

Progress made in respect of the: Course of Actions for RFMOs from the Kobe Meeting of Joint Tuna RFMOs

CCSBT Secretariat (June 2009)

This paper provides a summary of progress by the CCSBT in relation to the “Key areas and challenges” and the “Technical work to cooperate amongst RFMOs...” identified at the joint meeting of the tuna RFMOs held in Kobe during January 2007.

PART I -Key areas and challenges

1. Improvement, sharing and dissemination of data and stock assessments and all other relevant information in an accurate and timely manner including development of research methodologies.

There has been a gradual improvement in sharing and dissemination of data and stock assessments through time, both before the Kobe meeting and after. The current situation is described in general terms below.

The CCSBT database is updated annually with data to the end of the previous year approximately four months after the conclusion of that year’s fishing. The data are made available to CCSBT scientists immediately. Components of the data (catch, catch effort, and size) are published 6-8 months later¹ through both the CCSBT website and the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS). Data are shared with other RFMOs where relevant and the CCSBT has already provided data on southern bluefin tuna catches to both IOTC and WCPFC during 2009.

A summary stock assessment report on the Biology, Stock Status and Management of Southern Bluefin Tuna is prepared each year by the Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) and is provided to those RFMOs with an interest in southern bluefin tuna, namely ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC. A version of this report is also placed on the FIRMS web site.

Reports of all scientific and all formal CCSBT meetings in a year are published on the CCSBT web site on conclusion of the annual Commission meeting. Publication is typically within 2-4 weeks of the annual meeting. At this time, scientific papers submitted to meetings are available on request².

2. Development, where appropriate, and application of equitable and transparent criteria and procedures for allocation of fishing opportunities or level of fishing effort, including provisions to allow for new entrants.

The CCSBT allocates fishing opportunities to all Members and Cooperating Non-Members in the form of a national allocation of the global TAC. The Convention provides (in article 8(4)) that the CCSBT shall consider five specific items together with any other factors the CCSBT deems appropriate when it decides on allocation of the TAC. While the CCSBT considers these items when allocating the TAC, it has not developed a formal procedure for determining the size of the allocations. In the past, this has been done by negotiation and taking into account past allocations or catches in the case of new entrants.

¹ Within 1-2 months of completion of the annual Commission meeting.

² Unless specifically ruled as being confidential.

3. Controls, including capacity reduction as appropriate, to ensure that actual total catch, fishing effort level and capacity are commensurate with available fishing opportunities in order to ensure resource sustainability of tuna stocks while allowing legitimate fishery development of developing coastal states, particularly small island developing states and territories.

The CCSBT currently uses total allowable catches (TAC) as its main method for controlling the southern bluefin tuna catch, however, some of the CCSBT's Members have also undertaken capacity reduction programs.

During 2006, the CCSBT became aware that southern bluefin tuna catches may have been substantially under-reported over the previous 10 to 20 years. However, changes made to domestic management arrangements by Members in response to these findings have significantly reduced the opportunity for under reporting of southern bluefin tuna catches from 2007 and onwards. This in turn should have resulted in a major reduction in the actual southern bluefin tuna catch from 2007.

In addition to reductions in unreported catches from changes in Member's domestic management arrangements, in October 2006, the CCSBT also agreed to reduce the global TAC by over 20% for three years from 2007.

The CCSBT will be considering the global TAC for the next period (which may be one or more years) at its annual meeting in October 2009.

4. Ensuring that management measures are based on the best scientific advice available and consistent with the precautionary approach, particularly, with respect to establishment of effective stock rebuilding measures and other measures to maintain stocks at sustainable levels.

The Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) meets annually and advises the CCSBT on required actions. This advice serves as the scientific basis for CCSBT conservation and management measures.

As indicated above, the global TAC for southern bluefin tuna was fixed by the CCSBT for three years from 2007 and a new global TAC will be considered in October 2009. In order to provide the best scientific advice to the CCSBT, a special technical meeting is being held in July 2009 to update the CCSBT's operating model, followed by an ESC meeting in September 2009. In the lead up to these meetings, there have also been numerous meetings (mainly web based) during 2008 and 2009 to identify the best CPUE series to use in light of past uncertainties in catch and the likelihood of changing fishing patterns following new domestic management arrangements.

In relation to rebuilding the stock, the CCSBT held a Strategy and Fisheries Management Working Group meeting during April 2009 to commence development of a draft strategic plan for the CCSBT and a rebuilding strategy for the SBT stock.

