

Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna



みなみまぐろ保存委員会



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Indian Ocean Tuna Commission  
Commission des Thons de l'Océan Indien

## **Letter of Understanding between the CCSBT<sup>1</sup> and IOTC<sup>2</sup> for Monitoring Transshipment at Sea by Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels**

### Introduction

1. The IOTC adopted Resolution 18/06<sup>3</sup> that required implementation of a monitoring program for transshipment at sea by large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs) within the IOTC Area of competence. The CCSBT has adopted a similar Resolution<sup>4</sup> for tuna longline fishing vessels with freezing capacity that applies globally to all transshipments involving southern bluefin tuna (SBT).
2. Within the IOTC area of competence, the CCSBT and IOTC Resolutions have similar provisions and most vessels that are required to comply with the CCSBT Resolution are also required to comply with the IOTC Resolution.
3. This Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been established to minimise the duplication of work and to minimise the associated costs for those that are required to comply with both the CCSBT and IOTC Resolutions.

### Scope of this Letter of Understanding

4. This LoU applies to transshipments at sea involving southern bluefin tuna (SBT) within the IOTC area of competence, for all fleets.

### The Arrangement between CCSBT and IOTC

5. All provisions of IOTC transshipment Resolution 18/06 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution) will continue to apply to transshipments at sea that fall within this arrangement.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna

<sup>2</sup> Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 18/06 on establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 18/06 on establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels

6. All provisions of the CCSBT transshipment Resolution (or any subsequent superseding Resolution) will also apply to transshipments at sea that fall within this arrangement, except that:
  - a) To enable a single Transshipment Declaration form to be completed for transshipment by an LSTLV, an IOTC Transshipment Declaration form may be used instead of the CCSBT Transshipment Declaration form. This only applies where the IOTC and CCSBT forms remain compatible, unless there is agreement to the contrary. Furthermore, transmission of this form by Carrier Vessel masters to the IOTC Secretariat is deemed to also be a transmission to the CCSBT Secretariat. The IOTC Secretariat will transmit these documents to the CCSBT Secretariat without delay.
  - b) IOTC Register Numbers for LSTLVs and Carrier Vessels may be used instead of the CCSBT equivalents. The CCSBT Secretariat will conduct the necessary conversions between IOTC and CCSBT registration numbers.
  - c) To enable a single set of Transshipment Observers to be used, IOTC Transshipment Observers will be deemed to be CCSBT Transshipment Observers, providing these observers meet the standards established in the CCSBT Transshipment Resolution and providing that the CCSBT Secretariat is informed.
  - d) Transmission of Observer Reports by the Contractor to the IOTC Secretariat is deemed to also be a transmission to the CCSBT Secretariat. The IOTC Secretariat will transmit these and any other related documents to the CCSBT Secretariat without delay.
7. The combined effect of paragraphs 5 and 6 is that the IOTC Secretariat and Transshipment Observers will continue to follow the requirements of the IOTC Resolution with the additions that:
  - a) The IOTC and CCSBT Secretariats will advise each other regarding any planned or actual changes to their Resolutions for at sea transshipment including the Transshipment Declaration form.
  - b) The IOTC Secretariat will transmit copies of Transshipment Observer Deployment Approvals, Transshipment Declarations, Five Day Reports and Observer Reports for all transshipments involving SBT to the CCSBT Secretariat without delay.
  - c) In addition to the experience and training required by IOTC Resolution 18/06 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution), IOTC Transshipment Observers that observe transshipments of SBT must:
    - have sufficient experience and knowledge to identify southern bluefin tuna; and
    - have a satisfactory knowledge of the CCSBT conservation and management measures.
  - d) An up-to-date list of Transshipment Observers will be maintained and provided to the CCSBT Secretariat by the IOTC Secretariat, at the beginning of every quarter of the year.
  - e) When IOTC is informed that an observer deployment will involve transshipments of SBT, IOTC will notify CCSBT prior to approving the observer deployment so that



the CCSBT Secretariat can check the validity of authorisations of the Fishing Vessels and Carrier Vessels against the published list of CCSBT Authorised Fishing Vessels and CCSBT Authorised Carrier Vessels, respectively.

f) In addition to tasks specified in IOTC Resolution 18/06 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution), Transshipment Observers that observe transshipments of SBT will:

- Sign the transshipment verification section of the CCSBT CDS documentation to indicate that the transshipment details (date, name and registration of carrier vessel) were filled in correctly and that the transshipment of product was observed according to the CCSBT Transshipment Resolution<sup>5</sup>.

8. Additional costs imposed on the IOTC Secretariat by operating according to this arrangement (e.g. additional training and insurance required for observers) will be recovered in accordance with the cost recovery mechanism of IOTC Resolution 18/06 (or any subsequent superseding Resolution) from the fleets transshipping under the IOTC's Regional Observer Programme to monitor at-sea transshipments.
9. This arrangement comes into effect from the date notified below. Termination of this arrangement shall be effective upon the date notified by the IOTC's Executive Secretary to the CCSBT's Executive Secretary.

10. Effective from: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed and duly dated:

Chairperson  
Commission for the Conservation of  
Southern Bluefin Tuna

  
Chairperson

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 27/09/2019

<sup>5</sup> A discrepancy between the stated product on the CDS document and the quantities recorded by the observer would be recorded in the observer's report (not the CDS document) and would not prevent the observer from signing the CDS document.