



CCSBT-CC/1110/05 rev1

Implementation of the CCSBT Transshipment Resolution

Background

The Resolution for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels was agreed at CCSBT15 in October 2008. A copy of the resolution is available from the CCSBT website at: http://www.ccsbt.org/docs/pdf/about_the_commission/Resolution_Transshipment.pdf

The program comprises of 3 main components:

- Record of Vessels Authorised to receive Transshipments at-sea,
- Regional Observer Program, and
- Deployment Requests and Transshipment Declarations.

The Transshipment resolution came into force on 1 April 2009.

To avoid the duplication of the same measures, ICCAT and IOTC observers are deemed to be participating in the CCSBT program, provided they meet the standards established in the CCSBT resolution. The CCSBT has signed Memorandums of Understanding with both ICCAT and IOTC regarding transshipments. These MOU's were provided in CCSBT-CC/1010/06 and are available from the Secretariat.

Summary of Transshipments

This report contains information for all SBT transshipments during 2010 calendar year and for transshipments during the first half of 2011 (until 30 June 2011).

A summary of transshipments, aggregated by flag and product type is contained in **Attachment A**. The Secretariat has not provided this summary on a vessel by vessel basis for confidentiality reasons, but has this information available if it is required by the Compliance Committee.

During 2010, the Secretariat received 64 transshipment declarations with transshipments of SBT totalling 967t.

Record of Vessels Authorised to receive Transshipments at-sea

The resolution requires that, prior to transshipping at sea, Members and Cooperating Non-Members must authorise their LSTLV's to tranship at sea. In addition, Members and Cooperating Non-members must provide a list of carrier vessels that are authorised to receive at-sea transshipments from its LSTLV's.

During 2010 there was a single incident where a transshipment took place while the Carrier Vessel was not authorised, however after follow up with the Authorising Flag, an authorisation was provided. As a result, all Fishing Vessels and Carrier Vessels have been authorised to perform the transshipments listed in Attachment A. No problems of this type have yet occurred during 2011.

Observer Requirements

All vessels transshipping SBT are required to have a CCSBT observer on board in accordance with the Regional Observer Program. The observer is required to submit a report on the transshipment within 20 days of the end of the period of observation.

Observer reports have been submitted for all transshipments during 2010.

In response to a request from the 5th meeting of the Compliance Committee, all IOTC and ICCAT transshipment observers are now trained in CCSBT requirements to more accurately monitor whether SBT are involved in transshipments where SBT was not declared.

Deployment Requests

Within the IOTC and ICCAT transshipment program, to enable deployment of observers, Members and Cooperating Non-Members intending to tranship SBT must submit a request for observer deployment. The “request for deployment form” also contains a requirement to specify whether SBT will be transhipped.

The Secretariat received observer deployment requests specifying that SBT was to be transhipped for approximately 82% of the SBT transshipments in 2010. Of these, 11% initially did not contain information about transshipments of SBT and were later revised. For the remaining 18% of SBT transshipments, deployment requests had been received, but either the fishing vessel that transhipped was not listed on the deployment request, or the vessel was listed, but did not indicate that a transshipment of SBT would take place.

This situation has improved significantly for transshipments during the first half of 2011, with 100% of SBT transshipments having correct observer deployment requests provided in advance of the transshipment. This improvement corresponds to the request from the Compliance Committee for improved notification of transshipments involving SBT from Members and CNMs. It is important to maintain this improvement as correct observer deployment requests are an important part of effective operation of this program.

Implementation Issues

One implementation issue remains with the transshipment resolution and this is that Observers are often unable to separate species during transshipments.

Information from the Observer reports, along with discussion with the Observer Consortia indicates that in many cases, it is not possible for the observer to separately identify SBT during transshipments. This is usually due to the fish being transhipped in frozen ‘strings’ containing a mix of species, in conjunction with the speed of transfers. This often results in the observer report recording ‘Mixed Tuna Species’.

Evidence from the Observer reports indicates that the two most commonly used methods to identify SBT both rely on information provided by the fishing vessel;

- To identify SBT, observers will often use the presence of tags that have been inserted by the fishing vessel. These are often domestic tags, and since the CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme was implemented on 1 January 2010, can also be the centralised CCSBT CDS tag.
- Where SBT can be visibly identified in a transfer (often using the above method), observers commonly use an average weight, multiplied by the estimated number, to calculate a total weight. The average weight is generally calculated using weights and numbers of fish provided by the fishing vessel.

Each of these methods relies on the fishing vessel providing correct and accurate information. Discussion with IOTC and the observer consortiums has not yielded a solution to the difficulty in identifying SBT during transshipments.

The situation has not improved significantly during 2011 despite a request by the CCSBT Compliance Committee that where possible, SBT should be transhipped separate to other tuna like species, in order to assist observers with identification.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Summary of Transhipments during 2010 Calendar Year

Fishing Vessel Flag	Number of Transhipments	Total SBT Weight declared (kg)	Product Type
Taiwan	37	400,202	GG
Japan	20	252,753	GG
Korea	5	264,384	GG
Korea	1	12,616	RD
Philippines	1	36,995	GG
	64	966,950	

Summary of Transhipments during the first half of 2011

Fishing Vessel Flag	Number of Transhipments	Total SBT Weight declared (kg)	Product Type
Taiwan	5	25,369	GG
Japan	3	27,778	GG
Korea	3	57,676	GG
Philippines	1	946	GG
	12	111,769	