



**Australian Government**

**Australian Fisheries Management Authority**

**Southern Bluefin Tuna  
Management Advisory Committee  
SBTMAC 48**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Teleconference**

**8 September 2023**

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# 1. Preliminaries

## 1.1 Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair opened the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC) 10:00am 08 September 2023.
2. Apologies had been received prior to the meeting from Industry Member (Farm industry sector) Mr Peter Fare.
3. Participants on the SBTMAC 48 teleconference included:

Members	
Mr Max Kitchell	Chair
Ms Selina Stoute	AFMA Member
Mr Andrew Wilkinson	Industry Member (Farm industry sector)
Mr Terry Romaro OAM	Industry Member (Longline)
Mr Marcus Stehr	Industry Member (Farm industry sector)
Mr Glenn Sant	Environment Member
Mr Brett Cleary	Recreational Member
Mr David Galeano	Scientific Member
Invited participants	
Brian Jeffriess AM	Australian SBT Industry Association
Prof Gavin Begg	The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), State Government
Mr David Ellis	Tuna Australia
Steph Brodie	CSIRO
Alice McDonald	AFMA
Observers	
Mr Robert Wood	Executive Officer, AFMA
Ann Preece	CSIRO
Dr Campbell Davies	CSIRO
Jeremy Smith	AFMA

## 1.2 Declarations of interest

1. The Chair requested that members provide updates to declaration of interests identified at SBTMAC 47. The Environment Member provided an update via email prior to the meeting. The updated declarations of interest are at **Attachment 1a**.

## 1.3 Adoption of Agenda

2. SBTMAC adopted the agenda as circulated to members prior to the meeting. The agenda is at **Attachment 1b**.

## 1.4 Actions arising SBTMAC46 and intersessional work

3. SBTMAC noted that there were no actions from the last full meeting.

## 2. Member Updates

### 2.1 Informal industry report on the 2022/23 catching season, markets and outlook

#### Farm Sector

4. The SBTMAC noted the update from Industry Members including:
  - The average size of fish declined again in 2023. This confirms that the changes to the transfer weighing methodology (10kg to 8kg) are appropriate to the size of fish harvested in the fishery.
  - Small Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) are creating challenges with Japanese buyers who prefer fish >20 kg gilled and gutted. Smaller fish require higher levels of feed input to achieve sufficient growth prior to harvest.
  - Prices paid (¥) for SBT were similar to previous seasons, but the exchange rate has created challenges.
  - Significant stockpiles of unsold Atlantic bluefin tuna and easing of inflated prices paid for Atlantic bluefin tuna are expected to put downward pressure on SBT prices in future seasons.
  - Companies were able to fill quota easily in 2023, due to an abundance of fish. This allowed an ideal (~130 days) grow out period for farmed fish.
  - A large quantity of fish were available in gene tagging areas. Similar to catching areas these fish were smaller than expected.
  - There were reports of smaller fish to the west but again an absence of larger fish.
  - Additional operational spotter aircraft were available in 2023. However, they were unable to locate schools of larger fish.
  - Some in industry are expecting positive impacts of changes in summer seasonal patterns, with the expected shift from La Niña to El Niño cycles. This change may impact oceanographic conditions resulting in larger fish moving into the SBT Fishery (SBTF).

#### East Coast Report:

5. Mr David Ellis, Tuna Australia, provided an update on the 2023 fishing season on the east coast including:
  - Previous seasons have seen significant catches south-east of Eden where fishing is impacted by zoning associated with the South-east Marine Parks (SEMP) Network. However, in 2023 there has been a shift to nearshore and inshore fishing, stretching as far north as Coffs Harbour.
  - The 2023 fishing season typically started in June and July, with mixed catch sizes. As August arrived, larger fish were observed. After August, catches started to decline, and vessels were observed to move further south towards Eden.
  - One vessel, targeting yellowfin, caught a significant quantity of SBT, indicating a shift in SBT distribution. The proximity of fishing grounds to ports made fish processing more efficient.
  - Processing facilities continue to evolve with one east coast processor receiving more than 1000 tonnes of SBT. In addition, a processor, with export capability, has

commenced operations in Eden, providing options for fishers wishing to access international markets.

