



CCSBT-CC/1610/10

CCSBT Data Collection & Management Study

Introduction

The Compliance Action Plan (CAP - item 8.3.1b) includes an action item for 2016/17 to conduct a study to examine systems/processes to better integrate and/or improve the efficiency of the collection and management of data/information submitted in accordance with CCSBT's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS), Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and Observer and Transshipment Measures, particularly focusing on collecting the data/information once and as close to its original source as possible, and seeking to harmonise these with other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations' (RFMOs') systems and processes wherever possible.

The Tenth Meeting of the Compliance Committee (CC10) agreed that as a first step, the Secretariat should draft a Terms of Reference (ToR) for such a study, as well as seeking some indicative cost estimates.

Terms of Reference

The Secretariat developed a draft ToR during May/June 2016, and it is provided at **Attachment A** for Members' consideration.

The CAP action item (8.3.1b) specifies that the focus of the study is to better integrate and/or improve the efficiency of the collection and management of data/information submitted in accordance with CCSBT's CDS, VMS, Observer and Transshipment Measures. However, as part of the ToR drafting process, and to seek to maximise the efficiency of related data sets collected at origin, the Secretariat saw merit in including some additional related data sets. Therefore, collection of data for scientific data exchange requirements, the CCSBT authorised farm and fishing vessel Resolutions, and the new Resolution on Minimum Standards for Inspections in Port were also included in the scope of the draft ToR.

Indicative Quotes

In order to obtain some indicative cost estimates, in June 2016 the draft ToR was provided to three contractors known to have the technical expertise necessary to undertake this work. Each was asked to provide a 'ballpark' estimate of the cost of doing the work outlined in the draft ToR.

The three quotes submitted varied widely, ranging from approximately AUD \$30,000 to \$230,000, and are provided at **Attachments B, C and D** respectively. The large cost variation between quotes is thought to be primarily due to the varying degrees of detail proposed in the different studies. There would be scope to refine each of these cost estimates according to the specific needs of the CC. The Draft Budget for 2017 submitted to the Extended Commission (EC) includes only AUD \$30,000 for this study.

Note that because the information included in **Attachments B, C and D** is considered to be commercial-in-confidence, the Secretariat recommends that these attachments remain confidential.

Conclusion

Members are invited to:

- 1) Consider the draft ToR developed by the Secretariat and provide any comments and/or proposed amendments, and
- 2) Consider the wide range of 'ballpark' cost estimates provided to undertake the draft ToR, and recommend whether a data collection study should proceed and within what timeframe.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Draft Terms of Reference for a Study to Recommend Efficient Data Collection and Management Systems for the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

1. INTRODUCTION TO CCSBT

The CCSBT is a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) responsible for the management of southern bluefin tuna (SBT) throughout its distribution. Members of the CCSBT's Extended Commission comprise: Australia, the European Union, the Fishing Entity of Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand and South Africa. The Extended Commission has only one Cooperating Non-Member (CNM) which is the Philippines¹. SBT are farmed by one Member – Australia. The remainder of SBT caught is wild-caught, almost exclusively by longliners.

The CCSBT's objective is to ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of southern bluefin tuna.

2. PURPOSE and GOALS

The purpose of this study is to recommend best practice approaches to:

- optimise the efficiency, timeliness, cost effectiveness, and robustness of the collection and management of CCSBT data submitted in accordance with some of CCSBT's key Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs), and
- facilitate integration of the different types of data collected.

The study should consider opportunities to harmonise with other RFMOs' systems and processes if possible/ practical. Its focus should be to recommend ways of collecting the data/information once and as close to its original source as possible.

Noting this focus, consultants are required to:

- a) Provide recommendations on the best types of systems and processes that the CCSBT and its Members could use to:
 - i) provide maximum efficiency in terms of information collection, management and processing (including collation, verification, validation, amendment, reporting and submission of data) in accordance with CCSBT's CMMs listed in section 3a) – g) of these Terms of Reference (ToR); and
 - ii) best integrate the different types of data collected.
- b) Provide advice on how CCSBT could implement the recommendations in 'a)' above with minimal operational disruption and up-front capital costs². This advice could include options for phased implementation and/or voluntary adoption of the recommendations;
- c) Provide a concise description of any new information technology/ management tools, software and/or devices (if any) associated with the recommended approaches;
- d) Provide advice on whether the recommended approaches could be harmonised with systems and processes already in use by other (especially tuna) RFMOs/ Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs);

¹ For the remainder of this document all references to "Members" means both Members and CNMs

² Proposed approaches should recognise that fishing vessels catching SBT are often simultaneously engaged in fishing for other species, in other jurisdictions, and with different reporting requirements, or that SBT may be caught primarily as a bycatch species.

- e) Provide indicative cost estimates for each distinct component of the recommended approaches.

3. CCSBT Conservation and Management Measures

The primary CCSBT CMMs' information requirements to be considered in this study are the:

- a) Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)³;
- b) Transshipment Monitoring Program⁴;
- c) Minimum Standards for Inspections in Port;
- d) Scientific Observer Program Standards (each Member administers its own scientific observer program which should adhere to these standards);
- e) Scientific Data Exchange;
(particularly in relation to catch-effort and catch-at-size data);
- f) Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements; and
- g) CCSBT authorised farm and Fishing Vessel (FV) Resolutions.

