



CCSBT-EC/1410/13

Cooperating Non-members

Purpose

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

Existing Cooperating Non-Members

The CCSBT has three Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs), the European Union, the Philippines and South Africa. The resolution establishing the status of Cooperating Non-Membership requires annual confirmation of that status after evaluation by the Extended Commission (EC) of the performance of CNMs against commitments given to the Extended Commission.

CCSBT 20 considered the performance of CNMs. The report of CCSBT 20 noted that:

“94. The meeting expressed its serious concerns about South Africa’s continued overcatches and affirmed the Compliance Committee’s request that South Africa implement a plan to remedy its overcatch and to report all required information in its Annual Report. In particular, instead of reporting operations by the charter or domestic fleets, South Africa is requested to further break this down by the type of target fishery.”

The Secretariat advised South Africa of the EC’s concerns and request soon after CCSBT 20.

At CCSBT 19, the EC also expressed concern about South Africa’s overcatch

“68. The meeting also confirmed South Africa’s continuing CNM status, but noted its serious concerns about South Africa’s overcatches which had occurred in both 2011 and 2012. Indonesia’s agreement to continuing South Africa’s CNM status was subject to South Africa improving its future compliance with CCSBT Measures. Members encouraged South Africa to accede to the Convention as soon as possible. South Africa thanked the EC for renewing South Africa’s CNM status and reconfirmed its commitment to comply with its quota allocated by CCSBT.”

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 2014 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/1410/04 provide information concerning the compliance of both Members and CNMs with CCSBT measures (particularly reporting requirements and the TAC).

New Cooperating Non-Members

Since CCSBT 20, both Liberia and Fiji have expressed interest in becoming a CNM of the CCSBT:

- Liberia has applied for CNM status with the CCSBT because it has a large number of reefer vessels in its registry that can participate in transshipment activities. However, CNM status of the CCSBT is intended solely as a means for non-Member States and entities whose fishing vessels harvest SBT or through whose exclusive economic or fishery zone SBT migrates to cooperate with the CCSBT. Liberia does not meet these SBT fishing or EEZ criteria. The Secretariat has advised Liberia that it does not meet this criteria, but that it does not require CNM status for its reefer vessels to participate in SBT transshipments.
- Fiji has expressed interest in becoming a CNM of the Extended Commission. According to Fiji, its southern border has a large block of high seas that extends to the northern border of New Zealand's EEZ. Some of Fiji's vessels fish in this high seas block, target albacore tuna and on occasion catch SBT.

The EC was advised of Liberia and Fiji's interest in becoming a CNM through Circular #2014/032. Fiji has been invited to attend CCSBT 21 as an observer.