

Provisional Agenda
Tenth meeting of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group
28 - 31 August 2013
Canberra, Australia

1. Opening

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

1.2 Adoption of Document List

Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) will be asked to assign documents to specific agenda items when they provide the documents to the Secretariat.

1.3 Appointment of Rapporteurs

Members will be asked to nominate rapporteurs for agenda item 4 and parts of item 5. 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 and CNMs will prepare and provide annual reports to the ERSWG in accordance with the agreed template (attached). Participants are reminded that ERSWG 9 noted that “more efforts should be made to provide all information contained within the template for annual reports to the ERSWG”. In particular, no Member provided the required information on the level of compliance with mitigation measures in their reports to ERSWG 9. The meeting noted that level of application of mandatory and voluntary mitigation measures needed to be part of future annual reporting (as specified in the template) as this allows assessment of the efficacy of the mitigation measures and thus provides input to research planning and effective risk management response.

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 Cooperating Non-Members

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 http://www.ccsbt.org/site/observers_attendance.php) will be invited to attend and to present a report to the meeting. Members and CNMs may also present relevant reports from organisations not present at the ERSWG meeting. The Chair will provide an update of any work by the Joint Tuna RFMO Technical Bycatch Working Group. In cases where information from other organisations is relevant to specific later agenda items, the detailed information should be presented at the later specific agenda items instead of here.

4. 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 identification of any additional measures that might be needed for the mitigation of these risks. Members and CNMs are requested to develop and submit papers in advance of the meeting on the following agenda items. Specific requests from ERSWG 9 for work to be conducted by ERSWG 10 are provided in annotations under the relevant sub agenda items.

4.1 Seabirds

In accordance with the request from ERSWG 9, 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.

4.1.1 Information on stock status

4.1.2 Information from other fisheries of relevance

4.1.3 Ecological risk assessment

ERSWG 9 requested that New Zealand update the CCSBT seabird ERA to include global tracking data from Birdlife International. There would also be value in defining high risk areas for seabirds¹.

4.1.4 Future analyses to obtain improved estimates of ERS mortality and estimates of uncertainty

Amongst other things, the meeting should consider responses from other tuna RFMOs² to ERSWG 9's offer lead global work on assessment of the impacts of fishing for tunas on seabirds and, if supported, consider how to progress the work.

4.1.5 Assessment of mitigation measures

Participants should report results from recent mitigation research aimed at assessing the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and provide updates on current and planned mitigation research.

The meeting should also evaluate the effectiveness of ERS measures adopted by area-based RFMOs for mitigating the risks of fishing for SBT³ and advise whether any additional or different measures may be required while fishing for SBT, noting the particular characteristics of SBT fisheries. The Secretariat will provide an update of its paper on ERS mitigation measures of other tuna RFMOs as requested by ERSWG 9.

4.1.6 Recommend mitigation measures applicable to CCSBT Vessels

ERSWG should consider any relevant measures for seabirds that would be applicable to vessels fishing for SBT. This agenda item is also to consider conservation and management measures for recommending to the Extended Commission.

4.2 Sharks

4.2.1 Information on stock status

ERSWG 9 requested that Japan, New Zealand and Australia work together on a stock assessment for porbeagle sharks.

4.2.2 Information from other fisheries of relevance

4.2.3 Ecological risk assessment

ERSWG 9 encouraged Members to develop papers on ERA for non seabird species (in particular sharks) caught in SBT fisheries.

4.2.4 Future analyses to obtain improved estimates of ERS mortality and estimates of uncertainty

Amongst other things, the meeting should consider responses from other tuna RFMOs² to ERSWG 9's offer lead global work on assessment of the impacts of fishing for tunas on porbeagle sharks and, if supported, consider how to progress the work.

4.2.5 Assessment of mitigation measures

See annotation for 4.1.5.

4.2.6 Recommend mitigation measures applicable to CCSBT Vessels

ERSWG should consider any relevant measures for sharks that would be applicable to vessels fishing for SBT. This agenda item is also to consider conservation and management measures for recommending to the Extended Commission.

