



CCSBT-EC/1410/04

Report from the Secretariat

Overview

This report provides a summary of the main activities of the Secretariat since the Twentieth Annual Meeting in October 2013. The report contains one recommendation for the Extended Commission's consideration, which is that:

- CCSBT's Resolution to Establish the Status of Co-operating Non-Member be updated to reflect the main changes that have occurred in CCSBT's conservation and management measures since 2003.

The report also notes that Professor Hilborn has resigned from the CCSBT's Scientific Advisory Panel. Professor Hilborn has been involved with SBT for 20 years and he has made a significant contribution to the CCSBT's scientific process during that time. The Extended Commission will need to consider whether it wishes to appoint a replacement panel member and the desired skills for such a replacement.

Officials of the CCSBT

The following official positions in the CCSBT were nominated, appointed or held during 2014.

Officer	Name	Date nominated / appointed
Chair - CCSBT	Mr Don MacKay	24 July 2014
Vice Chair - CCSBT	Ms Jungre Kim	10 March 2014
Chair - Compliance Committee	Mr Stan Crothers	23 October 2009* ¹
Chair - SC/ESC	Dr John Annala	7 May 2007* ²
Chair - ERSWG	Mr Alexander Morison	22 February 2011* ³
Scientific Advisory Panel	Prof. Ray Hilborn* ⁴ , Dr Jim Ianelli, Dr Ana Parma, Prof John Pope	2000 to 2001

*¹ The third two year term of the Chair of the Compliance Committee (CC) expires after CCSBT 22. The CC Terms of Reference only provides for the CC Chair to be reappointed twice.

*² The SC/ESC Chair's current contract expires on 10 May 2016. There is no limit to the number of reappointments for this position.

*³ The ERSWG Chair is appointed for a term of at least two ERSWG meetings with the possibility of extension. There are two ERSWG meetings remaining in the Chair's appointment, these being ERSWG 11 & ERSWG 12.

*⁴ Professor Hilborn resigned from the Scientific Advisory Panel on 6 September 2014 (see CCSBT Circular #2014/046).

Secretariat Staff and Office Management

The Secretariat's staff comprised 5 full-time positions and 1 casual, part-time position during 2014. These were:

- Executive Secretary
- Deputy Executive Secretary
- Database Manager
- Compliance Manager
- Office Administrator (1 position, but shared by two people)
- Data Entry Officer (casual, part-time)

The contract of the Executive Secretary has been renewed in accordance with the decision of CCSBT 20. There have also been two changes in the staff of the Secretariat since CCSBT 20. A new Database Manager (Mr Colin Millar) commenced work on 25 November 2013 to replace Mr Simon Morgan, and a new part-time Office Administrator (Ms Misato Hori) commenced on 3 February 2014 to replace Ms Kozue Loghem. Both changes had been anticipated and were reported to CCSBT 20 as part of the Report of the Secretariat in 2013. The remaining part-time Office Administrator (Ms Mari Warren) will finish work for the Secretariat on 24 September 2014. From December 2014, an intern, funded by Korea, will commence work in the Secretariat for training and development purposes.

Financial

The preparation of CCSBT's Financial Statements for 2013 was conducted according to schedule. The Financial Statements were reviewed by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and distributed to Members in Circular #2014/015. The outcomes of ANAO's review were positive and no items of concern were identified.

An operating surplus in the general budget of approximately \$227,000 is estimated for 2014. A comparison between the approved 2014 budget and the estimated outcome is included in meeting document CCSBT-EC/1410/05.

A draft budget for 2015 has been prepared for the Extended Commission's consideration and is presented in meeting document CCSBT-EC/1410/06.

