements of the fishery where bycatch is very small. The problem is defining the threshold for observer program. The suggested text uses the word “significant” but there remains the question of the definition of significant.

#### **5. LEVELS OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER COVERAGE**

The Program will have target observer coverage of 10% for catch and effort monitoring for each fishery.

Observer coverage should therefore be representative of different vessel-types in distinct areas and times.<sup>1</sup>

In order to approach 10% coverage in some strata (e.g., specific vessel-types in certain areas and times) it may be necessary to have higher than 10% coverage in other strata.<sup>2</sup>

The exact level of observer placement will require periodic assessment to determine if the target level of coverage is achieved.

#### **6. ASSIGNMENT OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS TO VESSELS**

From the scientific perspective, it is important to ensure that the data collected through the scientific observer programs provide representative information and sampling for the entire fleet. Ideally, each individual operation should have an equal and independent probability of being observed. In practice, this ideal may not be possible to achieve. Nevertheless, the basic principle of representative sampling should underlie the assignment of scientific observers to vessels.

It is the responsibility of each member when implementing an observer program, to assign observers to its vessels and cruises based on a carefully considered and appropriately designed sampling scheme that has a high likelihood of ensuring reasonably representative coverage. The program should ensure that, within the main fishing areas and seasons and to the extent possible, all representative vessels, areas, and time periods have an approximately equal probability of being sampled.<sup>3</sup>

Each member should evaluate and analyse the sampling scheme used for the assignment of observers against the principles outlined above. Each member should document the scheme used for the observer assignments actually implemented and make this information and data collected available to the Commission in the manner described in Section 11 to enable review within the Commission of whether or not the standards are being met.

The placement of observers should also encompass arrangements to ensure the independence and

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<sup>1</sup>

For the purpose of this standard, it is recognized that there are many ways in which catch and effort can be stratified including vessels, areas and times. This level of coverage is relative to actual fishing operations, which, if randomly distributed, should result in about 10% of the catch.

<sup>2</sup> While it might be possible to observe 10% of the catch from a single vessel (if a hypothetical fleet consisted of 10 vessels with equal catch allocations), this would not achieve the objective of sampling fishing operations with approximately equal probability, particularly if the vessels fish in different areas using different techniques. Clearly there are logistical difficulties in achieving random observations of fishing operations.

<sup>3</sup> To achieve a desired target coverage level may require a higher observer placement level. For example, it may take 150 observed vessel days out of a hypothetical 1,000 vessel-day year to achieve a target of 10% coverage for all important strata. In part, this may be due to the fact that the ability of observers to transfer among vessels on the fishing grounds is limited. The factors affecting this include the heterogeneity of the fleet and fishing behaviour.



scientific integrity of the data.

## **7. TAGGING PROGRAM**

Observer programs make a very valuable contribution to the direct recording of recaptured tags, and to the estimation of non-reporting rates. Failure to adequately quantify the uncertainty associated with estimates of tag reporting rates will substantially degrade the value of any resultant mortality estimates for use in stock assessments.

Observer plans and training programs should include specific provision for the role and responsibilities of observers for tag recapture reporting. The target level of observer coverage under the observer program will take into account the implementation and results of the CCSBT tagging program.

**Comment:** Australia wishes this sentence to be retained. Japan's and Taiwan's positions are that it be deleted.

## **8. RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING**

Each member is responsible for the recruitment and training of observers for placement on their flagged vessels. Details of the processes maintained for this responsibility are for members to manage consistent with the domestic environment in which they operate.

Training schemes should be constructed to impart the skills necessary to adequately collect the scientific data and should take account of the following principles.

**Comment:** The 6<sup>th</sup> draft included a paragraph here suggested by Australia which required the provision of members' observer training manuals as part of the reporting measures. This has been deleted and reference to the provision of manuals is now incorporated in Section 11 and Attachment B.

