



CCSBT-EC/2410/12

Strategic Plan Progress Report

Purpose

To provide a progress report against the Strategic Plan workplan items, including feedback from relevant subsidiary bodies.

Background

At CCSBT 30, Members adopted a revised Strategic Plan¹ that outlines a common vision for how the Commission will operate in order to meet the overall objective of the Convention. The Strategic Plan also provides the following vision and set of goals in support of the overall objective.

Vision and goals

Management of SBT

The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated.

- This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species.
- This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.

Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT.

- This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs.

Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance.

Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions.

- This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries.

¹ www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/operational_resolutions/CCSBT_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Strategic Plan Items of Relevance to the Extended Commission

The Strategy includes several actions that are to be carried out by the Extended Commission (EC). The following elements of the Action Plan and Ongoing Work Plan have been identified as relevant to the work of the EC.

Action Plan

- **PR2021-29:** Due to the central importance of spawning and recruitment for stock rebuilding, additional efforts should be made to develop, in Indonesian waters, spatio-temporal restrictions, equitable and compatible with the rest of the management strategy.
- **PR2021-07:** Improve transparency by providing and making public, historical data and information that are not currently accessible in the public domain.
- **PR2021-72:** Formalise a reserve/savings fund to be utilised in extraordinary circumstances.
- **PR2021-73:** Develop mechanisms to improve communication between the Finance and Administration Committee and various subsidiary bodies.
- **PR2021-31:** Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law.
- **PR2021-32:** Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level.
- **PR2021-34:** The CCSBT should consider alternative decisionmaking models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.
- The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options.
- **PR2021-35:** The CCSBT should consider developing an alternative approach to dispute settlement/ conflict resolution to avoid the potential for future stalemates that could significantly compromise the conservation and management of SBT resources.
- **PR2021-58:** Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website.
- Improve existing guidelines to determine what, if any, allocation should be made to new Members and CNMs.
- Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers
- **PR2021-22:** Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance-related activities.

Ongoing Work Plan

- **PR2021-01:** Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.

- **PR2021-24:** CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.
- **PR2021-71:** Maintain a healthy flow of income (through Member’s contribution and other sources) that exceeds CCSBT’s expenses.
- Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future. Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee.
- **PR2021-74:** Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings
- **PR2021-75:** Encourage the re-election of Chairs for up to 4 years as is allowed in 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure to provide better governance of the CCSBT.
- **PR2021-57:** Process for review of external documents, including possible non-compliance on the part of Members, should be monitored to ensure that it does not create a barrier for external engagement with the CCSBT.
- Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS
- **PR2021-44:** Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.
- **PR2021-56:** Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible.
- **PR2021-64:** Members look for additional opportunities to engage with one another outside of the traditional meeting dates of the CCSBT to ensure that the limited time available at CCSBT meetings is maximised.
- **PR2021-63:** Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process.
- **PR2021-68:** Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests.

Monitoring and Implementation

To ensure that the objectives of the Strategic Plan are met, the plan outlines a process that commits to annual monitoring and reporting against the actions agreed under the plan. The EC has been tasked to review the progress made with the Secretariat holding responsibility for compiling the information necessary for the EC to conduct its annual monitoring review.

The Strategic Plan states that “Subsidiary bodies holding responsibility for particular action items are expected to report back on the progress of those activities as part of their respective meeting reports”. All subsidiary bodies have reported back their progress and those reports are included at **Attachment A** (with the exception of the Compliance Committee which had not concluded at the time of writing).

Next Steps

The Secretariat has provided some initial views on updates against items assigned to the EC (see **Attachment B**). Members are asked to review the draft text presented by the Secretariat and consider any further additions.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Report from CCSBT Subsidiary Bodies on Progress Against Strategic Plan	
Subsidiary Body: ERSWG	Year: 2024
Vision and Goals	
	Comments from Subsidiary Body
<p>Management of SBT</p> <p>The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species. • This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERSWG is developing an ERS and Bycatch Action Plan for consideration and adoption by EC • ERSWG has adopted and is in the process of actioning the Multi-year Seabird Strategy • ERSWG is undertaking a SEFRA risk assessment for seabirds, which could eventually contribute to the ongoing FAO work under the previous Common Oceans project.
<p>Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat</p> <p>It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERSWG 15 has developed and agreed on new Terms of Reference for the ERS Technical Group. • ERSWG has agreed to meet on an annual basis by including a technical working group in the years where ERSWG does not meet to continuously advance the work outlined under such initiatives as the Seabird Strategy and the Bycatch Reduction Strategy.

