

Provisional Agenda
Eleventh meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
3 - 6 March 2015
Tokyo, Japan

1. Opening

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.2 Adoption of Document List

Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) will be asked to assign documents to specific agenda items when they provide the documents to the Secretariat.

1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Members will be asked to nominate rapporteurs for agenda item 4 and parts of item 5. In addition, presenters of papers will be asked to provide a brief paragraph for papers they have presented (excluding annual reports) for inclusion in the report of the meeting.

2. Annual reports

Members and CNMs will prepare and provide annual reports to the ERSWG in accordance with the [agreed template](#). Reports are expected to contain all information specified in the template. It will be assumed that reports have been read by participants prior to the meeting, so this agenda item will be reserved for questions of clarification regarding the reports.

2.1 Members

2.2 Cooperating Non-Members

3. Reports of meetings and/or outcomes of other organisations relevant to the ERS Working Group

All organisations with long terms observer status for CCSBT ERSWG meetings (see http://www.ccsbt.org/site/observers_attendance.php) will be invited to attend and to present a report to the meeting. Members and CNMs may also present relevant reports from organisations not present at the ERSWG meeting. The Secretariat will provide a report on the outcomes of the joint tuna RFMO bycatch working group on harmonisation of longline observer programs that is scheduled for January 2015. The Chair will report on other activities of the Joint Bycatch Technical Working Group. In cases where information from other organisations is relevant to specific later agenda items, the detailed information should be presented at the later specific agenda items instead of here.

4. Information and advice on ERS

This is the key agenda item to progress the assessment of the risks to ERS posed by fishing for SBT, and the identification of any additional measures that might be needed for the mitigation of these risks. Members and CNMs are requested to develop and submit papers in advance of the meeting on the following agenda items. Specific requests from ERSWG 10 for work to be conducted by ERSWG 11 are provided in annotations under the relevant sub agenda items.

4.1 Seabirds

In accordance with standing instructions, the Secretariat will request ACAP and Birdlife International to provide updated information on the seabirds likely to be caught by SBT fisheries, including population status summaries and reviews of mitigations measures.

4.1.1 Information on stock status

4.1.2 Information from other fisheries of relevance

4.1.3 Ecological risk assessment

The ERSWG 10 workplan specified that New Zealand would conduct further work on the CCSBT seabird ERA to improve and update the ERA and in relation to a global assessment.

The Secretariat will produce a summary of the level and distribution of SBT fishing effort in order to assist in highlighting risks to seabirds in particular.

4.1.4 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

4.1.5 Assessment of mitigation measures

Participants should report results from recent mitigation research aimed at assessing the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and provide updates on current and planned mitigation research.

The meeting should also evaluate the effectiveness of ERS measures adopted by area-based RFMOs for mitigating the risks of fishing for SBT¹ and advise whether any additional or different measures may be required while fishing for SBT, noting the particular characteristics of SBT fisheries. The Secretariat will provide the usual update of its paper on ERS mitigation measures of other tuna RFMOs.

A major component of this agenda item will be consideration of the report from the Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group (SMMTG), including the scoping paper that was developed through the SMMTG on “Approaches for Measuring and Monitoring the Effectiveness of Seabird Conservation Measures in SBT Longline Fisheries”. The SMMTG made several recommendations for future work, all of which will be considered here unless they have been assigned to other agenda items such as 5.2.1 or 10.

4.1.6 Recommend mitigation measures applicable to CCSBT Vessels

ERSWG should consider any relevant measures for seabirds that would be applicable to vessels fishing for SBT. This agenda item is also to consider conservation and management measures for recommending to the Extended Commission.

ERSWG 9 recognised that all three of the best practice mitigation measures should be applied in high risk areas, but the ERSWG has not identified high risk areas that require this level of mitigation. Members should consider presenting papers on this matter.

4.2 Sharks

4.2.1 Information on stock status

4.2.2 Information from other fisheries of relevance

4.2.3 Ecological risk assessment

ERSWG 10 encouraged Members to develop papers on ERA for non seabird species (in particular sharks) caught in SBT fisheries.

4.2.4 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

ERSWG 10's workplan specified that Japan, New Zealand and Australia, led by New Zealand, would work together on a stock assessment for porbeagle sharks in advance of the next ERSWG meeting. It is expected that the status of this work will be reported to the meeting.

4.2.5 Assessment of mitigation measures

See the first two paragraphs of the annotation for 4.1.5.

4.2.6 Recommend mitigation measures applicable to CCSBT Vessels

ERSWG should consider any relevant measures for sharks that would be applicable to vessels fishing for SBT. This agenda item is also to consider conservation and management measures for recommending to the Extended Commission.

