



CCSBT-ERS/2406/12

**Draft Terms of Reference for
the Technical Ecologically Related Species Working Group
(ERSWG Agenda Item 11)**

1. Introduction

In line with recommendations from the [Report of the Independent Performance Review](#), Members made the decision¹ to alternate between physical ERSWG and virtual meetings each year. The intent of the virtual meetings is to address more technical matters that cannot be sufficiently addressed in the context of the physical ERSWG. The first of these technical ERSWG meetings took place in 2023 and was focused on the collaborative seabird risk assessment project.

2. Background

The CCSBT has defined [Terms of Reference for Subsidiary Bodies](#) that currently include the ERSWG but not the technical virtual meetings that take place in alternating years.

The lack of Terms of Reference for this new group creates a situation where differing interpretations amongst Members and/or observers are more likely to occur. Having well-defined Terms of Reference will also provide transparency and clarity in the administration of the group and its communications.

3. Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference for Subsidiary Bodies

For the consideration of Members, the Secretariat has put together the draft Terms of Reference found at **Attachment A** using some of the elements from existing Terms of Reference of other working groups when appropriate.

Once agreed, Terms of Reference for the new group will be added to the existing Terms of Reference for Subsidiary Bodies and sent to the Extended Commission as an amendment for approval.

Prepared by the Secretariat

¹ See paragraph 111 of Report of the Twenty Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
THE TECHNICAL ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES
WORKING GROUP**

(adopted at the Thirty-First Annual Meeting of the CCSBT – October 2024)

Terms of Reference for the Technical Ecologically Related Species Working Group

Functions

The Technical Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSTech) will advise the ERSWG on issues of a technical nature.

Such matters may include, for example:

- A review of the effectiveness of existing bycatch mitigation measures;
- A review of ERSWG Data Exchange requirements;
- Exercises aimed at quantifying the risk to ERS from SBT fisheries and vice versa;
- Work aimed at improving ERS species identification;
- The development of seabird bycatch targets;
- Technical work to support the identification of high-risk areas;
- Applicability of electronic monitoring in the context of ERS data collection;
- The development of response protocols for high capture events;
- Assessment of new bycatch mitigation measures; and
- The development of ERS research proposals.

Operations

The ERSTech will meet (as required) in years where no physical Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) meeting is taking place.

The ERSTech meeting is held by either hybrid or online meeting format, unless the Extended Commission (EC) agrees otherwise.

The ERSTech meeting shall be chaired by the Chair of the ERSWG, unless the ERSWG determines otherwise.

Membership

The Chair of the ERSWG will convene the meeting.

The ERSTech will be composed of Member and Cooperating Non-Member representatives, invited experts and observers as appropriate².

Communication

Communication between the Secretariat and ERSTech participants will take place through the use of participants list from the most recent ERSWG meeting. An area of the private section of the CCSBT website will be designated to each ERSTech and available to meeting participants.

² States, entities and organisations that have been granted observer status to and attended the ERSWG meeting immediately prior to ERSTech will automatically be granted observer status to the ERSTech unless the Extended Commission decides otherwise.

Matters for Consideration

Initial consideration of ERSTech topics will take place during the physical ERSWG meeting. Members and Cooperating Non-Members may at any time submit to the Secretariat technical matters to be discussed at the ERSTech. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of ERSWG, will develop and submit a Draft Provisional Agenda 100 days before the meeting in accordance with the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure. Members may add additional items to the agenda, in accordance with the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure, before the Provisional Agenda is circulated.

Reporting

The ERSTech will not produce a formal report although it may produce documents for consideration by the ERSWG and/or inclusion in the ERSWG Report as Attachment. The Chair of the ERSWG will provide an informal oral report of the ERSTech meeting to the ERSWG.