Organisation of CCSBT Meetings and intersessional discussion following meetings

The Secretariat organised, or is in the process of organising, the following CCSBT meetings during 2014:

Third Meeting of the Compliance Committee Working Group (in conjunction with Korea ¹)	7-11 April 2014
Fifth Operating Model and Management Procedure Technical Meeting	24-27 June 2014
Nineteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee, incorporating the Extended Scientific Committee	1-6 September 2014
Ninth Meeting of the Compliance Committee	9-11 October 2014
Twenty First Annual Meeting of the Commission, incorporating the Extended Commission	13-16 October 2014
Effectiveness of Seabird Mitigation Measures Technical Group (in conjunction with Japan and the SMMTG Chair ²)	4-6 November 2014

¹ Korea organised the meeting venue and associated aspects (such as equipment and catering).

² Japan is organising accommodation, the meeting venue and associated aspects (such as catering and equipment). The Chair (Dr Cleo Small, Birdlife International) is leading preparation of the agenda, a scoping paper for the meeting and has organised funding for non-Member invited experts.

In addition to the above formal meetings, the Secretariat organised an informal CPUE Web meeting on 16 April 2014.

Translation of the 2013 meeting reports into Japanese has been completed and the translated reports have been placed onto the CCSBT web site. The report from the April 2014 meeting of the Compliance Committee Working Group has also been translated into Japanese and has been placed onto the private area of the CCSBT web site³. Bound versions of the reports for 2013 meetings have been completed and distributed.

The Secretariat has also assisted with or coordinated intersessional discussions on various issues including:

- The Second Performance Review of the CCSBT, including preparation of background documentation, engaging the Independent Review Panel and responding to requests for information from the panel.
- Contracting Quality Assurance Reviews for 2014;
- Revision of the CCSBT's transshipment resolution; and
- Addressing Members concerns on an eCDS for the CCSBT.

Organisation of meeting venues for 2015 is well underway, with inspections conducted, quotes obtained, preferred venues selected and tentative bookings made for meetings at the following venues and dates (the tentative dates shown below were agreed intersessionally and notified to Members in Circular #2014/023):

Meeting	City & Venue	Tentative booking date
ERSWG 11	Sanbancho (tentative), Tokyo, Japan	March 2015
SC 20	Songdo Convensia, Incheon, South Korea	Mon. 31 August - Sat. 5 September 2015
CC 10	Yeosu Expo, Yeosu, South Korea	Thu. 8 - Sat. 10 October 2015
CCSBT 22	Yeosu Expo, Yeosu, South Korea	Mon. 12 – Thu. 15 October 2015

Meetings of Other Organisations since CCSBT 20

The Executive Secretary participated in the following meetings of other organisations during 2014:

- CCAMLR CDS Review Panel (See Circular #2014/009);
- Inception Workshop and first Steering Committee meeting⁴ for the GEF⁵ funded project “Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ” (Tuna ABNJ Project);
- Thirty First Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 31);
- A meeting of the Tuna RFMO Executive Secretaries⁴;
- Fifth Meeting of the Regional Fisheries Body Secretariats Network⁴ (RSN); and
- KOBE Steering Committee Meeting⁴.

The Compliance Manager will be attending a compliance coordination meeting between the IOTC and CCSBT Secretariats during November 2014. The Database Manager will be attending a joint tuna RFMO meeting during January 2015 on harmonisation of observer longline bycatch information.

³ Reports are not finalised and placed on the public area until after the annual meeting.

⁴ Held in conjunction with COFI 31.

⁵ Global Environment Facility.

New and Updated Policies and Resolutions

Since CCSBT 20, work has progressed on:

- A draft revision of the Transshipment Resolution;
- A new Port State Measures Resolution;
- An updated Compliance Action Plan for 2015-2017;
- An updated resolution on Limited Carry-Forward of Unfished Annual Total Allowable Catch of SBT;
- An update of the Minimum Performance Requirements to meet CCSBT Obligations; and
- Minor changes to the CDS, Authorised Vessels and IUU Vessel List Resolutions that the Secretariat has proposed for consideration at CC9.

In progressing the above matters, the Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the efforts by the Chair of the Compliance Committee, the CCWG and CCSBT Members in general.

