



Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

Fourth Meeting of Seabird Bycatch Working Group

Guayaquil, Ecuador, 22 – 24 August 2011

ACAP Observer Report for EC-CCSBT 17

Secretariat

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Meeting Title: Extended Commission of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Commission (EC-CCSBT 17)

Meeting Organisation: CCSBT Secretariat

Date and Location: 11-14 October 2010, Taipei, Taiwan

Website Address: www.ccsbt.org

Your Name/Affiliation: Warren Papworth, ACAP Secretariat

Capacity of Attendance: ACAP Observer

Relevant Paper(s) Tabled:

CCSBT-EC/1010/11 Adoption and Implementation of the CCSBT Strategic Plan

CCSBT-EC/1010/17 Activities with other organisations

CCSBT-EC/1010/Info2 Report of the international workshop on tuna RFMO management of issues related to bycatch

Author(s) and/or Presenter if Different:

All relevant papers were submitted by the CCSBT Secretariat

Summary of Content:

CCSBT-EC/1010/11 – Improving the operation of the ERSWG

One item of relevance to ACAP in this paper, which was prepared by the CCSBT Secretariat, concerns improvements to the operations of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG). The paper presents a number of options to the Extended Commission for ways to improve the function of the ERSWG and associated work. Key options put forward were:

- Appointing an ERSWG Chair for at least two meetings with the possibility of extension beyond that for at least another two meetings. The Chair should be appointed on the basis of expertise. The Chair should be nominated as one of the CCSBT representatives for the joint tuna RFMO bycatch technical working group.
- Conducting an annual ERS data exchange process, similar to that used by the ESC, to exchange aggregated data for the purpose of assessing the impact of the SBT fishery on ERS. The new Chair could coordinate intersessional discussion during 2011, to recommend data exchange requirements for consideration by the Extended Commission.
- Consider holding ERSWG meetings annually from 2012 in conjunction with shorter ESC meetings until the CCSBT is satisfied with progress on ERS matters.
- Consider appointing an independent expert for ERS matters with a similar role as the independent panel at ESC meetings. The ERS expert could be nominated as one of the CCSBT representatives for the joint tuna RFMO bycatch technical working group

Outcome CCSBT-EC/1010/11 – Improving the operation of the ERSWG

The Commission supported adoption of the first three options identified above.

CCSBT-EC/1010/17 Activities with other organisations

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) has expressed interest in negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CCSBT with a view to facilitating cooperation between the Secretariats to support efforts to minimise the incidental by-catch of albatrosses and petrels. It was noted that development of an MOU with ACAP is consistent with recommendation 13 of the joint tuna RFMO workshop on management issues relating to bycatch (see Attachment C of CCSBT-EC/1010/10)

During November 2009, ACAP provided a template for an MOU to the CCSBT Secretariat, which has since been modified by the CCSBT Secretariat to incorporate intersessional comments it requested from CCSBT Members.

Outcome CSBT-EC/1010/17 Activities with other organisations

The MoU was supported by most Parties, however consensus was blocked by Taiwan, who objected to it being adopted until such time as the ERSWG had become effective in its work. The next ERSWG meeting is scheduled to be held in 2012.

Outlook for Future ACAP Involvement:

At this time there appears to be little value in ACAP involvement in future CCSBT meetings. Given that the CCSBT has agreed to follow the seabird conservation measures of the IOTC and WCPFC our focus should be on improving the mitigation measures being used in these Commissions.

In relation to access to CCSBT data – currently no data, either on target catch or ERS is provided to the CCSBT Secretariat. There is no observer program in place and no substantive discussion was held on the Australian proposal to establish a regional observer programme, although members were encouraged to provide the Secretariat with information on how such a programme might be established.

Contact should be maintained with the CCSBT Secretariat to determine what progress is being made on the development of a regional observer programme and with ERS data exchange, as proposed in CCSBT-EC/1010/11.

Recommended Actions for ACAP:

Review reports of future CCSBT meetings and liaise with the CCSBT Secretariat to assess if progress is being made on data collection/access issues, which may justify ACAP participation in future meetings.

Have relevant papers been forwarded to Secretariat: Yes