

	CCSBT	Area of Competence	Objectives	Organizational Structure	Scientific Regime
RFMO Structure	<p>Commission for Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna</p> <p>Headquarters: Deakin, Australia</p> <p>Convention: Convention for the Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT Convention).</p> <p>Signed: May 10, 1993, Canberra, Australia.</p> <p>In force: May 20, 1994</p>	<p>The entire range of southern bluefin tuna (SBT), covering approximately 30°S - 50°S in all oceans and the spawning ground south of Java, Indonesia.</p>	<p>To ensure, through appropriate management, conservation and optimum utilisation of SBT. The Commission provides internationally recognised forum for other countries/entities to actively participate in SBT issues.</p>	<p>Commission, Scientific Committee (SC), Stock Assessment Group, Independent Advisory Panel. Extended Commission and Extended Scientific Committee was created in 2001(enabling Fishing Entity of Taiwan to participate), Secretariat (Executive Secretary).</p>	<p>SC advises Commission. SC has independent Chair and independent Advisory Panel. Stock assessment is conducted by Stock Assessment Group (SAG) established to separate technical evaluation and advisory roles of SC. SAG has independent external Chair. Independent Advisory Panel was created to assist national scientists with stock assessment, to provide support to process, and comment on Members' papers. If Members cannot agree on science, Advisory Panel will prepare independent advice. SC considers advice of SAG and advises Commission. No permanent scientific staff exist. Established extended SC to allow Fishing Entity of Taiwan to participate in scientific deliberations.</p>
The Fishery EA and PA	<p>Key Species and Gear</p> <p>Highly migratory stocks:</p> <p>Southern bluefin tuna.</p> <p>Gear: Purse seine and long line.</p>	<p>Stock Status</p> <p>SBT may have declined by up to 90% since 1960. 2004 stock assessment concluded that under current catch rates, it is more likely that stock will further decline than increase. (Spawning grounds are targeted within Indonesia EEZ.) Rebuilding plan for 1980 stock levels by 2020 is current management objective. However, scientific advice indicates new plan and target are needed given current stock levels.</p>	<p>Bycatch</p> <p>Seabirds, sharks, rays, turtles and juvenile tuna. Measures adopted in 1995 mandate use of streamer lines and bait dying to mitigate seabird bycatch. Identification guides for sharks and seabirds have been published by CCSBT. Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERS WG) meets biennially. Members and Cooperating Non-Members (CNMs) are required to report on implementation of required bycatch mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Ecosystem Approach (EA)</p> <p>While EA is not expressly referred to in Convention, Commission has established Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERS WG) charged with reducing bycatch and evaluating effects on associated species. ERS WG implemented data collection by fishing vessels on bycatch species.</p>	<p>Precautionary Approach (PA)</p> <p>No formal adoption of PA to date.</p>
Participation	<p>Members / Contracting Parties</p> <p>Commission Members: Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Japan. Extended Commission: Fishing Entity of Taiwan was admitted to Extended Commission in 2002 (5 Members of Extended Commission).</p> <p>Bold: UNFA <i>Italics:</i> FAO Compliance Agreement</p>	<p>Cooperating Non-Members</p> <p>In 2003, Extended Commission decided to include status of Cooperating Non-Member (CNM). Philippines is CNM. Negotiations to join CCSBT are ongoing with South Africa and Indonesia as their nationals and vessels fish SBT.</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>Membership is open to any State whose vessels engage in fishing for SBT or to any coastal State through whose EEZ or fishing zone SBT migrates. REIOs are not permitted to join. CNM status is reviewed annually based on adherence to conservation management activities of Commission. In 2004, Extended Commission considered policy options for admission of new entrants, including setting of catch limits. No decisions were taken. Engagement of new Members or CNMs is encouraged to ensure that conservation measures are not undermined.</p>	<p>Participation Criteria</p> <p>CNMs cannot vote, do not pay contributions but participate fully in discussions although they may be excluded from discussion on some agenda items at discretion of Chair (no exclusions have occurred to date). CNMs are required to observe conservation and management measures of CCSBT. Vessels of CNMs are added to CCSBT list of vessels authorized to fish for SBT.</p>	<p>Transparency</p> <p>Publicly accessible website. Meeting minutes and catch data are available online. NGOs may attend meetings as observers and submit documents with 100 days notice and unanimous consent of Parties. NGOs may also attend as Members of Party delegations. Reports and Commission documents are placed in public domain unless Party asks for document to be kept confidential. IGOs and other organizations are invited. Opening stages of Commission meeting are open to public, but subsequent discussions of substance are limited to Members, CNMs and observers.</p>
Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	<p>Data Collecting and Reporting</p> <p>Parties to Convention provide Commission with scientific information, catch and effort statistics, and other data relevant to conservation of SBT and ecologically related species. There is agreed data set required to be collected by Members and CNMs, and maintained by CCSBT Secretariat. CCSBT Secretariat is implementing 5 year tagging program and maintains database on tag releases and recoveries.</p>	<p>Observer Program</p> <p>CCSBT has agreed observer program standards which Members must implement for fleets catching SBT. Standards have target observer coverage of 10% and data set to be collected. Currently, observer data is maintained by Members and not maintained in data set managed by CCSBT Secretariat.</p>	<p>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)</p> <p>No centralized VMS scheme. All authorized fishing vessels are operating with VMS but report back to national administrations and not to CCSBT.</p>	<p>Enforcement</p> <p>CCSBT established List of authorized fishing vessels which, as of July 1 2005, includes all vessels regardless of length. Obligatory for Members to implement CCSBT conservation and management measures within EEZs and fleets fishing for SBT; no boarding and inspection scheme; compliance is sought through trade measures. Since Japan is both Member and primary market, trade control measures can be effective.</p>	<p>Catch and Trade Documentation</p> <p>Trade Information Scheme (TIS) was implemented in 2000. TIS states that Members and CNMs require completed CCSBT statistical document for all imports of SBT. Members and CNMs will not validate trade documents for, or accept imports from, large scale fishing vessels not on List of authorized vessels. States who do not cooperate with CCSBT conservation and management measures can face trade restrictions. This is outlined in 2000 Action Plan. USA has passed legislation requiring SBT importation to be accompanied by a trade document authorized by tuna RFMOs.</p>
Other Governance Efforts and Challenges	<p>Decision Making</p> <p>Decisions are made by consensus of Members present at Commission meeting. In case of vote, each member has one vote. Two-thirds of Members constitutes a quorum. Commission's work is principally done within Extended Commission.</p>	<p>Dispute Settlement Mechanism</p> <p>Article XIV provides dispute resolution directions. Annex I includes instructions for creating Arbitral Tribunal if other dispute resolution mechanisms fail. Parties have submitted a dispute to ITLOS, but this was not managed through CCSBT dispute settlement procedures.</p>	<p>Cooperative Efforts</p> <p>Cooperates with other tuna RFMOs regarding SBT. Tuna bodies meet annually and participate in RFB biennial meetings. CCSBT regularly attends CCAMLR meetings and will attend WCPFC First Substantive Meeting in 2005. Obligated under Article 12 of Convention to cooperate with other RFMOs and IGOs.</p>	<p>Efforts to Strengthen RFMO</p> <p>Created Extended Commission and Extended SC to allow participation by Fishing Entity of Taiwan. Created status of CNM. Developed vessel registry list. Since 2001, enhanced Secretariat's role to strengthen inter-sessional management including maintaining database, managing TIS and negotiating with potential CNMs. Can control nationals under flag State (Article 15.4). CCSBT is considering implementing catch monitoring scheme.</p>	<p>Challenges</p> <p>Setting and achieving stock rebuilding targets. Implementating bycatch mitigation measures. IUU fishing. Non-participation in CCSBT particularly by those coastal States intensively harvesting SBT on spawning grounds within their EEZs. Decision making by consensus resulting in occasional deadlock and barring an agreement on catch quota in 1998-2002. Uncertainty over data, potentially corrupting important inputs on which SAG assesses and Commission sets quotas. Loopholes in TIS including transshipment at sea and non-participating port States. Lack of trade documentation requirement if fish are caught and consumed by same county. Strengthen control of nationals.</p>