

## **DRAFT WORKING PAPER TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT ON ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES OF FISHING FOR SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA**

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

*Mindful* that fishing for southern bluefin tuna can cause incidental harm to other species such as sea turtles and sharks,

*Recalling* the definition of ecologically related species in Article 2 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

*Further recalling* the requirement in Article 5(2) of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna that the Parties shall expeditiously provide to the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna data on, *inter alia*, ecologically related species, as appropriate.

*Determined* to mitigate interactions with ecologically related species caused by fishing for southern bluefin tuna,

*Noting* the importance of harmonising conservation and management measures with other organisations responsible for managing international fisheries, as agreed at the Kobe Meeting of Joint Tuna RFMOs on 26 January 2007,

*Reaffirming* the recommendation at the seventh meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) held in Tokyo from 3 to 6 July 2007, that Members and Cooperating Non-Members will provide national reports on their interactions with ecologically related species in southern bluefin tuna fisheries to the ERSWG,

*Further noting* the agreement at the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna to consider Australia's proposal for a binding measure to mitigate the impact on ecologically related species at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission,

*Resolves* that Members and Cooperating Non-Members will, to the extent possible, implement the International Plan of Action 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.

*Adopts*, in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, the following:

1. Members and Cooperating Non-Members fishing for southern bluefin tuna shall comply with all current binding measures aimed at the protection of ecologically related species, including sea turtles and sharks, from fishing, which are adopted from time to time:
  - a) by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), when fishing in its Area of Competence,
  - b) by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), when fishing in its Area of Competence, and
  - c) by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), when fishing in its Area of Competenceirrespective of whether the Member or Cooperating Non-Member concerned is a Member of the relevant Commission or otherwise cooperates with it.
2. Members and Cooperating Non-Members will collect and report data on ecologically related species to the Extended Commission of the CCSBT and/or its subsidiary bodies,

as appropriate, including the Ecologically Related Species Working Group. Ecologically related species data is to be submitted in accordance with the ERSWG Data Exchange requirements (adopted at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission, 1–4 October 2012).

3. Members and Cooperating Non-Members shall report annually to the Compliance Committee of the Extended Commission on the actions they have taken in relation to paragraph 1 above.
4. The Secretariat of the Commission is authorised to collect and exchange relevant data concerning ecologically related species with the Secretariats of the IOTC, WCPFC and ICCAT.
5. The Extended Commission will review the operation of this Resolution no later than 2016 with a view to enhancing the protection of ecologically related species from the impacts of fishing for southern bluefin tuna.
6. The Extended Commission and/or its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, will undertake an assessment of the risks to ecologically related species posed by fishing for southern bluefin tuna. The Extended Commission will consider how to mitigate these risks through the adoption of conservation and management measures, as required.