<p>Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance</p> <p>Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCSBT Seabird Project is actively engaging with Members to improve on MCS measures, specifically emphasising engagement with developing countries. Members reported ERS data submission², mitigation measures and education. In addition, some members take part in Evaluation on mitigation measures, Assessment of SBT-fishery-bird interaction, outreach activities through the Seabird Project. 	
Action Plan		
Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
<p>Noting the Multi-year Seabird Strategy adopted at ERSWG 14, develop an Ecologically Related Species and Bycatch Action Plan based on the recommendations from the Performance Review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERSWG has developed and agreed to an ERS and Bycatch Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERSWG is committed to actioning the objectives of the ERS and Bycatch Action Plan per the timeline agreed to at the ERSWG15.
Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	Changes since previous report	Planned work
<p>PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERSWG15 updated its advice to EC on seabirds. 	
<p>PR2021-25: CCSBT members should continue to strengthen the implementation of the IPOAs and FAO guidelines in fishing operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members noted that NPOAs have been adopted since the previous report, e.g. Australia’s NPOA-Sharks, South Africa’s NPOA-Sharks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members continue to review NPOAs in line with IPOAs and FAO guidelines.

² The inability of some Members to reach the target level of observer coverage is constraining availability of useful ERS data for analysis.

<p>PR2021-13: Achieve a better balance between the scientific efforts dedicated to SBT and ERS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ERSWG has undertaken a technical SEFRA risk assessment examining the risk to ACAP seabirds from CCSBT fisheries. ERSWG15 made recommendations to the EC on the future of the SEFRA initiative for consideration at EC31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The future of the SEFRA initiative will be dependant on the decision of the EC, however, could entail additional iterations using supplementary Member data, implementing additional mitigation/monitoring measures in high risk areas, and/or socialising the work with other RFMOs.
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Report from CCSBT Subsidiary Bodies on Progress Against Strategic Plan

Subsidiary Body: ESC

Year: 2024

Vision and Goals

Comments from Subsidiary Body

Management of SBT

The Commission agrees the SBT tuna stock is to be managed at a biomass level that supports the maximum sustainable yield, and the risks related to fishing for SBT and impacts from fishing for SBT on ecologically related species are mitigated.

- This includes strategies concerning stock rebuilding, allocation and ecologically related species.
- This also includes consideration and review of all other risks including, but not limited to, marine pollution and human safety.

ESC supports the vision as described here. ESC has contributed to SBT stock rebuilding and management advice based on scientific evidence. The ESC considers that the SBT tuna stock is being rebuilt towards a biomass level that will support the MSY. The most recent stock assessment indicates that the stock is rebuilding at approximately 5% per year and is currently estimated at 23% of TRO₀.

The ESC notes that demonstrating progress towards stock rebuilding has and will continue to rely on the significant investment in innovative science including genetic studies that have allowed a robust estimate of population size to support decision making on TAC's, monitoring stock recovery and demonstrating progress towards the rebuilding targets. The current MP is based on sound science and processes which are unique in their approach to tuna fisheries management relative to approaches in other relevant RFMOs.

The ESC provides advice on TACs based on a fully tested management procedure (MP). The ESC also runs an annual metarule process to assess whether or not exceptional circumstances have occurred.

The ESC notes advice from the ERSWG to the EC on ecologically related species, including seabirds. While not the responsibility of ESC, marine pollution and human safety is an important issue.

Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

It was agreed the Commission should operate effectively and efficiently, to responsibly manage fishing for SBT.

