



CCSBT-EC/1110/15

Relationship with Non-members

Purpose

To provide an update concerning discussion or issues with Non-Member and Non-CNM (Cooperating Non-Member) countries.

Discussion

Since CCSBT 17, the Secretariat has corresponded with 5 countries in relation to cooperation with the CCSBT CDS as follows:

(1) USA

Background: At the request of the Extended Commission, the Secretariat wrote to the USA in December 2009 to seek cooperation with the CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme. The USA responded during January 2010 stating that it would be working on transitioning to an electronic trade monitoring system during 2010 and would review its ability to respond to the CCSBT's request as part of that process.

Action since CCSBT 17: The Secretariat sent an electronic reminder to the USA during July 2011 to seek advice from the USA on progress with that transition and the consideration of CCSBT's request. A response has yet to be received.

(2) China

Background: At the request of the Extended Commission, the Secretariat wrote to China in December 2009, to seek cooperation with the CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme. Electronic reminders were sent on 15 March 2010 and again on 12 August 2010. No response was received.

Action since CCSBT 17: The Executive Secretary spoke with the Director of China's Division of International Cooperation in the Bureau of Fisheries during February 2011 at COFI and was advised that because China is not a Member or Cooperating Non-Member of the CCSBT, it is not currently able to implement CCSBT's requirements in relation to the CCSBT CDS. However the Director indicated that his office monitors seafood imports into China and that his office will consider reporting large imports of southern bluefin tuna to the CCSBT in the future. This conversation was followed up by the Secretariat with a letter to China in March 2011 to confirm the conversation and to encourage provision of any information that China is able to provide in the future on the import or landing of southern bluefin tuna into China. No further response has been received.

(3) Mauritius and Namibia

Background: CCSBT 17 agreed that the Executive Secretary should write to port states that may be involved with SBT fisheries to seek cooperation and that the States to be written to would include Namibia and Mauritius.

Action since CCSBT 17: The Executive Secretary had discussions with Namibia's Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Mauritius's Director of Fisheries during February 2011 at COFI. These discussions were followed by a letter to both countries in March 2011 seeking cooperation with the CCSBT. No response has been received from Namibia, but Mauritius responded positively as shown in Attachment A (and distributed to Members in CCSBT Circular #2011/043).

(4) Singapore

Background: In May 2011 the CCSBT became aware of difficulties with an Australian shipment of SBT that had been re-exported from Singapore to Japan. Due to the requirements of the CCSBT CDS, these re-exported SBT could not be accepted by CCSBT Members or CNMs.

Action since CCSBT 17: Following intersessional discussion with Members, the Secretariat wrote to Singapore in June 2011 to seek Singapore's cooperation with the CCSBT's CDS. Such cooperation would enable SBT re-exports from Singapore, such as those mentioned above, to be accepted by CCSBT Members and CNMs. Singapore replied in June 2011 advising that the Commission's request would receive Singapore's utmost consideration. This correspondence was distributed to Members in CCSBT Circular #2011/039. Since then, Singapore and the Secretariat have corresponded concerning the details of what cooperation with the CCSBT's CDS would involve. Singapore has yet to finalise its decision on this matter.



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

In reply please quote

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15 June 2011

Dear Sir,

CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme

With reference to you letter dated 10 March 2011 in connection with the above.

2 I am directed to inform you that, in a spirit to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing activity, Mauritius will cooperate with the CCSBT as usual.

Yours faithfully

D. Norungee
For Supervising Officer

**To Mr. Robert Kennedy
Executive Secretary,
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,
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