- The longline sector continues to face challenges including the review of the SEMP Network and potential changes to longline fishing in the Freycinet and Flinders marine parks. Other challenges include labour shortages and possible changes to the requirements for general-purpose hands employed on longline vessels.
6. SBTMAC discussed current market conditions noting shifts observed in the US and Japanese markets affecting the distribution of fish domestically in Australia. Mr Ellis observed that the US market had performed well earlier in the season, in contrast to the Japanese market. In August, with bigger fish caught on the east coast flow of product to Japan increased. Parallel with that more SBT were being traded domestically.
  7. An Industry member asked what the total longline SBT catch was on the east coast and the amount caught within 50 miles of the coast. AFMA noted that total SBT catch is approximately 5830 tons, with around 1100 tons from the east coast.
  8. Mr Ellis stated approximately 36 to 38 vessels typically participate in the East Coast longline fishery, although not all target SBT.
  9. An Industry member asked about possible impacts of climate change on water temperatures on the east coast fishery. Mr Ellis advised that eddies play a more significant role in determining SBT distribution on the East Coast rather than the regional or global climate trends (El Niño vs La Niña) that might influence abundance for the Purse Seine sector.
  10. Ms Steph Brodie, CSIRO, asked about the size class of fish close to the coast, specifically if fish under 15kgs had been observed. Mr Ellis stated the average size of fish on the east coast is around 40kg and he was not specifically aware of fish <15kg.
  11. Mr Brian Jeffriess, Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Association (ASBTIA), noted that the smaller size class of the fish in the GAB was believed by industry's scientists to be a result of three main factors, including:
    - Impact of 3D seismic surveys, with the last one in 2013. He noted that there was scientific evidence of these impacts.
    - A rare three-year period of La Niña events, and an expected shift to El Niño. He suggested that it was important to see how these climate patterns may influence fish behaviour.
    - Impact of climate change on small pelagic fish, citing a survey on sardines in the Great Australian Bight. Climate change is thought to have assisted small pelagic species and noted the last survey had recorded the highest results of sardine numbers. Due to the abundance of small pelagic fish like sardines, larger predatory fish might not have needed to come to the surface for feeding. This change in predator-prey dynamics may have a cascading effect on marine ecosystems, impacting the behaviour of other species.

### **Environmental sector report**

12. The SBTMAC noted the update from the Environment member including:
  - Recent work on monitoring and quantifying catches of CITES listed shark species. A shark traceability system called "Shark trace" has been developed in Australia and

trialled successfully in South Africa's long-line fishery. This system helped track shark catches and inform management.

- "Missing sharks" project for sharks known to be caught but not appearing in CITES trade records, despite in some cases being reported as catch to RFMOs. The objective of the project is to determine why these catches are not reported. Extension of the project has recently been agreed along with funding from the CITES Secretariat, noting the project is more relevant to other CCSBT members known or expected to interact with these sharks.
- All requiem sharks were listed in Appendix II of CITES in 2022, increasing the number of CITES listed shark species to 155. The listing takes effect in November 2023 and will have implications in Australian fisheries where these species are caught and retained. Stockpiling of shark fins will be a concern, noting fins stockpiled prior to the listing coming into effect are not subject to the Convention. In the absence of proper documentation product harvested after the listing takes effect could fraudulently enter the market through these stockpiles as pre-listed product to bypass international restrictions on trade.

## 2.2 Informal report from the recreational sector member

13. The SBTMAC noted the update from Recreational member including:

- The recreational fishery in 2023 seems to mirror observations in the commercial sector with SBT being caught much closer to the coast and home ports. The time spent searching for fish compared to previous seasons has been reduced. Movements to inshore areas observed in both commercial and recreational sectors appear to suggest a shift in migration patterns for SBT in 2023.
- With the increased availability of SBT, fishing in 2023 in Tasmania has been year-round, as opposed to having specific start and end dates. The recreational sector encountered a larger size variation of SBT than what was reported in the farm sector, with smaller fish on the east coast of Tasmania and larger fish closer to shore than previous seasons. Larger SBT were often encountered as individuals rather than in schools.
- The Tuna Champions Program, promoting sustainable and responsible fishing practices, has been a great success and will expand to other tuna species. The program has encouraged cultural change among fishers including responsible practices, such as tag and release. The program includes information in different languages targeting anglers from different cultural backgrounds. The program has a strong presence on social media, reaching a wide audience and promotes self-regulation among fishing clubs and tournaments.