ESC supports the strategic goals on the operation/administration of the Commission and Secretariat and considers that opportunities for harmonising with other RFMOs should continue to be pursued including for developing electronic monitoring (EM) standards.

The ESC has regularly reviewed and updated the Scientific Research Plan as well as the schedule and budget implications.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes strategies for effective and efficient operation of Commission, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, including harmonisation with other RFMOs. 	<p>The Commission and Secretariat should be aware of any implications that arise from the BBNJ agreement.</p>	
<p>Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance</p> <p>Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries. 	<p>The ESC also considers there has been progress with participation in ESC meetings and will continue to work toward the goal of maximising participation by all Members.</p> <p>The ESC notes that a robust monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) program is critical to the assessment of the SBT and its recovery. The ESC also notes the importance of adequate observer coverage.</p> <p>The ESC has encouraged timely data collection and submission, and there has been some improvement recently.</p> <p>The ESC notes the importance of identifying any non-compliance, and the reasons for that non-compliance.</p>	
<p>Action Plan</p>		
<p>Action</p>	<p>Progress since previous report</p>	<p>Planned work</p>
<p>PR2021-02: Explore the need for additional measures (such as protected areas and area closures) to support spawning and recruitment.</p>	<p>As noted in the ESC28 Report, the ESC considers that there is no need for protected areas or area closures to protect the SBT spawning grounds.</p>	<p>Nil for ESC.</p>
<p>Further increase efforts, including analysis on the application of electronic monitoring, to improve and supplement observer coverage in accordance with Scientific Observer Program Standard (SOPS).</p>	<p>The ESC undertook a recent review of the potential impacts of EM on the collection of data currently required under the existing SOPS.</p>	<p>The ESC considers that there is merit in ensuring the development of the CCSBT EM standards are aligned with other relevant RFMOs. The ESC notes the planned work taking place as part of the Seabird Project to support capacity development in the area of electronic monitoring.</p>

<p>Prioritise the establishment and ongoing review of long-term research strategic planning in the ESC.</p>	<p>Each ESC includes a standing item on the Scientific Research Plan, including a procedure for evaluating new research proposals.</p>	<p>Continue current annual process.</p>
<p>Ongoing Work Plan</p>		
<p>Action</p>	<p>Changes since previous report</p>	<p>Planned work</p>
<p>PR2021-01: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.</p>	<p>ESC Members actively participated in the MP development and implementation through their research activities. This also includes assessing whether there have been exceptional circumstance including catch beyond their allocation, and concluded there is no need to update the TAC in 2025 through the metarule process.</p> <p>The ESC considered non-member catches in the 2023 stock assessment and recommended a TAC to CCSBT based on a level of unaccounted mortality.</p>	<p>The ESC notes the importance of strong compliance framework to ensure catch limits are maintained.</p> <p>Consider further analysis of markets to better understand possible non-member catch.</p>
<p>PR2021-26: Continue monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the rebuilding strategy for SBT</p>	<p>The ESC supports this action and notes that this action has been made possible through the implementation of the Close Kin, Gene Tagging and efforts to improve the standardisation of CPUE projects.</p> <p>The ESC has monitored and discussed the national reports and results and progress of the research activities.</p> <p>Ongoing work around development of EM standards for CCSBT.</p>	<p>ESC recommends continued support for and implementation of science projects to meet this action under the CCSBT Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>PR2021-12: Continue to develop and embed innovative methods such as gene-tagging and close kin mark-recapture to improve scientific processes.</p>	<p>Updates to the Operating Model have been progressed.</p> <p>ESC has discussed and reviewed the progress and results of gene-tagging and Close Kin regularly.</p>	<p>Finalise upgrades to the operating model which will be used for the MP in 2025 and the stock assessment in 2026.</p>