4.3 Other ERS

The Secretariat will provide the meeting with any relevant new information from the IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA-Turtles).

4.3.1 Information on stock status

¹ ERSWG 9 specified that this would be a standing agenda item at future ERSWG meetings.

4.3.2 Information from other fisheries of relevance

4.3.3 Ecological risk assessment

ERSWG 10 encouraged Members to develop papers on ERA for non seabird species caught in SBT fisheries.

4.3.4 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

4.3.5 Assessment of mitigation measures

See the first two paragraphs of the annotation for 4.1.5.

4.3.6. Recommend mitigation measures applicable to CCSBT Vessels

ERSWG should consider any relevant measures for other ERS that would be applicable to vessels fishing for SBT. This agenda item is also to consider conservation and management measures for recommending to the Extended Commission.

4.4 Predator and prey species that may affect the condition of the SBT stock

As a standing agenda item, Members should provide relevant papers for consideration at the ERSWG meeting. In addition, the ERSWG 10 workplan specifies that New Zealand will report on its finalised stomach content work.

5. ERS Data Requirements

This agenda item is for discussion of data requirements to monitor the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures. This agenda item is also intended to cover initiatives that could lead to improvements in data.

5.1 ERSWG Data Exchange

As agreed at ERSWG 10, The Secretariat will provide summaries from the last ERSWG Data Exchange in advance of the meeting. This agenda item provides an opportunity to consider any changes in relation to the data exchange process and information.

5.2 Observer data

5.2.1 Consideration of SMMTG recommendations relating to observer programs

The SMMTG made recommendations regarding: (1) important metrics that should be provided for observer programs; (2) activities that could improve the quality of observer data; and (3) sharing of tRFMO observer documents, formats and procedures through a dedicated web portal such as BMIS. These recommendations will be considered here.

5.2.2 Draft Revision of the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards

ERSWG 10 produced a revised draft of the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program (SOPS) standards taking ERS data requirements into account. The draft was not finalised since some ERSWG Members expressed concern in relation to proposed recording of seabird mitigation measures for each set, and further work was required in relation to life status definitions for sharks and seabirds. The ERSWG Chair agreed to assist with the coordination of the life status work on sharks and ACAP offered to coordinate the work on seabird life status definitions. Since then, minor changes have also been made to the revised draft SOPS by the Compliance Committee. In addition, a meeting of the joint tuna RFMO bycatch working group on harmonisation of longline observer programs is scheduled to occur in January 2015 and the outcomes of this meeting will be relevant to consideration of the revised SOPS.

The ERSWG will hopefully finalise its revised draft SOPS at this meeting so that the revised SOPS can be considered by the Extended Scientific Committee and Extended Commission during 2015.

5.3 Electronic monitoring

Development of electronic monitoring systems is ongoing work. This agenda items provides an opportunity for participants to report on progress in this area.

6. Education and public relations activities
Education and public relation activities conducted by Members should be covered under agenda item 2, so they should not need to be discussed here. This agenda item is intended for discussion of any new activities that should be conducted by the CCSBT to enhance mitigation and/or data collection in relation to ERS.
7. Performance Review of the CCSBT
An independent Performance Review of the CCSBT was conducted during 2014. [The Report of the Performance Review is available from the CCSBT's website](#). CCSBT 21 considered the report and will be incorporating relevant recommendations from the report in a revised strategic plan. The Extended Commission (EC) also indicated that relevant subsidiary bodies could review technical recommendations and provide advice to the EC in relation to those recommendations.
A list of recommendations from the Performance Review is provided at Attachment 11 of the [Report of CCSBT 21](#). This list contains a column that denotes the subsidiary body to which each recommendation is relevant. The ERSWG may wish to consider the recommendations relevant to it and provide its views on these recommendation to the EC.
8. Future work program
 - 8.1 Review of progress with the work program from ERSWG 10
This agenda item will be dealt with early during the meeting.
 - 8.2 Future work program
This agenda item is to review new action items that need to be added to the ESRWG workplan. It will be dealt with towards the end of the meeting.
9. Other business
10. Referral of ERS matters for consideration by CCSBT subsidiary bodies
This agenda item is for matters that the ERSWG considers should be specifically referred to other subsidiary bodies of the CCSBT. This might include the SMMTG's suggestion of advising the Compliance Committee of seabird relevant data that could be collected from compliance led process such as port inspections.
11. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission
12. Conclusion
 - 12.1. Adoption of meeting report
 - 12.2. Recommendation of timing of next meeting
 - 12.3. Close of meeting