### Qualifications of Observers

Scientific Observers for the program should have the following attributes:

- Technically trained or experienced personnel for the fleets concerned, with interests related to fisheries.
- Ability to work at sea in difficult conditions.
- Ability to work under stressful psychological and physical situations.
- Ability to work with a boat's crew on a cooperative and team basis over long and continuous periods at sea.
- Soundness of mind and body.

### Independence / Integrity

Observers should not have current financial or beneficial interests in the fisheries in which they will be required to operate as observers.

Observers should not have been found guilty of a serious criminal offence for five years prior to appointment as an observer.

### Scientific Observer Training

Members should establish and maintain a structured training program for the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program. Manuals should be developed for this purpose and courses operated, which would allow for observers to exchange approaches and experiences to improve the data collection process.

A Scientific Observer Training program of each Member should include, at least, the following items.

- Briefing on the CCSBT SRP, particularly the CCSBT Scientific Observer and Tagging Program elements to promote a full understanding of the rationale for the Programs.
- Fishery management and biological field collection programs including species identification, data collection and sampling procedures.
- Monitoring tag recovery.
- Training on safety at sea and first aid.
- Protocols for dealing with difficult situations (personal conflicts and physical hazards).
- Preparation of cruise/trip reports
- De-briefing with observers to provide feedback on improvement.
- Any additional technical training required for special project such as tagging fish, when necessary

#### Recruitment of Observers

Scientific observers could be recruited from a variety of related fishery sectors to widen the knowledge and experience base of the observer cohort.

Exchange of observers between members and recruiting some observers from non-members should be encouraged to improve consistency and transparency in the program. Responsibility for implementing observer exchanges would reside with members and the exchanges would be organised between relevant members and non-members as appropriate

### **9. THE OBSERVED VESSEL**

Any vessel selected for an observation should be capable of meeting the minimum requirements for accommodation, sanitary facilities, meals, equipments and communication systems equivalent to those of the crew (junior officer when possible) so that the observer's duties are not compromised.

A selected vessel should be advised of its responsibility for the observer while they are on board.

## 10. INFORMATION AND DATA

Scientific data to be collected should include the following categories of information:

- A. Details of the observed vessel, including its size, capacity and equipment.
- B. Summary of the observed trip, which will include information such as the observer name, dates of embarkation and disembarkation.
- C. Comprehensive catch, effort and environmental information for each set that occurred while the observer was on-board the vessel, regardless of whether the set/haul was actually observed. This includes the target species, location fished and quantity of gear used.
- D. Observed catch information for each period of observation, including the time at start and end of observation, the number of hooks observed, the observed catch in number and weight for SBT and all other species caught (i.e. retained and non-retained catch of all fish, birds, turtles etc). and if possible, all other species caught in a manner which does not disturb nor stop the operation and all other species caught if possible.
- E. Biological measurements taken of individual SBT, as much as possible, including its condition, length, weight, sex and details of samples (otoliths, scales, gonads, etc.) that were taken from the SBT for later analysis.
- F. SBT tag recovery information, including, both tag numbers (actual tags also to be provided), date, location, length, weight, sex, details of samples taken (e.g. otoliths), and whether or not the tags were spotted during a period of fishing that was being observed.

**Comment:** Three alternative sets of words have emerged from member responses – Australia/NZ shown in red; Japan shown in blue; and Taiwan shown in brown.

There seems to be a fundamental difference of view on data requirements related to species other than SBT.

Most of the above categories of information are related to each other in a hierarchical relationship. So, the biological details of a fish (E) relates to a particular observed period (D) from a specific set (C) for a trip (B) on a particular vessel (A).

A detailed description of the proposed information to be collected for each of the above categories is provided in Attachment A. Hierarchies for prioritising the collection of data by species caught and SBT data are at Annex 1.

## 11. REPORTING

Each member should provide a report to the Extended Scientific Committee on the sampling scheme and arrangements for collecting data of its observer program as a separate section in the member's annual fishery report. Attachment B documents the information that should be provided.