<p>PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.</p>	<p>Implementation of CMM's has been possible with a robust stock assessment conducted in 2023. Updates to the operating model has progressed in preparation for running the management procedure in 2025 and stock assessment in 2026.</p> <p>ESC notes the updated advice from the ERSWG15 on seabirds.</p>	<p>The ESC supports progress towards this action and notes effective monitoring of fishing activity including through observer coverage or EM program is essential.</p> <p>The ESC also notes that implementation of CMM's relies on a strong compliance program.</p>
<p>PR2021-55: ESC to improve accessibility of reports to non-technical readers.</p>	<p>ESC has developed and made each meeting report available. This has included a Chair's summary for each ESC in non-technical language to help facilitate communication with EC/other subsidiary bodies.</p>	
<p>Ensure members are submitting high quality, clear, consistent, and completed reporting.</p>	<p>ESC has encouraged all members to submit annual reports, and there have been some improvements recently.</p> <p>The ESC notes that not all members submit reports as required.</p>	<p>The ESC will continue to encourage all members to submit high quality, clear, consistent, and completed reporting.</p>
<p>PR2021-16: Continue to study the spatial aspects of the SBT stock structure and movements, and the fleets that exploit SBT.</p>	<p>Tagging projects continue to be delivered to improve understanding of stock structure.</p>	

Attachment B

Report from the Extended Commission on Progress Against Strategic Plan 2024

Vision and Goals

Comments from Extended Commission

Management of SBT

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Operation/Administration of the Commission and Secretariat

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<p>Participation and implementation by Members, including Compliance</p> <p>Members are actively participating in management of SBT through the Commission and implementing its decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes strategies concerning MCS, sanctions and assistance to developing countries. 		
Action Plan		
Action	Progress since previous report	Planned work
<p>PR2021-29: Due to the central importance of spawning and recruitment for stock rebuilding, additional efforts should be made to develop, in Indonesian waters, spatio-temporal restrictions, equitable and compatible with the rest of the management strategy.</p>	<p>Shared responsibility with the ESC and scheduled for delivery in 2026/27. Advice from the ESC to date (see Attachment A) suggests no further action be taken under this recommendation.</p>	
<p>PR2021-07: Improve transparency by providing and making public, historical data and information that are not currently accessible in the public domain.</p>	<p>Scheduled for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date.</p>	
<p>PR2021-72: Formalise a reserve/savings fund to be utilised in extraordinary circumstances.</p>	<p>Reports to EC/FAC now include greater transparency on the availability of funds for savings. The CCSBT is currently drawing down on its savings</p>	<p>Current priority is to bring balance to income and expenditure so that savings can be rebuilt.</p>
<p>PR2021-73: Develop mechanisms to improve communication between the Finance and</p>	<p>Main mechanism for communication continues to be the attendance of the ESC Chair at the FAC.</p>	

Administration Committee and various subsidiary bodies.		
PR2021-31: Review the existing allocation mechanism to ensure that it reflects the current makeup of the Membership and principles of international law.	Allocation is a standing agenda item at the EC where Members can review existing allocation mechanisms. At CCSBT 30, Members expressed an openness to discussing a possible way forward to address the position that Indonesia is in, which may include a review of allocation percentages.	
PR2021-32: Modify the CCSBT Convention to include modern fisheries management concepts agreed by Members at the international level.	Scheduled for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date.	
PR2021-34: The CCSBT should consider alternative decisionmaking models in the CCSBT Convention modernising processes.	Scheduled for delivery in the medium to long term (2027/28). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date.	
The CCSBT should review transparency of decision-making by reviewing the CCSBT's Rules of Procedure or other options.	Identified as a low priority for short term (2024/25).	Secretariat to present initial review at CCSBT 32.
PR2021-35: The CCSBT should consider developing an alternative approach to dispute settlement/ conflict resolution to avoid the potential for future stalemates that could significantly compromise the conservation and management of SBT resources.	Identified as a low priority for delivery in the longer term (2028 and beyond). Members may wish to reassess this action prior to that date.	
PR2021-58: Access to the CCSBT compendium of measures is made available on the public portion of the CCSBT website.	Scheduled for delivery in the medium term (2025/6).	Secretariat to present options at CCSBT 32 for possible implementation in 2026.