5. Ensuring compliance through establishment of integrated MCS (monitoring, control and surveillance) measures that could include VMS, observers, boarding and inspection schemes, port state controls, market state measures, stronger controls on transshipment, and monitoring of bluefin tuna farming, and the harmonization of those measures across the five tuna RFMOs where appropriate to avoid duplication and increase cost efficiency.

Prior to the Kobe meeting in 2007, the primary CCSBT systems included a Statistical Document Program for monitoring trade of southern bluefin tuna, a positive vessel list, monthly reporting of total catches, and reporting of initial catch allocations and final catches by vessel or company.

In October 2008, the CCSBT adopted MCS related resolutions for a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) which includes tagging of individual southern bluefin tuna, a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and a transshipment monitoring program.

The CDS is scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2010 and is described further in Section 8.

The CCSBT VMS came into effect when the resolution was adopted in October 2008. The CCSBT VMS resolution is harmonized with the VMS measures of CCAMLR, ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC to the extent that when fishing in the convention areas of these RFMOs, CCSBT vessels are required to follow the VMS measure of the relevant RFMO. Further details of the CCSBT VMS resolution are available at: www.ccsbt.org/docs/pdf/about_the_commission/Resolution_VMS.pdf

The CCSBT transshipment resolution came into effect on April 1, 2009. This resolution is based on the IOTC and ICCAT measures in relation to transshipment at sea and includes requirements for:

- Monitoring of transshipments at sea by observers;
- A record of carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments at sea; and
- Notification and reporting obligations by fishing vessels, receiving carrier vessels and observers.

In order to avoid duplication and increase cost efficiency, Memorandums of Understanding have been signed between the CCSBT Secretariat and both the IOTC and ICCAT Secretariats that enable the CCSBT transshipment program to operate in conjunction with the IOTC and ICCAT programs. Further details of the CCSBT transshipment resolution are available at: www.ccsbt.org/docs/pdf/about_the_commission/Resolution_Transshipment.pdf

The CCSBT has discussed other MCS measures including port state measures, a negative list of vessels and a penalty regime for exceeding national allocations. However, priority has been assigned to implementing the above three measures (CDS, VMS, transshipment controls), so decisions have yet to be made on other measures.

6. Application of penalties and sanctions of adequate severity to deter IUU fishing by both non-members and members.

The CCSBT has trade restrictive deterrents to IUU fishing in that Members and Cooperating Non-Members may not accept southern bluefin tuna that was taken by a vessel that is not on the CCSBT's list of authorized vessels.

At its 2007 and 2008 meetings, the CCSBT discussed proposals for administration of both over and under catches by CCSBT Members, including penalty regimes. However, the CCSBT has yet to reach an agreement on the details of such a regime.

7. Development and implementation of stronger measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, including mechanisms to identify and quantify IUU activities based on trade and other relevant information, a system to exchange information on IUU fishing among RFMOs and among flag states, port states, market states and coastal states, consolidation of the positive and negative lists, as described in Section 2 below, effective control over nationals in accordance with their duties under international law, identification of beneficial ownership and demonstration of “genuine link” and dissemination of relevant information to the public.

The CCSBT’s primary focus has been on the development of CDS, VMS and transshipment controls as described in Sections 5 and 8. Some discussion has been held in relation to port state measures and negative lists, but further discussion is required.

The CCSBT has continued to work with the other tuna RFMOs in relation to the consolidated list of authorized tuna vessels that is available from the Tuna-org web site.

8. Establishment and implementation of a system to monitor catches from catching vessels to markets.

In October 2008, the CCSBT adopted a resolution on a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to provide improved monitoring and tracking of southern bluefin tuna catches. The CDS is scheduled for implementation on January 1, 2010. The design of the CDS forms are being reviewed and improved prior to implementation.

The CCSBT CDS incorporates both documentation and tagging of individual whole SBT. It records SBT catches when stocking farms, landing domestic product, transshipping, exporting, re-exporting and importing.

Further details of the CCSBT CDS are available at:

www.ccsbt.org/docs/pdf/about_the_commission/Resolution_CDS.pdf

9. Reviewing the performance of tuna RFMOs in accordance with Annex I.

The CCSBT conducted its performance review during 2008. The performance review had two parts:

1. A Self Assessment of the CCSBT by a Performance Review Working Group (PRWG), which comprised a participant from each Member of the Extended Commission and a participant from the CCSBT Secretariat.
2. A review of the Self Assessment from Part 1 by an independent expert (Ambassador David Balton, U.S.A.).

