



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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Update on Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the CCSBT

WCPFC-TCC14-2018-15B

13 September 2018

Paper by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. To provide a progress update on the Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

Background

2. A Transshipment Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was agreed between WCPFC and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in 2016 and was subsequently signed in April-June 2017. This MoC provides for High Seas transshipments involving southern bluefin tuna (SBT) to be carried out within the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area if observed by CCSBT-endorsed WCPFC Regional Observer Program (ROP) transshipment observers.

Progress update

3. During 2018, the Secretariat continued liaising with the CCSBT Secretariat to explore ways in which it might establish the systems and processes necessary to operationalise this Transshipment MoC.
4. CCSBT Secretariat has advised that during 2018 it contacted its three transshipping Members (Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei) to check which of these three Members may wish to transship SBT within the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area once the CCSBT-WCPFC MoC has been operationalised. Following consultation with their industries, Korea and Chinese Taipei advised that their vessels are not intending to transship SBT within the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area in the foreseeable future. Japan confirmed that it may wish to, and also advised that:
 - a. It expected that the number of transshipments per annum involving SBT that may occur within the High Seas of the WCPFC Convention Area would be in the range 10 – 20 per annum; and
 - b. Any transshipments involving SBT will usually be multi-species transshipments.
5. Noting that the Commission has not prescribed the minimum data fields that ROP observers are expected to collect when they are deployed to monitor high seas transshipment activities. During the second half of 2017, and following a request from the Secretariat, the CCSBT Secretariat produced a draft summary document identifying key data elements to be collected and/or reports to be produced

by WCPFC ROP observers that are assigned/endorsed to observe High Seas transshipments involving Southern Bluefin Tuna within the WCPFC Convention Area.

6. In August 2018, the Secretariat and CCSBT Compliance Manager attended the Eleventh Meeting of the FFA/SPC Tuna Fishery Data Collection Committee (DCC 11) held in Brisbane, Australia between 20 – 24 August 2018. During DCC 11 an update was provided by SPC and FFA on the initial progress made on the development of training courses and minimum data fields for Pacific Island observer programmes to collect whilst deployed on carrier vessels operating in the Convention Area, including when involved in in-port and high seas transshipments.
7. Following consultations held in Brisbane in the margins of DCC 11, the CCSBT Secretariat has prepared a paper for the 17th Compliance Committee in mid-October that sets out some possible options available to the CCSBT to continue trying to facilitate implementation of the Transshipment MoC. They include the following:

Option 1: The CCSBT Secretariat continues to work intersessionally with the WCPFC, FFA, SPC and the PNAO, and participate at DCC meetings over the next 2-3 years while these bodies collaborate to develop Pacific Island minimum data standards for observers on carrier vessels.

Option 2: Interested CCSBT Members could choose to approach WCPFC ROP-authorized National or Subregional Observer Programs (either Pacific Island or non-Pacific island programs) directly to determine the ability of those programs to provide appropriately trained transshipment observers to observe transshipments involving SBT in the High Seas of the WCPFC area.

Recommendation

8. TCC14 is invited to note the paper.