



CCSBT-EC/2110/12

Draft Agenda for ERSWG 14

Introduction

The Fourteenth Meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG 14) was originally provisionally planned to be held in early 2021. During May 2020, it was agreed that ERSWG 14 would be postponed to February/March 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Circular #2020/047).

Circular #2021/027 announced that the agreed tentative dates for the 2022 ERSWG meeting are 21-25 March 2022. These dates are for a virtual ERSWG meeting, which seems more likely than a physical meeting. The draft budget for 2022 also assumes that the 2022 ERSWG meeting will be a virtual meeting. If it is decided that a physical ERSWG meeting can be held, the meeting would be held from 22-25 March 2022.

A Draft Annotated Agenda for ERSWG 14 is attached for Members' consideration.

At CCSBT 27, the Extended Commission agreed that when it considers the agenda for the 2022 ERSWG meeting, it would discuss whether to include ERS issues raised in the pre-meeting documents prepared for the meetings of the CC and EC including the following topics that were suggested by NGOs:

1. Consideration of the recommendations from the December 2019 meeting of the joint tuna RFMO by-catch working group meeting for any required action by the CCSBT;
2. Consideration of what implications there may be for interpreting catch of ERS species due to the CPUE alternative standardisation adopted at the ESC and what that means for ERS; and
3. Improvements to ERS reporting.

Item "1" above is covered by agenda item 3. Item "2" has not been included because the ERSWG has not used standardised CPUE from the ESC. Item "3" is covered by agenda item 2.2.

Members are invited to propose changes to the draft ERSWG 14 agenda.



Draft Agenda
Fourteenth meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
21 – 25 March 2022
Online

1. Opening

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.2 Adoption of Document List

1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Members will be asked to nominate rapporteurs for agenda items 4-6. 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 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. In accordance with the ERSWG's workplan, the Secretariat will use Members' data to also produce Table 1 from the template as a trial. 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 Secretariat report on the ERSWG Data Exchange

The Secretariat will provide summaries of the data from the annual ERSWG Data Exchange¹. This agenda item also provides an opportunity to consider changes in relation to the data exchange process and associated information.

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 <https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/attendance-meetings-observers>) will be invited to attend and to present a report to the meeting. Members and observers may also present relevant meeting reports from organisations not present at the ERSWG meeting. The ERSWG will consider relevant recommendations of these reports.

4. Review of progress with the work program from ERSWG 13

*The work program from ERSWG 13 is provided at **Attachment A**. The ERSWG will review progress with the work program..*

5. 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 effects of ERS on the condition of the SBT stock, and to provide advice on any measures that might be needed for the mitigation of risks. **Members and observers are requested to develop and submit papers in advance of the meeting on the following agenda items.***

¹ Members that wish to conduct their own analysis of these data can obtain an amalgamated spreadsheet of these data from the "ERSWG Data Exchange" section of the "General Private Area" of the CCSBT website. A highly aggregated public version of the data is available at https://www.ccsbt.org/userfiles/file/data/ERSWG_Data.xlsx.

5.1 Seabirds

5.1.1 Information on stock status

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.

5.1.2 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

This agenda item provides an opportunity to consider methods for estimating total seabird mortality and for reviewing any mortality estimates provided by Members.

5.1.3 Ecological risk assessment

The ERSWG 13 work program specifies that New Zealand will lead work, with collaboration from Members, to update the seabird Ecological Risk Assessment, together with updated identification of high-risk areas for ERSWG 14. The ERSWG will review the outcome of this work.

5.1.4 Assessment and advice on mitigation measures

This is a standing item on the ERSWG agenda for the ERSWG to review current measures and provide advice on any changes that might be needed.

5.1.5 Use of new 5*5 by quarter data

*The ERSWG 13 work program specifies that New Zealand will investigate the use of the new 5*5 by quarter data provided for the modified ERSWG Data Exchange, for analyses of issues relating to seabird bycatch.*

5.1.6 Seabird species identification

Updates on any improvements in seabird identification practices or methodology.

5.1.7 Multi-year seabird strategy

ERSWG 13 developed the overall objective and five specific objectives for the [CCSBT Multi-year Seabird Strategy](#). CCSBT 26 adopted these objectives. ERSWG 13's work program specifies that Australia, with collaboration from all Members, will develop a revised draft list of strategic actions under each of the specific objectives of the [Multi-year seabird strategy for ERSWG 14](#). The ERSWG will discuss the draft strategic actions.