Both parts of the review have been published on the Tuna-org web site and the CCSBT web site at:

www.ccsbt.org/docs/pdf/meeting_reports/ccsbt_15/report_of_PRWG.pdf

www.ccsbt.org/docs/pdf/meeting_reports/ccsbt_15/PerformanceReview_IndependentExpertsReport.pdf

The performance review highlighted areas where the CCSBT is doing well, including the inclusion within the CCSBT as Members or Cooperating Non-Members virtually all fishing activity for southern bluefin tuna, recent improvements in the transparency with which the CCSBT operates, and undertaking the CCSBT’s first performance review.

The review also identified areas of poor performance, including the recognition from the Self Assessment that the “estimates of the depletion of the spawning stock biomass suggest that, in terms of outcomes, the CCSBT has not been successful in managing southern bluefin tuna”.

Numerous recommendations were made in the performance review. This included recommendations for change in some areas and keeping the status quo in others. The recommendations from the Self Assessment were provided in its Executive Summary (Attachment 1) as well as an extract of recommendations from the independent review of the Self Assessment (Attachment 2).

The CCSBT has taken a positive approach to the recommendations of the performance review and has already implemented changes, or commenced the process to implement changes, in relation to a large proportion of the recommendations from the performance review. The various initiatives that are underway can be seen in the other sections of this paper.

10. Implementation of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management including improved data collection on incidental by-catch and non-target species and establishment of measures to minimize the adverse effect of fishing for highly migratory fish species on ecologically related species, particularly sea turtles, seabirds and sharks, taking into account the characteristics of each ecosystem and technologies used to minimize adverse effect.

In October 2008, the CCSBT adopted a recommendation to mitigate the impact on ecologically related species (ERS) of fishing for southern bluefin tuna. This includes recommendations that CCSBT Members and Cooperating Non-Members:

- Implement to the extent possible, the IPOAs for seabirds and sharks and the FAO guidelines for reducing sea turtle mortality in fishing operations;
- Comply with all current binding and recommended ERS conservation measures of the IOTC and WCPFC in their respective convention areas;
- Collect and report ERS data, including complying with relevant IOTC and WCPFC data collection and reporting requirements;

together with

- authorizing the CCSBT Secretariat to collect and exchange ERS data with the IOTC and WCPFC Secretariats; and
- confirming that the CCSBT and/or its subsidiary bodies will undertake an assessment of the risks to ERS posed by fishing for southern bluefin tuna and that the CCSBT will consider how these risks are to be mitigated.

The CCSBT’s ecologically related species working group will be meeting in September 2009, with an agenda that is focused on assessing the risks to ERS by fishing for southern bluefin tuna, including recommendation of future analyses and associated data collection/sharing arrangements that may be required to obtain improved estimates of risks.

11. Development of data collection, stock assessment and appropriate management of shark fisheries under the competence of tuna RFMOs.

Management of shark fisheries does not fall within CCSBT’s mandate. Issues of risk assessment and data collection are addressed in Section 10 above.

12. Research and development of techniques to reduce incidental take of juvenile tunas during tuna fisheries, in particular in FAD operations.

Fish Aggregation Devices are not used in fishing operations for southern bluefin tuna, so no action has been taken in this area.

13. Provision of adequate capacity building assistance, including human resource development, for developing coastal states, particularly small island developing states and territories, towards responsible fishery development, including participation in RFMO and scientific meetings, fisheries data collection and stock assessment and implementation of MCS measures.

CCSBT does not have a formal process for capacity building assistance to developing coastal states.

Nevertheless, during 2009, the CCSBT held a two-day briefing in Jakarta to assist Indonesia's scientists and managers to understand the CCSBT's operating model and management procedure work. Also during 2009, the CCSBT Secretariat cooperated with the IOTC and WCPFC Secretariat's work towards implementing a logbook program for Indonesian fisheries.

Prior to Indonesia becoming a Member of the CCSBT in April 2008, the CCSBT provided funding to assist Indonesian representatives to attend its scientific and annual meetings.

Finally, two of CCSBT Member States (Australia and Japan) have provided significant assistance to Indonesia over many years in relation to monitoring of its southern bluefin tuna fishery.

14. Enhancement of cooperation among scientists, relevant experts and with other relevant fisheries organizations possibly through organization of symposia or working groups on appropriate topics of common interest. Coordination of timing of annual meetings and scientific meetings with a view to avoiding their overlap as well as allowing an adequate interval between scientific and annual meetings and between proposal submission and annual meetings.