## 2.3 AFMA Manager's report

14. The SBT Manager provided an update to SBTMAC including:

- Noted the TAC for the 2022/23 season was just over 6,600 tonnes, with approximately 5,800 tonnes caught. The decision to carry over uncaught holdings into the 2023-24 season is pending Commission approval.
- In 2023, the purse seine sector has caught approximately 4,700 tonnes, with approximately 1,100 tonnes caught on the east coast longline sector. This leaves [at the time of the meeting] about 700 tonnes of under catch.

- Data reported to AFMA supports industry observations that average size of SBT continues to decline with average size of 10.7 kilos this year from the fish transfer samples of 100 fish  $\geq$  8 kg up to a maximum 150 fish sample.
15. The history of the east coast SBT zone was outlined including its purpose, and how it has evolved over time. It was noted there will be a review to determine whether the zone is still required, considering changing circumstances, with ample quota and the introduction of E-monitoring to the fishery. Discard requirements will also need to be reviewed/considered as a part of this change to ensure that all sources of mortality are documented. Further discussions will be required to clarify these requirements. Including with representatives from the Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) to ensure arrangements are workable for east coast fishers.
  16. The SBT Manager noted the transition of fisheries to E-logs. Regarding E-logs in the Purse Seine sector of the SBTF it is unlikely E-logs will be ready for mandatory introduction in 2024/24. However, AFMA expects e-logs will be available for mandatory use in 2024/25. Concerns were raised to ensure compatibility between the current CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme and E-log systems to avoid duplicating data entry between AFMA and CCSBT.

### **3. CCSBT - Outcomes from CCSBT 28th Extended Scientific Committee meeting (August/September 2023).**

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17. The Scientific member noted the significance of having a face-to-face meeting of the CCSBT Extended Scientific Committee (ESC), for the first time in approximately 4 years.
18. The primary focus was the updated stock assessment that shows the SBTF stock continues to recover, with the latest estimate showing a 23% total reproductive output (TRO) exceeding that of the previous assessment. The stock's growth trajectory was still on track to reach the target of 30% TRO by 2035, with a probability of 50%. Additionally, the current level of fishing mortality was well below the maximum sustainable yield, which is positive for ongoing recovery.
19. Sensitivity tests conducted as part of the stock assessment were also positive with even the most pessimistic scenarios, assessed to be unlikely. ESC endorsed the previous recommendation from 2022 of a 3,000-tonne increase to the global Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to 20,647 tonnes. The ESC found that exceptional circumstances or concerns with the stock assessment or its inputs that suggest moving away from the agreed Management Procedure, did not exist providing additional support for the recommended increase. Another issue discussed at ESC was CCSBT budget issues, which may impact on funding for scientific research and future face to face meetings.
20. CSIRO discussed concerns with the SBT Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) index. Specifically, spatial concentration of Japanese longline effort. Japanese fishing effort had been further concentrated, showing a positive effect on CPUE. It is unclear whether concentration of fishing effort is indicative of an improvement in CPUE due to the stock rebuilding or is due to other economic reasons. Efforts were underway to broaden the data set by incorporating data from other member countries. Any issues with CPUE data, such as inaccuracies or

inconsistencies, could have an impact on stock assessments' outputs and, by extension, on fisheries management decisions.

21. CSIRO noted impacts on stock assessment from spatial shifts in Indonesian fishing patterns (movement away from the Area 1 spawning grounds into more southerly Area 2 of the fishery) and structural changes to Indonesia's domestic scientific and fisheries management organisations. These changes may, over time, have a significant impact on the availability of accurate data needed for stock assessments. For instance, altered fishing patterns could affect catch data. Changes in government institutions is impacting on data collection most notably gene sampling for the Close Kin Mark Recapture program one of 3 key inputs to the stock assessment model.
22. CSIRO highlighted the importance of biological data collection. This included data related to fish populations' age, size, and productivity, among other factors. The use of epigenetic ageing methods, innovative techniques for determining the age of fish was also noted. These methods were important for understanding fish growth patterns and, consequently, stock status.
23. The Japanese delegation to ESC, presented outcomes from its long-term archival tagging research program. This involved attaching tracking devices to fish and monitoring their movements and growth over extended periods, often several years. Such data was valuable for understanding fish behaviour, migration patterns, and growth rates. It could provide insights into the life history of fish species and inform conservation and management efforts.
24. CSIRO discussed issues related to Indonesia, specifically the challenges in resuming tissue sampling and catch monitoring programs. These programs were essential for gathering data on the composition and health of fish stocks in the region. The CSIRO observer stressed the importance of overcoming these challenges to ensure that reliable data was available to support effective management procedures. It was noted that while the situation was challenging, some progress was being made.
25. CSIRO mentioned ongoing work to redevelop the operating model and code used for stock assessments. This demonstrates continuous effort to improve and update the models and tools used to assess the SBT stock. This was essential for ensuring that assessments were based on the latest scientific knowledge and methodologies, ultimately leading to more effective and adaptive fisheries management.
26. The large number of small fishing vessels operating in the waters west of Western Australia and south of the Java Sea, especially in Indonesia were discussed. Questions were raised whether enough was being done to address this issue and mentioned the need for increased monitoring.
27. CSIRO briefly mentioned the importance of addressing shark catches and impacts on the ecosystem, especially within the framework of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