In addition to finalising the above policies and Resolutions, the Secretariat recommends that CCSBT's "Resolution to Establish the Status of Co-operating Non-Member of the Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee" be updated. This Resolution has not been updated since it was adopted in 2003 and it now contains incorrect references, particularly in relation to the CCSBT's old Trade Information Scheme. An updated version of this Resolution is provided at **Attachment A**. The update corrects references to the Trade Information Scheme, adds references to the main MCS measures that have been introduced since 2003 and makes some editorial changes to ensure consistency of terminology within the Resolution.

CCSBT Circulars

Circulars are used to issue requests and to distribute information to Members/CNMs. A summary list of circulars is maintained on the private area of the web site for easy reference by Members. The summary list contains the circular number, date, subject(s), whether a response is required, the due date for a response and the outcome (or a reference to the location of the outcome). The list of circulars gives an indication of the add-hoc and "once-off" intersessional activities of the Secretariat and Extended Commission. Fifty eight Circulars were issued between CCSBT 20 and 15 September 2014.

CCSBT Web site

The web site continues to be an actively updated and actively used information tool for both CCSBT members and the general public. The public side of the CCSBT website was updated immediately after CCSBT 20 to incorporate the results and decisions from the 2013 meetings of the CCSBT.

Participation in the Fisheries Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS)

The CCSBT is a partner in FAO's FIRMS system. During 2013/14, the Secretariat met the CCSBT's obligations to FIRMS by:

- Updating the CCSBT fact sheet for southern bluefin tuna by incorporating the ESC's latest stock status report together with relevant decisions from CCSBT 20; and
- Supplying agreed data to FIRMS.

Integrated MCS Measures

Managing and implementing the CCSBT MCS measures continues to be a significant component of the Secretariat's work. Since CCSBT 20, this has included:-

- For the CDS:
 - Running CDS data reconciliations, and following up on errors and missing information and forms;
 - Developing new reconciliation reports for REEF forms;
 - Continuing development and modification of the CDS database and software, including the introduction of new error checking procedures such as checks for duplicate tag numbers;
 - Processing CDS validation details;
 - Producing 6 monthly CDS reports; and
 - Coordinating the purchase of centralised tags for use with the CDS.
- Continuing the subscription to the Global Trade Atlas database and monitoring trade of SBT as recorded on that database.
- Managing the operation of the CCSBT transshipment resolution including increased communication and cooperation with ICCAT and in particular the IOTC.
- Managing the CCSBT records of Authorised Fishing Vessels, Carrier Vessels and Farms.
- Checking for any submissions in relation to the new CCSBT IUU Vessel List Resolution.
- Preparing new and revised draft Compliance Measures and associated Resolutions.
- Preparing a revised draft 3-year Compliance Action plan for the period 2015 – 2017 inclusive.
- Producing reports for the Compliance Committee Working Group (CCWG), and the Compliance Committee.

CCSBT Catch Reporting (excluding scientific data exchange)

Monthly Catch Reports

The Secretariat has continued to compile these statistics and has loaded them to the private area of the CCSBT web site on a monthly basis, providing email notification to members when updates occur. The presentation of monthly catch reports has been updated with graphs of Members'/CNMs' catches against their effective catch limits so that Members can easily determine the progress of Members'/CNMs' catches against their catch limits.

Reporting of Initial Quota Allocations and Final Catches by Vessel/Company

The Secretariat has in most cases provided reminders to each Member approximately one month before they were required to submit this information. On receiving the information, the Secretariat has loaded this information to a special section of the private area of the CCSBT web site. This information is only available to those who have applied for and been granted access to this information in accordance with the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data compiled by the CCSBT.

CCSBT Surface Tagging Program

Tag deployment ceased after the 2006/07 season and the Secretariat's involvement in this program now relates only to tag recovery activity. As expected, the number of recaptured tags is declining each year and now involves negligible effort from the Secretariat

Database Developments and Annual Scientific Data Exchange

The CCSBT Data CD and associated documentation was updated and provided to Members in January 2014. An interim update of the Data CD containing information from the 2014 Data Exchange was also placed on the private area of the CCSBT website in June 2014. A second interim update of the Data CD was prepared and placed on the private area during August 2014 once the Secretariat was informed of revised (increased) catches of Indonesia and South Africa for 2013.