5.2 Sharks

5.2.1 Information on stock status

Members should provide information on the stock status of shark species relevant to the CCSBT.

5.2.3 Estimates of ERS mortality and associated uncertainty

This agenda item provides an opportunity to consider methods for estimating total shark mortality and for reviewing any mortality estimates provided by Members.

5.3 Other ERS

Members and observers are encouraged to present information concerning the impacts of fishing for SBT on other ERS such as sea turtles and marine mammals etc.

6. Education and public relations activities

This is a highly important agenda item to ensure full implementation of agreed mitigation measures. 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. This will include an update on the "Project proposal for enhancing education on and implementation of Ecologically Related Species seabird measures within CCSBT fisheries" which has been developed jointly between the CCSBT and BirdLife International.

7. Consideration of recommendations from the Performance Review of the CCSBT
The report of the CCSBT Performance Review is scheduled to be submitted on 1 March 2022. The ERSWG will consider recommendations relating to ERS and provide the EC with feedback from the ERSWG on these specific recommendations.
8. Future work program
The ERSWG will develop an updated work program from matters raised during the previous agenda items together with any additional work items that need to be considered.
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.
11. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission
The ERSWG will develop a list of recommendation and advice to the Extended Commission from matters raised during the previous agenda items.
12. Conclusion
 - 12.1. Adoption of meeting report
 - 12.2. Recommendation on timing of the next meeting
 - 12.3. Close of meeting

ERSWG 13 Workplan

(An additional column has been added to the workplan to indicate where each item will be discussed within the ERSWG 14 Agenda. The default agenda item for discussion of workplan activities is agenda item 4 unless there is a more appropriate agenda item for the specific content)

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	Proposed ERSWG14 Agenda Item
1. Refine the proposal “to enhance the implementation of ERS measures through outreach/education and to verify compliance with measures”.	CC 14	BirdLife, Secretariat, Members	6
2. Provide the Report of ERSWG13 to the other tuna RFMOs when it is made public.	November 2019	Secretariat	4
3. Share documents, formats and procedures for observer and electronic monitoring, seabird bycatch data collection through a centralised portal, e.g. the Bycatch Mitigation Information System hosted by WCPFC.	July 2020	Members, Secretariat	4
4. Provide revised historical data for the EDE that includes all mortalities (i.e. both discard mortalities and retained commercial catch).	July 2020	Australia, Korea	4
5. Provide 2019 EDE data in accordance with the new EDE template. Members are also encouraged to voluntarily provide revised historical data in the same format.	July 2020	All Members	2.2
6. Translate the ACAP seabird species identification guide into key languages (e.g. Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese) and by establishing a reference library of seabird bycatch photographs to assist observers in identifying bycaught seabirds to specific levels.	July 2020	CCSBT and ACAP Secretariats, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan	5.1.6
7. Customise ACAP guidelines for photographing and sampling dead bycaught seabirds for DNA, as an additional aid to identifying seabirds to specific levels. The ACAP guides to photographing dead seabirds and collecting feather samples for DNA analysis provide a template for the improved procedures and methods.	December 2020	CCSBT and ACAP Secretariats	5.1.6
8. Trial production of Table 1 of the revised ERSWG annual report template for each Member.	ERSWG 14	Secretariat, Members	2
9. Develop a template for summarising the key points of the ERSWG report that could be provided to other tuna RFMOs in the future.	ERSWG 14	Chair, Secretariat	4
10. Investigate the use of the new 5*5 by quarter to be provided for the modified ERSWG Data Exchange, for analyses of issues relating to seabird bycatch.	ERSWG 14	New Zealand	5.1.5

Activity	Approximate Period	Resource	Proposed ERSWG14 Agenda Item
11. Update the seabird Ecological Risk Assessment, together with updated identification of high-risk areas.	ERSWG 14	New Zealand lead with collaboration from Members	5.1.3
12. Develop a revised draft list of strategic actions under each of the specific objectives of the Multi-year seabird strategy.	ERSWG 14	Australia with collaboration from all Members	5.1.7

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