The CCSBT is a partner in the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) and the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP).

All CCSBT meeting dates are published on both the CCSBT and Tuna-org web sites, and where possible, are scheduled to avoid conflict with other related RFMO meetings. Typically, there is an interval of 4 or 5 weeks between CCSBT's Extended Scientific Committee and Extended Commission meetings.

PART II. Technical work to cooperate across RFMOs will commence by addressing the following challenges

1. Harmonization and improvement of the trade tracking programs and, as appropriate, development of catch documentation including tagging systems as required.

CCSBT participated in the technical working group on this issue, which was held in July 2007. Since then, CCSBT agreed on a resolution to implement a CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme, which includes the tagging of individual southern bluefin tuna. The resolution is scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2010.

See Part I, Section 8 above for more details.

2. Creation of a harmonized list of tuna fishing vessels that is as comprehensive as possible (positive list) including use of a permanent unique identifier for each vessel such as an IMO number. The positive list should include support vessels. Creation of a global list of IUU vessels.

The CCSBT Secretariat has continued to work with the other T-RFMO Secretariats to:

- Provide updates for the harmonized positive list of tuna vessels that is published on the Tuna-org web site.
- Cooperate with the other T-RFMO Secretariats on the joint work underway to establish a unique vessel identifier.
- Provide the funds for hosting the Tuna-org web site during 2009.

3. Harmonization of transshipment control measures

The CCSBT's program for transshipments at sea is almost identical to those of IOTC and ICCAT. There has been excellent cooperation from both IOTC and ICCAT which has enabled the CCSBT program to operate in conjunction with the IOTC and ICCAT programs according to MoUs that have been agreed between these RFMOs for this purpose.

See Part I, Section 5 above for more details.

4. Standardization of presentation form of stock assessment results

Tuna RFMOs have commenced using the so-called "Kobe Plot" for communicating some of their stock assessment results in a standard manner. The CCSBT has not yet presented its results in this manner, but will be considering this during the 2009 Scientific Committee meeting.

**Executive Summary from Part 1 of the CCSBT Performance Review
(Self Assessment Report of the Performance Review Working Group)**

The Performance Review Working Group made the following recommendations:

Status of living marine resources

The CCSBT, its members and cooperating non-members, should:

- support best endeavours of the Extended Scientific Committee to recreate historical catch and catch per unit of effort series for the fishery but give maximum priority to accurate reporting and validation of future catch and effort.
- make the maximum effort to implement the items which have been identified and prioritized by the Extended Scientific Committee in the CCSBTs Scientific Research Program (Attachment 9 of the SC12 Report).
- determine management objectives and rebuild strategy consistent with UNSFA requirements to guide future scientific assessments.
- develop and implement a strategy to address the impacts of southern bluefin tuna fisheries including the collection and sharing of data between CCSBT Members and Secretariats of other RFMOs.

Data collection and sharing

Unproductive effort should not be applied to measures to improve the poor data from the past. The prospects of success appear to be low. Effort must now be focussed on improving data collection and reporting through full and urgent implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the CCSBT at its annual meeting in 2006.

The CCSBT could improve its data collection and sharing by ensuring that:

- all Members and Cooperating Non-Members fulfil the current requirements, which are described Section 4.3.2.
- clear standards are set of the level of detail and the type of data provided by members, in order to ensure the science process has the information it requires.
- appropriate data which meets the minimum UNFSA requirements are collected from all Members and Cooperating Non-Members.
- Commercial confidentiality should no longer limit the access to data within the CCSBT. Members should make every effort to ensure that domestic constraints on data provision will not undermine the conservation and management efforts by CCSBT.
- Members and Cooperating Non-Members fully comply with the confidentiality agreements and provisions within the CCSBT.

Some RFMOs have adopted a process whereby members provided detailed information to the Secretariat who then does the necessary analysis and provides that information to members in an acceptable format. This might be a process worth discussing further taking into account the cost-effectiveness especially because the CCSBT already has the advisory panel for its scientific process.

While ensuring that all data needs are met, harmonisation across five tuna RFMOs would help prevent duplication of reporting obligations, and streamline requirements through the use of appropriate data sharing mechanisms. There is an opportunity for the CCSBT to harmonise its data collection and sharing requirements with the other four tuna RFMOs.