To enable evaluation of the scientific aspects of the observer program and to assess whether the underlying objectives are being met, documentation relating to the sampling scheme and arrangements for collecting the data should be provided to the Extended Scientific Committee as part of the annual fishery report. Training manuals should also be provided to the Extended Scientific Committee for reference. Attachment B provides details of the information to be provided in the report.

**Comment:** The Secretariat had suggested the words in red were sufficient for this section. Australia has proposed the words shown in blue as an alternative to reflect their view that the context and general content of reporting should be incorporated in this section. The Australian text also references their preferred requirement that copies of manuals should be provided for reference.

## 12. CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA AND INFORMATION

All data and information obtained through an observer program belongs to the flag country of the observed vessel. An observer should not disclose any information without the permission of the flag country.

## Type and Format of Scientific Observer Data

## A) Details of the observed vessel and gear

The vessel details are recorded only once for an entire trip

All fishing:

- Vessel's Name
- Vessel's Call-sign
- Vessel's Flag Country
- Name of the Captain
- Name of the fishing master
- Year vessel built
- Engine brake power (kw/hp)
- Overall length (metres)
- Gross tonnage (tonnes)
- Number of people in crew (all staff, excluding observers)
- Total freezer capacity (cubic metres)
- Fuel capacity (tonnes)
- Instrumentation and electronic fishing equipment

Instrumentation	Yes/No (or code)
NNSS	
GPS	
Omega	
Radio direction finder	
Radar	
Weather Fax	
Track plotter	
NOAA receiver	
Sounder (1=colour monitor, 2=monochrome monitor, 3=printer)	
Sonar (1=scanning, 2=PPI)	
Doppler current monitor	
Sea surface temperature recorder	
Bathy-thermograph	
Bird radar	

Longliners only:

- Material of mainlines (Nylon, Cotton thread, Other)
- Material of branchlines (Nylon, Cotton thread, Other)
- Material of buoylines (Nylon, Cotton thread, Other)
- Tori Pole used (Y/N)
- Bait thrower/line shooter used (Y/N)

Purse seiners only:

- Capacity of power block
- Capacity of purse winch
- Lengths and depths of all nets on board including expanded figure
- Mesh sizes of nets on board
- Number of net skiffs on board

## B) Summary of the observed trip

- Observer's name
- Observer's organisation
- Date observer embarked ([translatable to](#) UTC to the day)

- Date observer disembarked ([translatable to UTC](#) to the day)

C) Comprehensive catch, effort and environmental information for each set

This information is recorded for each set while the observer is on-board a vessel, regardless of whether the set/haul was actually observed.

All fishing:

- Date and time at start of Set ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Date and time at end of Set ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Date and time at start of Retrieval ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Date and time at end of Retrieval ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Location at start of Set (latitude+N/S and longitude+E/W to a minute of accuracy)
- Wind speed ([with unit](#)) and direction (N, NNE, NE, etc.) [of the operation](#)
- [At the period of the wind measured for operation \(e.g. Noon, start of set etc.\)](#)
- Sea surface temperature (degrees Celsius, to 1 decimal place) at start of Set
- Intended target species<sup>4</sup>

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Longlining:

- Location at end of Set (latitude+N/S and longitude+E/W to a minute of accuracy)
- Direction of line set (eg straight, curved)<sup>5</sup>
- Wind speed ([with unit](#)) and direction (N, NNE, NE, etc.)
- [\(Comment: It is enough to collect the temperature at the start of set\) At the period of the location and wind are measured for the operation \(e.g. noon, start of set etc.\)](#)
- [Direction of line set \(straight, curved\)](#)
- [Actually used mainline length \(km\)](#)
- Actually used branchline length (m)
- Actually used buoyline length (m)
- [Intended depth of the shallowest hook \(m\)](#)
- [Intended depth of the deepest hook \(m\)](#)
- Number of hooks
- Number of baskets

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Distance between baskets, beacons, buoys, or floats as is appropriate to the operation (m)

- Percentage of bait by bait categories that were Fish, Squid, Artificial, and Other
- Bait status (live or dead)
- Total number by species<sup>4</sup> of SBT, and other tuna and tuna-like species caught, retained or discarded.
- Total processed weight (kg) and Processed State<sup>6</sup> by species<sup>4</sup> of SBT, and other species caught (i.e. all fish, birds, turtles etc.)

