

CCSBT-SMEC/1108/BGD04
(Previously CCSBT-SFMWG/1103/10)

Attachment 16 of the CCSBT 17 Report

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Australia's Proposed Draft Resolution on the Provision of Fisheries-Dependent Data to Support the Scientific Assessment of Southern Bluefin Tuna and Ecologically Related Species

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT),

Recalling that, at its sixteenth annual meeting, the Extended Commission Members and Cooperating Non-Members agreed to measures to systematically verify catch data of southern bluefin tuna and ecologically related species by fishers (the Resolution on action plans to ensure compliance with Conservation and Management Measures);

Mindful of the risk that incomplete submission of fisheries-dependent scientific data poses to the scientific assessment of the southern bluefin tuna stock;

Recognising the recommendations of the 2010 Joint Tuna RFMO Workshop on the Provision of Scientific Advice on catch, effort and size data;

Recognising that the ability of the Extended Scientific Committee to provide good quality advice depends on its access to the most recent fine-scale fisheries-dependent data;

Agrees, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 5 and paragraph 1(a) of Article 8 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, that:

1. The flag Members and Cooperating Non-Members of pelagic longline vessels shall annually provide shot-by-shot catch and effort data for the most recently completed fishing season to the Secretariat on the following basis:
 - a. The Secretariat shall maintain the data and make the data available to the Extended Scientific Committee for inclusion in stock assessments, the management procedure and other necessary scientific processes;
 - b. The data made available by the Secretariat to the Extended Scientific Committee shall not be aggregated by vessel, gear, fleet, month, year, latitude or longitude;
 - c. The shot-by-shot catch and effort data should include target species per shot, number of hooks, number of baskets, gear, fleet, day, month, year, latitude and longitude to two decimal places, weight and number of retained and discarded southern bluefin tuna, and number of ecologically related species including key species used in the standardisation of catch and effort series;
 - d. The Secretariat may obscure the distinguishing symbol of individual vessels with a unique identifier at the request of a Member or Cooperating Non-Member.

2. The Members and Cooperating Non-Members farming southern bluefin tuna shall annually provide shot-by-shot operational data for the most recently completed fishing season to the Secretariat on the following basis;
 - a. The Secretariat shall maintain the data and make the data available to the Extended Scientific Committee for inclusion in stock assessments, the management procedure and other necessary scientific processes;
 - b. The data made available by the Secretariat to the Extended Scientific Committee shall not be aggregated by vessel, gear, fleet, month, year, latitude or longitude;
 - c. The shot-by-shot operational data should include target species per shot, gear, fleet, day, month, year, latitude and longitude to two decimal places, number of hours searched including with spotter aircraft, weight and number of retained and released southern bluefin tuna, and number of ecologically related species;
 - d. Report, in a timely manner, on methods to improve the quality of methods to estimate the total weight and size composition of southern bluefin tuna caught by purse seiners;
 - e. The Secretariat may obscure the distinguishing symbol of individual vessels with a unique identifier at the request of a Member or Cooperating Non-Member.
3. The Members and Cooperating Non-Members may directly exchange fisheries-dependent data and other information relevant to scientific assessment of southern bluefin tuna and ecologically related species when appropriate.
4. The provision of fisheries-dependent data by Members and Cooperating Non-Members to the Secretariat shall be in accordance with the 'Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna'.
5. The Members and Cooperating Non-Members may provide alternative sources of data such as market and trade data to validate the information routinely reported by Members and Cooperating Non-Members and estimate catches from non-reporting flags.