## 4. Compliance update and outcomes

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28. The SBT Manager noted that there were several compliance efforts that were undertaken during the year. No major compliance issues were observed. Observer coverage in the SBTTF was approximately 10% for both catch and effort.



29. SBTMAC noted the usefulness of the information included in the compliance update, including the number of fish caught in tow cages, the average weight, the number of tow cages etc.
30. An Industry member emphasised that interactions between the industry and compliance teams had generally been positive and Industry's cooperation with compliance efforts was highlighted.
31. Mr Jeffriess noted the importance of documentation and reporting to effective compliance in commercial fisheries management.

## 5. Domestic Management

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### 5.1. Climate adaptation program update including the SBTF Climate and Ecosystem Status Report (AFMA/CSIRO)

32. The AFMA member opened the discussion noting:
- The AFMA Commission, in cooperation with and to support MACs and Resource Assessment Groups (RAGs) had recently implemented a number of initiatives to integrate the consideration of climate change impacts in TACs and other management decisions.
  - CSIRO is assisting with the production of climate and ecosystem status reports to inform committees on climatic and ecosystem trends.
  - AFMA is undertaking further work to develop more structure guidance for MACs and RAG on integrating climate change considerations into advice making.
  - In contrast to other Commonwealth fisheries the SBTF does not have a RAG relying instead on scientific advice developed through CCSBT. Understanding CCSBT consideration of climate change will be important for the AFMA Commission.
33. Ms Brodie presented the draft SBTF climate status ecosystem report to SBTMAC noting:
- Although strictly in the La Niña phase of the El Niño -Southern Oscillation (ENSO) index, a shift to El Nino is expected shortly. This is expected to generate reduced rainfall and increase in Seas Surface Temperatures (SST) (although cooler in the Great Australian Bight (GAB)), a weaker Leeuwin Current, stronger East Australia Current and an increase in GAB shelf nutrient levels due to shallower thermocline.
  - El Niño is often, although not always, associated with a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) which also generates periods of reduced rainfall, cooler waters in the east Indian Ocean although these effects ease during monsoon periods. CSIRO's preliminary analysis found no clear trends between IOD, the Leeuwin current, SBT spawning or commercial catch.
  - Positive phases of the Southern Annular Mode (SAM), where strong westerly winds move poleward, have become more common recently although we are expecting to move into a negative phase during El Niño with possible increase in storm activity in southern Australia.
  - When comparing the 2023 SST to a 20-year historical average, SST off the east coast and the GAB has seen temperatures similar to what has been observed for the past 20 years, with some slight variations.