Purse Seining:

- Spotter plane used (Y/N). If used:
  - Time ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#)) and location aircraft began search
  - Time ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#)) and location aircraft ended search
  - Number, location of schools spotted by aircraft
  - Estimated size of each school spotted by the aircraft
  - Total searched distance
- Bird Radar used (Y/N)
- Logbook number and type
- Start and end Time spent for searching (from xx:xx to yy:yy [translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#)), location and total searched distance
- School finder (plane/vessel)
- Chumming boat used (yes/no)
- Chum status (Alive/Dead)

<sup>4</sup> All species should be reported with FAO species codes, or using National codes and providing a translation table to FAO species codes.

<sup>5</sup> Codes will be used to describe the type of line set, eg. S=straight, C=curved, U=u-shaped.

<sup>6</sup> RD=round/whole, GG=gilled and Guttled, DR=dressed etc., as per TIS codes.

- Amount of chum used
- Start and end time for chumming ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Start and end time for net shooting ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Start and end time for net hauling ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Start and end location for net shooting
- Start and end location for net hauling
- Light attraction used (yes/no)
- Total of wattage of lights used
- Start and end time for light attraction
- School type (e.g., shoaling/surface, FAD/debris associated)
- Length (m) of net set
- Height (m) of the net
- Number of net skiffs used
- Date and time that transfer to tow cage commenced
- Identification number of the tow cage to which the SBT were transferred
- Name of Carrier Boat that received the fish
- Estimated catch per set, species composition
- Estimated weight (kg) and/or number by species of SBT and other species caught
- Estimated weight of SBT caught alive
- Estimated weight [and/or number](#) of SBT dead during operation

#### Cage Towing:

- Name of carrier boat
- Tow cage identification number
- Cage depth (metres)
- Cage ring diameter (metres)
- Cage mesh size (in centimetres)
- Cage has second or predator net (Y/N)
- Number of divers used
- Chute fitted in cage (Y/N)
- Effective tow speed (km/hour)
- If the catch was received from fishing operations, then for each catcher boat from which SBT were transferred, record:
  - Name of catcher boat
  - Call sign of catcher boat
  - Date and time ([translatable to UTC](#)) transfer started
  - Estimated weight of SBT transferred (tonnes)/dead SBT before transfer
- If the catch was received from another tow cage, then, record:
  - Name of the carrier boat from which the SBT came
  - Identification number of the tow cage from which the SBT came
  - Date and time ([translatable to UTC](#)) transfer started.
  - Estimated weight of SBT transferred (tonnes)/dead SBT before transfer
- Date and time ([translatable to UTC](#)) and place that tow finished
- Total weight of SBT mortalities per day from commencement of towing to end of transfer to farm
- Total number of SBT mortalities per day from commencement of towing to end of transfer to farm

#### D) Observed catch information

This relates to that part of the catch that was actually observed by the observer during the hauling process. All information recorded here relates only to the period(s) that were observed. Annex 1 provides hierarchies for the collection of data. Observers should use these hierarchies to prioritise data collection as circumstances prevail on the observed vessel.

#### Longlining:

- Date and time at the start of the observation period ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Date and time at the end of the observation period ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Number of hooks observed
- Total number by species<sup>4</sup> of caught and retrieved during the observed period
- Total number by species<sup>4</sup> of discarded during the observed period
- Total processed weight (kg) by species<sup>4</sup> and Processed State<sup>6</sup> of all species caught and retrieved during the observed period
- Total number and weight when possible (whole weight, in kilograms) by species<sup>4</sup> caught but discarded during the observed period and life status.