Improve existing guidelines to determine what, if any, allocation should be made to new Members and CNMs.	At CCSBT 30, Japan suggested revising provisions related to allocations for new Members or CNMs to remove any ambiguity and improve the procedures. Members collaborated on a revised draft of the proposal put forward by Japan and agreed to the amended resolution	No further action planned.
Consider the introduction of a science management dialogue to be held, as required, between scientists and fisheries managers	Scheduled for delivery in the medium term (2025/6).	Members to provide initial consideration at CCSBT 32.
PR2021-22: Using the recommendations from the Performance Review, formulate and implement a capacity-building work plan to improve data collection, scientific analysis, and compliance related activities.	Secretariat has developed a draft Capacity-Building Workplan for the consideration of Members at CCSBT 31.	Implementation of the Capacity Building Workplan.
Ongoing Work Plan		
Action	Changes since previous report	Planned work
PR2021-01: Members continue to support the MP, by remaining within their allocation limits, and eliminating areas of uncertainty such as Non-Member catches that could undermine its performance.	All Member catches are currently within their respective allocations.	
PR2021-24: CCSBT should continue to implement CMMs based on ESC and ERSWG advice for both target and non-target species.	At CCSBT 30, Members set the TAC based on the advice received from ESC.	
PR2021-71: Maintain a healthy flow of income (through Member's contribution and	Expenses continue to exceed income. Members agreed on a 5% increase in Member contributions at CCSBT 30.	

other sources) that exceeds CCSBT's expenses.		
Apply the Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Program to countries and/or entities who join the Commission in the future. Ongoing QAR program for existing Members is subject to the decision by the EC based on further advice from the Compliance Committee.	Secretariat developed draft Terms of Reference for a targeted QAR of the Indonesian transshipment observer trial for consideration at CC19.	
PR2021-74: Encourage earlier nominations for Chair of CCSBT from hosting Members ahead of Commission meetings	CCSBT 31 Chair nomination received in April, which was sufficiently early to avoid impacting on Commission processes.	
PR2021-75: Encourage the re-election of Chairs for up to 4 years as is allowed in 4(1) of the Rules of Procedure to provide better governance of the CCSBT.	At CCSBT 31, Members chose to maintain rotation of Chair with hosting Member in 2024.	
PR2021-57: Process for review of external documents, including possible non-compliance on the part of Members, should be monitored to ensure that it does not create a barrier for external engagement with the CCSBT.	One paper was reviewed as part of this process at CCSBT 30 and was accepted. No papers have been subject to review as part of CCSBT 31.	
Encourage non-Members to increase engagement in CCSBT processes, including joining the CCSBT and utilising the CDS	On the advice of Members, the Secretariat continues to reach out to non-Members and encourage cooperation.	
PR2021-44: Continue to formalise and strengthen information sharing with other RFMO secretariats and alternative information sources.	Secretariat maintains relationships with several RFMOs through both formal and informal agreements. Updates have also been proposed to the ICCAT and IOTC MoU.	Support proposal for more regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process.

<p>PR2021-56: Use of head of delegation meetings at the EC should be minimised to the extent possible.</p>	<p>Heads of Delegation were used as part of CCSBT 30, particularly in relation to allocation discussions.</p>	
<p>PR2021-64: Members look for additional opportunities to engage with one another outside of the traditional meeting dates of the CCSBT to ensure that the limited time available at CCSBT meetings is maximised.</p>	<p>Bilateral engagement continues to occur between Member administrations. Additional engagement was also supported as part of the Seabird Project.</p>	
<p>PR2021-63: Members look for opportunities to continue and reinvigorate the cooperation instigated through the Kobe Process.</p>	<p>In lieu of the Kobe process, cooperation opportunities now centred around Regional Secretariat's Network and Tuna Compliance Network.</p>	<p>Support proposal for more regular t-RFMO engagement in lieu of Kobe Process.</p>
<p>PR2021-68: Continue to engage with Kobe intersessional processes, particularly as they relate to areas of shared interests.</p>	<p>See earlier recommendation</p>	