It is worth noting here that despite the considerable work which the Secretariat and Members currently put into running and maintaining the TIS, it is at present of probably only limited value because the TIS does not incorporate all catches (*i.e.* domestic landings from commercial vessels and recreational catch). Further, there is not currently a way of independently verifying monthly or annual catch reports of Members and Cooperating Non-Members, although an expanded TIS as is being worked towards could fulfil this purpose. The implementation of a full catch documentation scheme is recommended for urgent implementation.

Quality and provision of scientific advice

It is recommended that the current structure of the Extended Scientific Committee, especially, the independent chairs and advisory panel, should be maintained.

It is recommended that, in the circumstances the CCSBT now finds itself in, scientific effort should achieve a better balance between southern bluefin tuna and ERS. In light of the requirement to focus on future information with which to assess the stock status of southern bluefin tuna, the number and skill sets of independent experts required in support of the scientific process should be reviewed. Further, the need for a management procedure for the fishery in the short term should be reconsidered in light of the alternative approach of periodic stock assessments using the agreed operating model.

Adoption of conservation and management measures

The CCSBT should continue to make conservation and management measures which are consistent with scientific advice from the Extended Scientific Committee.

The CCSBT should develop a strategic plan plus a management plan to implement minimum standards for the fishery.

Capacity management

No action is recommended in terms of capacity management other than for the Commission to take up with Indonesia the capacity for temporal and spatial closures in the southern bluefin tuna spawning ground.

Compatibility of management measures

The CCSBT's arrangements in relation to catch limits and national allocations are compatible between high seas and in areas under national jurisdiction. The CCSBT should continue to ensure that measures are compatible.

Fishing allocations and opportunities

The CCSBT's arrangements are satisfactory for the moment and do not need any amendment.

Once long term allocations are finalised among members, including the CCSBT 1 MoU, the CCSBT should consider moving to national allocations based on alternative principles, such as proportional allocations, rather than set tonnages.

Flag state measures

All members and cooperating non-members should continue to take all necessary actions to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures adopted by the CCSBT.

Port state measures

Bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication of effort, the “FAO Technical Consultation on Port State Measures” meeting which was held in Rome on June 23-27, 2008, provides the Commission with some guidance on a preferred model when considering implementation of any port state measure.

Monitoring, control and surveillance

As the CCSBT does not have its Convention area and southern bluefin tuna migrates into the other tuna RFMOs’ areas of jurisdiction, the CCSBT should cooperate with the other tuna RFMOs to optimise harmonisation; improve global effectiveness; and avoid duplication of work.

The CCSBT should prioritise the development of MCS in the context of a compliance plan.

Follow up on infringements

The CCSBT should, as a minimum, establish agreed rules on the treatment of overcatch (requirement of payback).

Ideally, the CCSBT should establish a range of penalties in relation to all conservation measures.

Cooperative mechanisms to detect and deter non-compliance

All Members and Cooperating Non-Members should submit their national reports to the CCSBT.

The CCSBT allocate sufficient time to the CC and the Extended Commission to allow them to complete both routine and development work each year.

Market related measures

The CCSBT should implement a CDS as matter of urgency.

Pending implementation of a CDS, all Members and Cooperating non-Members should be required to implement the TIS.

The CCSBT should monitor all market and port states and encourage compliance with CCSBT monitoring and trade measures.

Decision making

Consensus decision making does mean that some decision making is delayed but the Commission could also consider that some day to day operational decision making could be devolved to the Chair or the Executive Secretary (by unanimous decision of the Commission).

Dispute settlement

No recommendation.

Transparency

The CCSBT and its members should improve openness by better publication of the rules for observers. One possible option would be to put the information about the current arrangements to accept observers on the CCSBT website.

Relationship to Cooperating non-Members

No change is recommended.

Relationship to non-Cooperating non-Members

No change is recommended.

Cooperation with other RFMOs

There are significant opportunities for the CCSBT to work more closely with and to harmonise measures with other RFMOs, especially with the other tuna-RFMOs, and this should be a priority area for the CCSBT.

Special requirements of developing states

No change is necessary.

Availability of resources for RFMO activities

The Secretariat should maintain an efficient and cost effective operation.

The CCSBT should consider whether establishing a position at the Secretariat to provide policy and management advice would be a useful way of addressing the current gap that exists taking into account cost effectiveness of such post. For example, the CCSBT could request the Secretariat to come up with options for a priority management or policy issue for CCSBT to consider rather than relying on Members to table papers in an ad hoc manner as currently occurs. This new capacity, coupled with the direction and common vision which would be provided by a CCSBT strategic plan (and a management plan) could greatly improve the functioning and performance of the CCSBT.