Significant upgrades have been made to the CDS database during 2014. These included improved error checking and reporting routines. Further changes are planned to occur in the remainder of 2014 and through 2015.

The Secretariat managed the 2014 scientific data exchange, which involved active exchange of data between Members and the Secretariat mainly between March and mid-June. The Secretariat conducted substantial post-processing of the data to produce derived datasets that were required as part of the data exchange.

The second annual ERSWG Data Exchange occurred during 2014. All Members submitted ERS data, but only partial or no ERS data were provided by CNMs.

At the time of finalising this report, the database was up to date for all data received.

Global Vessel List

The global vessel list has not been updated during 2014. This is due to difficulties that some of the Secretariats had in providing regular updates of authorised vessels in the required format for the global vessel list. To address this issue, the GEF funded Tuna ABNJ Project has allocated funds to streamline systems in each Secretariat to enable automatic updates to be provided to the global vessel list. This work commences at the CCSBT Secretariat during November 2014.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Attachment A

**Resolution to Establish the Status of ~~Co-operating~~Cooperating Non-Member of
the Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee**

*(adopted at the Tenth Annual Meeting – 7-10 October 2003,
updated at the Twenty First Annual Meeting – 13-16 October 2014)*

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE STATUS OF ~~CO-~~
~~OPERATING~~COOPERATING NON-MEMBER OF THE EXTENDED
COMMISSION AND THE EXTENDED SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

The Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

RECOGNISING that ensuring the sustainability of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) stock requires that all those States and entities fishing this species work together through the Extended Commission;

CONSIDERING that continued fishing for SBT by States and entities not adhering to conservation and management measures adopted in accordance with the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (the Convention) substantially diminishes the effectiveness of those measures;

RECOGNISING, in accordance with Article 13 of the Convention and the Resolution to establish an Extended Commission and an Extended Scientific Committee (the Resolution), the continuing need for all members of the Extended Commission to co-operate with each other to encourage States to accede to the Convention and to encourage entities to apply for membership of the Extended Commission, and

RECOGNISING the continuing need to encourage all non-member States and entities whose fishing vessels harvest SBT or through whose exclusive economic or fishery zone SBT migrates to take appropriate actions to ensure the effectiveness of conservation and management measures and all other decisions adopted in accordance with the Convention;

Decides as follows:

1. The Extended Commission hereby establishes the status of “~~co-operating non-member~~Cooperating Non-Member” of the Extended Commission and the Extended Scientific Committee.
2. The Executive Secretary of the Extended Commission is instructed to invite every year all non-member States and entities whose fishing vessels harvest SBT or through whose exclusive economic or fishery zone SBT migrates to co-operate with the Commission by acceding to the Convention or, as the case requires, by becoming a member of the Extended Commission or applying to the Extended Commission for the status of a ~~co-operating non-member~~Cooperating Non-Member.
3. Any State or entity that receives such an invitation may apply to the Extended Commission to be admitted in the capacity of a Cooperating Non-Member to the Extended Commission. Any applications for such admission should be received by the Executive Secretary of the Extended Commission at least one hundred and twenty (120) days before the Annual Meeting of the Extended Commission.

