



CCSBT-EC/1610/13

## Cooperating Non-members

### Purpose

To discuss the on-going status of existing Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) and consider any new applications for CNM status.

### Existing Cooperating Non-Members

The CCSBT has one Cooperating Non-Member, which is the Philippines. The Resolution establishing the status of Cooperating Non-Membership requires annual confirmation of that status after the Extended Commission (EC) has evaluated the performance of CNMs against commitments given to the Extended Commission.

The Philippines has been complying with the CCSBT's monthly catch reporting requirements and through this process, the Philippines has reported that it did not catch SBT in 2015, or so far (January to July) in 2016.

CCSBT 22 considered the performance of CNMs during 2015 and confirmed the continuing CNM status of the Philippines. CCSBT 22 also requested that the Philippines:

- attend future annual meetings; and
- respond to the request from the Compliance Committee in relation to the Philippines annual report.

The Secretariat wrote to the Philippines on 27 November 2015 with the request from CCSBT 22 (see Attachment A). The Philippines provided an interim response on 3 December 2015, advising that it would prepare its reply. The interim response from the Philippines stated that:

*“As far as 2015 is concerned, the Philippines did not have any vessel operating in the Indian Ocean area as they were sold. However, the fishing operators were busy trying to acquire newer second hand fishing vessels.”*

At the time of preparing this paper, the full reply from the Philippines had not been received.

The September 2016 meeting of the Extended Scientific Committee noted that the Philippines did not provide a national report to the meeting and requested that reports be provided in the future. This request has been forwarded to the Philippines. In addition, the Secretariat routinely reminds CNMs to submit national reports to relevant meetings in advance of those meetings.

Annual assessments of compliance with CCSBT management measures are conducted by the Compliance Committee. Consequently, for information concerning any current significant issues of non-compliance by CNMs, the EC is referred to the report of the 2016 annual meeting of the Compliance Committee, which is being held immediately before the annual meeting of the EC. In the interim, Attachments A and B of paper CCSBT-CC/1610/07 provide information concerning the compliance of both Members and CNMs with CCSBT measures (particularly reporting requirements and the TAC).

**Prepared by the Secretariat**

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会

27 November 2015

Atty. Asis G. Perez  
Director  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Department of Agriculture  
Republic of the Philippines

Dear Atty. Perez,

I am pleased to inform you that the Extended Commission has renewed the Philippines' status as a Cooperating Non-Member of the Extended Commission.

In renewing the Philippines' status, the Extended Commission asked me to express its disappointment that the Philippines did not attend the annual meetings of the Compliance Committee or the Extended Commission. The Extended Commission has requested that the Philippines attend future annual meetings.

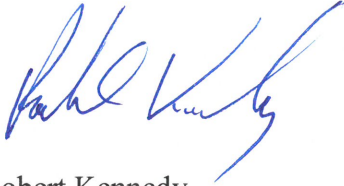
The Extended Commission has also requested that the Philippines respond to questions posed by the Compliance Committee in relation to the annual report submitted to the CCSBT by the Philippines.

In the absence of the Philippines at the Compliance Committee meeting, the following questions and comments were made and it was agreed that the Executive Secretary would forward these to the Philippines and to circulate the Philippines' response to CCSBT Members.

- *The Philippines report states that three vessels were authorised to fish for SBT, but that only one vessel caught SBT. Is this correct and did the three vessels share a common ownership?*
- *What is the size of each of the three vessels mentioned in the report?*
- *The report states that: "We are using Olympic system and the vessel owner is informed when catch allocation is approximately 90% of the catch. When such a situation occurs, discussions are made between the fishing vessels operator on how best to avoid exceeding the limit." The meeting noted that this approach is only possible due to the small number of vessels and it was recommended that the Philippines consider a different approach in the future, particularly if the number of authorised vessels increases.*
- *It was noted that there was no observer coverage, but that if three vessels are operating, at least one should have been observed.*
- *The report states that "The Captain of the fishing vessel is required to monitor the quantity being transhipped at port". Please clarify if it is actually the Captain that monitors the quantity transhipped at port.*

I would appreciate it if you could respond to the questions and consider the comments at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Kennedy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Kennedy  
Executive Secretary