Potential ways in which authorised farm, FV and Carrier Vessel (CV) records could be linked to other data/information types listed above should be considered.

Further background on these CMMs is available at **Attachment 1**.

4. REPORTING

A final report including an executive summary and describing the work conducted, findings, recommendations and indicative costs must be submitted to the CCSBT Executive Secretary no later than 31 August 2017⁵ to ensure that Members have time to consider the report prior to the next annual meeting of the Compliance Committee.

5. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT(S)

Consultant(s) will be expected to have an excellent knowledge of fisheries management and fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance systems (MCS), as well as operational knowledge of the tuna fishing industry, and extensive technical information collection and management experience.

³ The CCSBT CDS is currently paper-based but the CCSBT is considering the possibility of moving towards an electronic CDS in the future

⁴ The CCSBT Transshipment Resolution includes requirements that any receiving Carrier Vessels are CCSBT- authorised and that the CCSBT Secretariat maintains a Record of CVs authorised by the transshipping Member

⁵ Depending on cost, this study may need to be deferred by a year. If this occurs, then the report submission date will be adjusted accordingly to read as, "... no later than 31 August 2018".

ATTACHMENT 1

CDS

The CDS consists of five types of forms, and is administered by the CCSBT Secretariat. Whenever SBT are stocked into or transferred between farms, transhipped, landed domestically, exported or re-exported, the SBT need to be accompanied by the appropriate CDS form(s).

Forms are required to be submitted to the CCSBT Secretariat on a quarterly basis, and need to be certified by an appropriate person and then in most cases validated by the Member before submission. Forms may also be amended following initial submission. Validation is carried out by authorised validators, either of the Flag State Government or by delegated authorised individuals of the Flag State.

Transhipment Monitoring Program

CCSBT's transhipment CMM requires that Members pre-authorise CVs to which they wish to tranship SBT in port or at sea. Members submit these authorisations to the CCSBT Secretariat which maintains a formal Record of authorised Carrier Vessels.

CCSBT has in place Transhipment Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with both the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). These MoUs deem that ICCAT and IOTC transhipment observers are CCSBT transhipment observers in cases where transhipments at sea involve SBT. Transhipment observers, their deployment and reporting are coordinated by MRAG Ltd.

Transhipment observer deployment requests, transhipment declarations and transhipment observer reports are provided to the CCSBT Secretariat by either ICCAT or IOTC. Where SBT transhipments occur in port, transhipment declarations may be sent directly to the CCSBT Secretariat by the master of the receiving Carrier Vessel. Masters of receiving CVs sometimes also send at-sea transhipment declarations direct to the CCSBT Secretariat. Transhipment information is received by the CCSBT Secretariat throughout the SBT fishing season as it becomes available.

Any transhipments of SBT from a fishing vessel must also be recorded on the associated CDS Catch Monitoring Forms (CMFs).

Minimum Standards for Inspections in Port

This is a new CCSBT CMM that will come into effect from 1 January 2017. Each year, Port State Members are required to inspect at least 5% of landing and transhipment operations made by foreign fishing vessels in their designated ports. Each inspection report produced must then be submitted to the CCSBT Secretariat, and should include a list of any apparent infringements detected. If apparent infringements were detected, then a copy of the inspection report must also be sent to the Flag State Member, who should investigate the alleged infringement(s) and notify the CCSBT Secretariat of any enforcement action taken within six months of the receipt of the inspection report.

Scientific Observer Program Standards

Responsibility for the operation of a Scientific Observer Program in accordance with the CCSBT Scientific Observer Program Standards lies with the fishing vessel Flag Member. The program should cover the fishing activity of CCSBT Members wherever SBT are targeted or are a significant bycatch. The target observer coverage is 10% for catch and effort monitoring for each fishery, and coverage should also include different vessel-types in distinct areas and times. Highly aggregated scientific observer program data for Ecologically Related Species are submitted to the CCSBT Secretariat annually.

Scientific Data Exchange

The CCSBT has requirements for an annual exchange of specified scientific data. Amongst other things, this includes exchange of aggregated (year, month, gear, 5*5) catch-effort and catch-at-size data.

VMS

VMS data are collected and retained by Members themselves and are not part of a centralised VMS repository administered by the CCSBT Secretariat. VMS data are not required to be submitted to the CCSBT Secretariat as part of CCSBT's regular reporting requirements. However, there may be occasional requests for their submission in specific circumstances.

Authorised Farm and Authorised Vessel Resolutions

The Authorised Farm and Vessel Resolutions underpin the CCSBT CDS.

The CCSBT Secretariat maintains a CCSBT record of farming facilities authorised to operate for farming of SBT. SBT farms not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorised to farm SBT. Updates to this record are received annually, but a few small updates are sometimes also provided throughout the year.

In addition, the CCSBT Secretariat maintains a CCSBT Record of fishing vessels (FVs) authorised to fish for SBT. FVs not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land SBT regardless of their size. Members submit a list of currently authorised FVs at least annually and often amend this list much more frequently, with one Member submitting updates approximately fortnightly.

This attachment is only available in the Members version of this report

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