Purse Seining:

The entire purse seining shooting and hauling operation should be observed

- Date and time at the start of the observation period ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Date and time at the end of the observation period ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Estimated % of school caught
- Estimated weight (tonnes for SBT, kg for all other species) and/or number by species of SBT, and other species caught, retained or discarded including life status
- Weight of SBT mortalities from commencement of fishing to end of transfer to cage
- Number of SBT mortalities from commencement of fishing to end of transfer to cage
- Number of species identified as escaped from commencement of fishing to end of transfer to cage
- Number by species identified as discarded from commencement of fishing to end of net hauling

Cage Towing:

The observer must observe or conduct each mortality count during the period of the tow.

- Date and time at the start of the observation period ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Date and time at the end of the observation period ([translatable to 24 hour clock, UTC](#))
- Total weight of SBT mortalities per day from commencement of towing to end of transfer to farm
- Total number of SBT mortalities per day from commencement of towing to end of transfer to farm

E) Biological measurements of individual fish. Biological measurements are only required for SBT, but where possible, effort should be made to measure other species.

For the purposes of SBT analyses, accurate size measurements of SBT are required. SBT should be selected in a manner to ensure within strata randomness. For example, for large numbers of fish caught in a single operation (e.g., a purse seine vessel) a systematic sampling may be appropriate

The actual number of fish should be spread throughout as many separate fishing operations as possible. For example, it is nearly always the case that sampling 20 fish (randomly) from 10 operations is much better than sampling 200 fish from every 10<sup>th</sup> operation. The required actual number of samples should be re-evaluated from time to time and as needs change.

- Species<sup>4</sup>
- Life status code<sup>7</sup>
- Length (for SBT, fork length measured on straight length, rounded up to the centimetre<sup>8</sup>)
- Length unit
- Length code (fork length, eye fork, etc.)

<sup>7</sup> 0=Dead, 1=Alive and will survive if released, 2=Alive but probably dying, 3=Uncertain status {0=Unknown, 1=Dead and damaged, 2=dead, 3= Alive and sluggish, 4= Alive and vigorous

<sup>8</sup> Length should be rounded (not truncated) to the nearest centimeter. For example, 62.4cm becomes 63cm and 62.5cm becomes 63cm (63 cm for both cases).

**Comment:** Japan has suggested a simpler 4 component life status code and this has been included in the text. Australia has suggested a modification to this codification to incorporate a code for damage. Footnote 7 shows this alternative in red print. There have been many attempts to codify life status. This is a matter the Scientific Committee should resolve.

- Whole weight (kg), if possible. This is the measured weight before processing as opposed to a calculated whole weight.
- Processed weight (kg)
- Processed State<sup>6</sup>
- Sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D= not examined)
- Samples taken, specifying:
  - A unique identification number given to the sample,
  - The type of samples taking, including: whole specimen, or samples of otoliths, scales, vertebrae, stomach, muscle, tissue, gonads, etc.)

Deleted: <#>Length, lower jaw-fork length¶

#### F) SBT Tag recovery information

Some of the data recorded here duplicates data that already exists in the previous categories of information. This is necessary because tag recovery information may be sent separately to other observer data.

- Observer's name
- Vessel's name
- Vessel's call sign
- Vessel flag
- Collect and provide the actual tags
- Tag colour
- Tag numbers (The tag number is to be provided for all tags when multiple tags were attached to one fish. If only one tag was recorded, a statement is required that specifies whether or not the other tag was missing)
- Date and time of capture (UTC)
- Location of capture (latitude+N/S and longitude+E/W to 1 minute of accuracy)
- Length (fork length, rounded up to the nearest centimetre<sup>8</sup>)
- Processed Weight (kg.)
- Processed State<sup>6</sup>
- Details of samples taken, specifying:
  - A unique identification number given to the sample,
  - The type of samples taking, including: whole specimen, or samples of otoliths, scales, vertebrae, stomach, muscle, tissue, gonads, etc.)
- Sex (F=female, M=male, I=indeterminate, D=not examined)
- Condition of recaptured fish and their life status
- Whether the tags were found during a period of fishing that was being observed (Y/N)
- Reward information (e.g., name and address where to send reward)



## HIERARCHIES FOR DATA COLLECTED BY SPECIES AND SBT DATA

*Japan supports the hierarchy shown in blue. Japan believes that efforts should be concentrated on SBT data collection. Australia and New Zealand support the hierarchy shown in red. This is a fundamental issue for the Scientific Committee to resolve*

This annex provides hierarchies for the collection of data by observers to enable prioritising of observation effort.

