



CCSBT-EC/0810/15

Ecologically Related Species Working Group

Purpose

To discuss the convening of the ERS Working Group in 2009 and any guidance from the Extended Commission to the Working Group.

Discussion

The ERS Working Group last met in July 2007 and has normally been convened every second year. A meeting would be held in 2009 to conform to this practice.

There has been some concern over the operations of the ERS Working Group and the status or ERS issues under the Convention. Despite having met on seven occasions, very few fishery management issues have been decided by the Extended Commission on the basis of advice from the Working Group.

The self assessment of the Performance Review noted that “A strategy for dealing with ERS issues with a clear objective of improving the environmental performance of the fishery will provide transparency to the actions of the CCSBT and improve international perceptions of its effectiveness”(page 27 of the report)

The independent expert, David Balton, who reviewed the self assessment advised that the CCSBT should “move promptly to reduce the impacts of SBT fisheries on ecologically related species, including sharks, seabirds, sea turtles and other tuna species” (page 8 of his report).

Japan has submitted a paper for consideration under this item – CCSBT-EC/0810/27.

Prepared by the Secretariat