¹ In three places, the ERSWG 9 report referred to mitigation measures that should be applied in high risk areas without defining those areas.

² So far, only ICCAT has responded to the ERSWG's offer. ICCAT's response did not show much enthusiasm for the ERSWG's offer.

³ ERSWG 9 specified that this would be a standing agenda item at future ERSWG meetings.

4.3 Other ERS

In accordance with the request from ERSWG 9, the Secretariat has written to the IOSEA Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA-Turtles) and will submit the paper that IOSEA-Turtles provided in response.

4.3.1 Information on stock status

4.3.2 Information from other fisheries of relevance

4.3.3 Ecological risk assessment

ERSWG 9 encouraged Members to develop papers on ERA for non seabird species caught in SBT fisheries.

4.3.4 Future analyses to obtain improved estimates of ERS mortality and estimates of uncertainty

4.3.5 Assessment of mitigation measures

See annotation for 4.1.5.

4.3.6. Recommend mitigation measures applicable to CCSBT Vessels

ERSWG should consider any relevant measures for other ERS that would be applicable to vessels fishing for SBT. This agenda item is also to consider conservation and management measures for recommending to the Extended Commission.

4.4 Predator and prey species that may affect the condition of the SBT stock

ERSWG 9 requested that Members provide relevant papers for consideration at the next ERSWG meeting. In addition, New Zealand advised ERSWG 9 that it will provide a report on its stomach content work with updated data from 2006.

5. ERS Data Requirements

This agenda item is for discussion of data requirements to monitor the impact of fishing for SBT on ERS and to assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures. This agenda item is also intended to cover initiatives that could lead to improvements in data.

5.1 ERSWG Data Exchange

CCSBT 19 agreed to the details of an annual [ERSWG Data Exchange](#). ERSWG 10 will be the first opportunity for Members to review the data exchange process and the information provided. It is recommended that the meeting review the data exchange to identify any difficulties that occurred and to recommend improvements as appropriate.

5.2 Observer data

ERSWG 9 agreed that there was a need to develop a set of minimum requirements for observer data, taking into account the potential for harmonisation across RFMOs. It was recommended that this work be performed intersessionally and be facilitated by the Secretariat. This agenda item is to consider and discuss the outcomes of intersessional work on the minimum requirements.

5.3 Electronic monitoring

ERSWG 9 requested that Members provide further details on the use of electronic monitoring systems for collecting information on ERS interactions.

5.4 Identification guides

ERSWG 9 recommended that Birdlife International, ACAP, Members and CNMs collaborate to develop protocols for the improved identification of seabirds. This agenda item is for reporting progress with these protocols and discussing further action.

6. Education and public relations activities

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.

6.1 Updated CCSBT ERS pamphlets

The Secretariat has finalised the updated ERS pamphlets as agreed at ERSWG 9 and copies of the pamphlets, translated to all Member languages, have been placed on the CCSBT web site near the bottom of the [ByCatch Mitigation](#) page. These pamphlets will be provided as information documents to the meeting. The ERSWG should consider whether it wishes to conduct further work in relation to these pamphlets.

7. Future work program

8. Other business

9. Referral of ERS matters for consideration by CCSBT subsidiary bodies

This agenda item has been added because the ERSWG may consider matters that should be specifically referred to other subsidiary bodies of the CCSBT. For example, any recommended changes to minimum observer data collection requirements should be referred to the Extended Scientific Committee for its consideration. Similarly the ERSWG may have ERS compliance issues or compliance monitoring requests to refer to the Compliance Committee for its consideration.

10. Recommendations and advice to the Extended Commission

Recommendations on the risk to ERS of fishing for SBT, provide a summary of what other RFMOs are doing to mitigate these risks and to advise the Extended Commission on consideration of any conservation and management measures put forward by Members.

11. Conclusion

11.1. Adoption of meeting report

11.2. Recommendation of timing of next meeting

11.3. Close of meeting