As a general rule all vessel and shot information should be collected prior to the collection of catch/biological information

### Hierarchy for observation by species

Species	Priority (1 is the highest)
SBT	1
Other tunas, billfishes, Gasterochisma	2
Sharks	2
Other teleost fish	3
Other ecological species	3

“tunas” means all Thunnus species except SBT.

### Hierarchy for observation of SBT

	Priority (1 is the highest)
Record the catch	1
Species identification	1
Measurement of processed weight	3
Observation for tag presence	2
Length measurement	2
Identification of sex	3
Observation for dead or alive	3
Observation for meat quality	4
Taking photos	4
Biological sampling	4

Hierarchy for data collection

1. All vessel and shot information should be collected prior to the collection of catch/biological information then, during the haul:-
2. Record all species caught
3. Record whether the specimen was retained, landed and discarded or released without landing
4. Record life status at time of landing and life status at time of release (where applicable)
5. Collect data on length and whole and/or processed weight (including processed state)
6. Check for presence of tags
7. Record sex
8. Collect biological samples
9. Take photos

Hierarchy for data collection by species for items 5-9 above

<u>Species</u>	<u>Priority (1 is the highest)</u>
<u>SBT</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Sharks, other tunas, billfishes, Gasterochisma</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>All other species</u>	<u>3</u>

“tunas” means all Thunnus species except SBT

**FORMAT OF NATIONAL REPORT SECTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER PROGRAMS**

**REPORT COMPONENTS**

The observer program implementation report should form a component of the annual National Reports submitted by members to the Scientific Committee. This report should provide a brief overview of observer programs for SBT fisheries, and is not intended to replace submitted papers containing proper analyses of collected observer data. This observer program report should include the following sections:

**A. Observer Training**

An overview of observer training conducted, including:

- Overview of training program provided to scientific observers.
- Number of observers trained.
- Summary of qualifications / training and years of experience of the observers deployed in SBT fisheries during the past year.
- A copy of relevant manuals for reference

**Comment:** Added to reflect Australia's suggestion.

**B. Scientific Observer Program Design and Coverage**

Details of the design of the observer program, including:

- Which fleets, fleet components or fishery components were covered by the program.
- How vessels were selected to carry observers within the above fleets or components.
- How was observer coverage stratified: By fleets, fisheries components, vessel types, vessel sizes, vessel ages, fishing areas and seasons.

Details of observer coverage of the above fleets, including:

- Components, areas, seasons and proportion of total SBT catch, specifying units used to determine coverage.
- Total number of observer employment days, and number of actual days deployed on observation work.

**C. Observer Data Collected**

List of observer data collected against the agreed range of data set out in Attachment A. In broad structure this would include:-

- Effort data: Amount of effort observed (vessel days, sets, hooks, etc), by area and season and % observed out of total by area and seasons
- Catch data: Amount of catch observed of SBT by area and season, and % observed out of total estimated SBT catch by area and seasons
- Length frequency data: Number of fish measured per species, by area and season.
- Biological data: Type and quantity of other biological data or samples (otoliths, sex, maturity, Gonosomatic index, etc) collected per species.

**Comment:** This deletion has been suggested by Japan. The suggested amendment relates to the specification of species to be observed throughout the standards. This issue need to be resolved at the Scientific Committee.

**Deleted:** and, if appropriate other species,

**D. Tag Return Monitoring**

Number of tags returns observed, by fish size class and area.

**E. Problems Experienced**

- Summary of problems encountered by observers and observer managers that could affect the CCSBT Observer Program Standards and/or each member's national observer program developed in the light of the Standards.