Efficiency and cost effectiveness

The Secretariat has run efficiently and effectively. This should be continued.

**Extract of Recommendations from Part 2 of the CCSBT Performance Review
(Report of the Independent Expert)**

The bullet points below are extracts of the recommendations from the report of the independent expert.

For background and contextual information relating to these recommendations, please refer to the report, which is available at:

www.ccsbt.org/docs/pdf/meeting_reports/ccsbt_15/PerformanceReview_IndependentExpertsReport

General Comments

- ... the CCSBT faces some very substantial, immediate problems. It should nevertheless take a hard look at its Convention, compare it to more modern instruments, and seriously consider the need to amend or renegotiate it. If the CCSBT concludes that the time is not ripe to undertake such an initiative, it should nevertheless be possible to incorporate many of the modern standards for fisheries management into the work of the Commission in other ways, including through the adoption of additional conservation and management measures and updated Management Procedure.

Conservation and Management

General

- For southern blufin tuna, the most immediate need in the short term would be to develop the most accurate stock assessment possible in light of the uncertainties caused by the under-reported past catches, then to set catches (i.e., the global TAC) at a level that will allow the stock to rebuild. The CCSBT should take a precautionary approach in this regard: the greater the uncertainty of the stock assessment, the lower the TAC should be set.

Capacity Management

- ... the CCSBT should at very least implement the recommendations set forth in the FAO International Plan of Action on the management of fishing capacity.

Ecologically Related Species

- ... the CCSBT then must move promptly to reduce the impacts of southern blufin tuna fisheries on ecologically related species, including sharks, seabirds, sea turtles and other tuna species.

Data Collection and Sharing

- The recommendations contained in the Self Assessment to improve data collection and sharing appear to be sound. Two of them merit special mention.
 - ... there is a need for all of those RFMOs to harmonize their data collection and sharing regimes. The CCSBT should certainly participate in this effort.
 - ... which may improve the chances that the CCSBT can adopt its own comprehensive CDS in the near future. That should certainly be a priority goal.

Other

- ... The Self Assessment recommends that the current structure of the Extended Scientific Committee, independent chairs and advisory panel should be maintained. That would appear to be a sound judgment.
- The Self Assessment nevertheless also recommends that the scientific effort within the CCSBT structure achieve a better balance between its work on southern blufin tuna and its work (so far very limited) on ecologically related species. That judgment, too, deserves support.
- The CCSBT should also move promptly to adopt and implement measures to minimize pollution, waste, discards or catch by lost and abandoned gear, as required of States Parties to the UNFSA.

Compliance and Enforcement

- ... the CCSBT should move to adopt a broader set of Port State Measures designed to prevent the landing and transshipment of illegal, unreported and unregulated southern blufin tuna catches – including by vessels on the CCSBT authorized vessel list.
- ... despite the adoption in 2006 of a CCSBT resolution committing Members and Cooperating non-Members to adopt an integrated VMS system, the CCSBT still does not have such a system in place. The Commission should institute one promptly.
- ... The Self Assessment suggests that the absence of a CCSBT “convention area” means that implementation of boarding and inspection rules “would be complex because they would cover all oceans.” That is not a good reason for failing to have such rules, given the clear requirements of the UNFSA.
- ... The CCSBT should thus continue to move forward smartly toward the adoption and implementation of a full CDS.

International Cooperation

- ... The current CCSBT rules and procedures (Rule 3) on observers appear to create an unduly restrictive process to admit such observers that is not in line with other tuna RFMOs. ... As these rules are not in keeping with the spirit of current international fisheries governance frameworks, the CCSBT should consider modernizing Rule 3 of its rules of procedure.
- With respect to CCSBT’s efforts to cooperate with other RFMOs, the Self Assessment’s analysis and suggested course appears sensible. However, the CCSBT should add combating IUU fishing activities to the list of cross-cutting issues affecting all tuna RFMOs, as well as monitoring and regulating transshipment...

Financial and Administrative Issues

- The Self Assessment acknowledges that implementation of at least some of the recommendations it contains – such as a comprehensive CDS or a centralized VMS regime – would entail some expansion in the role of the Secretariat, which would in turn require additional resources. If the CCSBT does implement these recommendations, its members should make such resources available to the Secretariat.