



CCSBT-EC/1510/09

Report from the Fourth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group

Purpose

To consider the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group (SFMWG 4).

The SFMWG met from 28-30 July 2015. The full report of the SFMWG 4 meeting is provided to CCSBT 22 as CCSBT-EC/1510/Rep04.

Summary of Outcomes from the SFMWG Meeting

The SFMWG considered five main items, these being:

1. Funding arrangements for the CCSBT's Scientific Research Program (SRP), particularly in relation to the scientific aerial survey;
2. Development of a revised CCSBT Strategic Plan;
3. Consideration of a Fisheries Management Plan;
4. Revised Minimum Performance Requirements for Ecologically Related Species; and
5. Nominations for the new Chair of the CCSBT Compliance Committee.

(1) Funding arrangements for the CCSBT's Scientific Research Program (SRP), particularly in relation to the scientific aerial survey

The SFMWG agreed that for the Management Procedure (MP) to be run in 2016 to recommend a TAC for 2018 to 2020, it would be necessary to conduct the scientific aerial survey in 2016. It was recommended that the scientific aerial survey be conducted in 2016 using "Option 2" from Table 1 of paper CCSBT-SFM/1507/09 (presented to CCSBT 22 as CCSBT-EC/1510/BGD01). The approximate cost of this option is estimated as being \$680,000.

The SFMWG recommended that the 2016 survey would be funded by an increase in Member contributions of no more than 10% together with a contribution of approximately \$330,000 from the Secretariat's cash reserves. It was confirmed that the final budget for 2016 would be decided during the October 2015 annual meeting.

After the SFMWG meeting, it was determined that "Option 2" could not be conducted unless a three year commitment to the aerial survey was made. This was described in CCSBT Circular #2015/052. Consequently, as specified in Circular #2015/053, it was decided to proceed with a hybrid of "Option 3", in which a reduced aerial survey would be conducted together with calibration of a new spotter. This option is estimated to cost between \$560,000 and \$640,000.

In order for the Extended Commission (EC) to make decisions on the MP, aerial survey and SRP beyond 2016, the SFMWG requested that the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) provide advice to the EC in 2015 on:

- The ESC's relative research priorities for 2016 to 2018 inclusive, noting that the research budget is limited;
- The costs and benefits of continuing with the current MP including conducting the aerial survey from 2017 to 2019; and
- Any preliminary consideration of alternatives to the current MP approach including an indication of their relative costs and benefits if possible.

Furthermore, recognising the ESC's task to run the MP in 2016 and that a review of the MP is scheduled for 2017, the SFMWG requested that the ESC commence assessment and provide as much advice as possible on the relative merits of the alternatives to our current approach to the MP for reporting back to the EC in 2016. This should consider questions in relation to the suitability (e.g. data quality and cost effectiveness) of developing an MP with recruitment information from sources other than the aerial survey (e.g. gene tagging, trolling survey, CPUE from young age classes etc.) or only with long-line CPUE.

It was also noted that unaccounted SBT mortalities was another issue that would need to be considered in a review of the MP and its application.

(2) Development of a revised CCSBT Strategic Plan

The SFMWG prepared a revised draft of the CCSBT Strategic Plan for consideration and finalisation by the EC if possible. Items highlighted within square brackets within the draft require further consideration by Members.

It was noted that further consideration of the recommendations from the 2014 Performance Review would be required after the EC's subsidiary bodies have provided their comments on the Performance Review recommendations. It was also noted that an Action Plan needs to be developed to provide a timeframe for implementation of the strategies within the Strategic Plan.

(3) Consideration of a Fisheries Management Plan

Some Members at the SFMWG expressed concern about the priority of developing a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) given the limited resources currently available. These Members indicated a preference to defer discussion until after more work has been completed on the revision of the Strategic Plan, and Members have been able to examine the Secretariat's Compendium of CCSBT measures which was in the final stages of development.

The SFMWG agreed in principle to support the development of a Fisheries Management Plan, but to re-consider the timing and resourcing of developing such a Plan at CCSBT 22

(4) Revised Minimum Performance Requirements for Ecologically Related Species

The SFMWG did not make progress with the draft revised Minimum Performance Requirements (MPRs) for Ecologically Related Species that were developed by New Zealand for the SFMWG's consideration. Instead, the SFMWG accepted Japan's offer to prepare a different proposal for discussion at CCSBT 22 that would add the relevant obligations Members have with other RFMOs to the existing MPRs for Ecologically Related Species.

(5) Nominations for the new Chair of the CCSBT Compliance Committee

The SFMWG considered the three nominations that were provided for the new Chair of the CCSBT Compliance Committee (CC). All nominations were considered to be excellent candidates, and Members agreed that all were suitable for the role of Chair of the Compliance Committee. The nominees were ranked in order of preference and the Executive Secretary was requested to contract the preferred nominee, Mr Frank Meere, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Compliance Committee.

Mr Meere was subsequently appointed to the role of Compliance Committee Chair to commence after CCSBT 22 as advised in CCSBT Circular #2015/047. Mr Meere will be attending CC 10 and CCSBT 22.