4. When submitting an application for admission in the capacity of a Cooperating Non-Member, the candidate State or entity will give a formal written statement to the Extended Commission of its commitment to:

- a. carry out the objective of the Convention;
- b. abide by conservation and management measures and all other decisions and resolutions adopted in accordance with the Convention, including compliance with national allocations of the SBT total allowable catch and resolutions relating to the Catch Documentation Scheme, transshipment of SBT, authorised vessels and farms, list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing for SBT and vessel monitoring systems;
- c. take appropriate action to ensure that its fishing activities do not diminish the effectiveness of conservation and management measures and all other decisions adopted in accordance with the Convention;
- d. transmit to the Extended Commission the review of its SBT fisheries and all other data that the members of the Extended Commission are required to submit to the Extended Commission each year;
- e. facilitate scientific research and studies of SBT; and
- ~~f. ensure that SBT statistical documents are completed in accordance with requirements of the Commission's Trade Information Scheme; and~~
- ~~g.f.~~ negotiate with the members of the Extended Commission to develop any other criteria for its admission in the capacity of a Cooperating Non-Member specific to its situation.

5. In deciding upon a total allowable catch and its allocation the Extended Commission may negotiate catch limits for Cooperating Non-Members. Cooperating Non-Members shall abide by any negotiated limit.

6. The commitments in paragraph 4(a) to ~~(f)~~, and any specific criteria determined by the Extended Commission in negotiation with the applicant in accordance with 4(~~g~~), will form the basis of an Exchange of Letters between the applicant and the Extended Commission. Upon conclusion of the Exchange of Letters the applicant will be admitted in the capacity of a "Cooperating Non-Member" of the Extended Commission. The Cooperating Non-Member will reaffirm the commitments contained in the Exchange of Letters at the Annual Meetings of the Extended Commission.

7. A State or entity that is admitted to the Extended Commission in the capacity of a ~~co-operating non member~~ Cooperating Non-Member will have the right to participate actively in meetings of the Extended Commission, the Extended Scientific Committee and their subsidiary bodies, including, but not limited to, the right to make proposals and the right to speak, but not to vote. The Extended Commission may decide to restrict the participation of a ~~co-operating non member~~ Cooperating Non-Member in a particular Agenda item.

8. At its Annual Meeting the Extended Commission will determine whether the State or entity qualifies to retain the status of ~~co-operating non member~~ Cooperating Non-Member. The Extended Commission will evaluate the performance of the ~~co-operating non member~~ Cooperating Non-Member against the commitments set out in its Exchange of Letters with the Extended Commission.

Commented [CCSBT1]: The Trade Information Scheme has been replaced by the CDS. However, the CCSBT has also introduced many other important MCS measures since 2003, so it is necessary to mention more than just the CDS. Consequently, instead of referring to the CDS here, paragraph 4(b) has been amended to refer to CCSBT's main MCS measures, including the CDS.

9. If the Extended Commission determines that a ~~co-operating non-member~~ Cooperating Non-Member has not fulfilled its commitments the Extended Commission may proceed in accordance with the 2000 Action Plan, or take other appropriate steps.

10. The Executive Secretary is instructed to inform any non-member State or entity whose fishing vessels harvest southern bluefin tuna in a manner that undermines the conservation and management measures adopted in accordance with the Convention, ~~or that fails to ensure that SBT statistical documents are completed in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Information Scheme,~~ and that does not seek full membership of the Convention, membership of the Extended Commission or ~~co-operating non member~~ Cooperating Non-Member status, that continuing to allow such activities to take place, undermines the objective of the Convention.

~~11. The Rules of Procedure of the Extended Commission are amended by inserting the following:~~

~~“RULE 3 A bis~~

~~CO-OPERATING NON-MEMBERS~~

~~A State or entity that is admitted to the Extended Commission in the capacity of a co-operating non member will have the right to participate actively in meetings of the Extended Commission, the Extended Scientific Committee and their subsidiary bodies, including, but not limited to, the right to make proposals and the right to speak, but not to vote. The Extended Commission may decide to restrict the participation of a cooperating non member in a particular Agenda item.”~~

Commented [CCSBT2]: The Trade Information Scheme is no longer in operation and its replacement, the CDS, does not permit issuing of CDS documents by States/Entities other than Members, CNMs and OSECs (Other States/Entities Cooperating with the CDS).

Commented [CCSBT3]: No longer required since the Rules of Procedure were amended in accordance with the original resolution.