- 2023 chlorophyll levels on the east coast are below long-term averages while the GAB is relatively stable. Surface chlorophyll levels may provide an indication of ecosystem productivity.
  - The broad-scale regions depicted in the status report may not show important small-scale trends. The SBTMAC were asked to consider how regions might be adjusted to better show fine scale regional trends relevant to the SBTF.
  - Sea surface temperatures off south eastern Australia have reached temperatures of more than 2°C above average over the few months and this is expected to continue. The GAB has been cooler, but the next few months are expected to have above average temperatures. The SBT spawning ground is expected to be above average SST for the remainder of 2023.
  - Zooplankton biomass trends differ across regions, including decreases off New South Wales, increases in South Australia, and Tasmania. Changes in zooplankton biomass may impact on the availability of food for SBT.
34. Ms Alice McDonald, AFMA, joined the meeting and took SBTMAC through paper 5.1, noting:
- AFMA's climate adaptation efforts continue to evolve and the SBTF was considered in the development of the Climate Adaptation Handbook, a key tool used to assess climate risks and adaptation strategies.
  - Climate change is now a standing agenda item at all RAG and MAC meetings and is being discussed in a number of other forums; however the predicted impacts of climate change on some species and stocks, including the SBT, is uncertain.
  - Specifically, for SBT, impacts on recruitment is uncertain. If recruitment is not affected by climate change, then projections suggest there might be a small decline in SBT abundance. However, if recruitment is impacted by factors like warming in spawning and recruitment areas, substantial declines may occur.
  - Climate change is particularly pronounced in the Southeast region and southern Australia, with rising temperatures, changes in dissolved oxygen, and acidification occurring.
  - Climate change's potential impacts on cage farming operations include increased water temperature, changes in oxygen availability, and parasite infections. On the positive side, some small pelagic species like Jack mackerel and anchovies may have increased in abundance due to climate-related effects.
35. SBTMAC made several observations regarding consideration of climate change impacts on the SBTF:
- In the case of the SBTF, decisions made by CCSBT as well as fleet behaviour and operations of other CCSBT members will be an important consideration.
  - The Management Procedure has elements of early warning inputs for example including the gene tagging and close kin Mark Recapture programs that would show changes in recruitment. These elements, while not developed specifically for climate change impacts, mean that the TAC should adjust in response to changes in recruitment levels.
  - There has been considerable work done on east-west movements of SBT in southern Australia, including some indication during a previous El Nino event of reduced movement of subadult SBT to the east coast of Australia possibly due to elevated water temperatures in the Tasman Sea.
  - Impacts of changing temperatures on the spawning grounds in the Java Sea, particularly in terms of stock-recruitment relationships, is far less understood. SBTMAC agreed work to understand this will be useful and important in the future.

- Climate induced changes in predator prey relationships will be difficult to monitor as SBT have low stomach content retention, and studies are expensive and logistically challenging.
- Increased growth rates were observed for SBT following stock depletion prior to 2010. Growth rates are expected to decrease again, due to density dependant factors, as the stock recovers. The interplay of density dependant changes in growth and environmentally driven changes will be difficult to measure.
- Mapping habitats on the east coast of Australia, in the form of ocean eddies, and overlaying with areas of fishing effort had proven useful for the ETBF and it was noted this may also be useful in the GAB. CSIRO committed to reaching out to colleagues who had conducted this work.

36. SBTMAC thanked CSIRO for work to date and noted the information included in the status report was insightful and will be useful to assist the MAC in the future.

37. SBTMAC was invited to share over time any additional insights or modelling that could provide further clarity on the impacts of climate change on the SBTF.

## 5.2. SBT TAC update

38. The SBT Manager outlined the process for setting the Australian National Catch Allocation for the SBT fishery. Australia received a national allocation from CCSBT and set its national catch allocation at 95% of this allocation, reserving 5% for recreational fishers. This process is conducted in accordance with Section 17.2 of the management plan, triggering other activities, including determining actual live weight equivalents (Statutory Fishing Rights) for fishers.

39. The ESC recommendation to increase the TAC would be considered by CCSBT in October. In 2022 the decision to adopt the increase was deferred to this year's meeting, making the October meeting pivotal.

40. Mr Jeffriess mentioned the challenges faced in CCSBT negotiations. He raised concerns about delays and questioned what AFMA would do if CCSBT's decision was postponed until after December 1st, when the fishing season started.

41. The SBT Manager highlighted that the management plan includes mechanisms that allows the AFMA Commission to set a TAC if CCSBT fails to reach consensus in October. This mechanism ensured SBTF could commence operations on 01 December, based on the previous year's TAC if CCSBT's decision adopting the increase once consensus at CCSBT has been reached. However, AFMA and the Department continues to be optimistic CCSBT would agree to the increase in line with the agreed Management Procedure and scientific recommendations.

42. SBTMAC agreed to recommend to the AFMA Commission that, if the CCSBT Commission has not decided by 01 December 2023 on the quota for the Australian season starting 01 December 2023, then AFMA sets the interim live weight value based on the previous year's (2022-23) level, provided the CCSBT Scientific Committee, in its report on 02 September 2023, continues to recommend a stable or increased quota.

### **5.3. Monitoring arrangements in the SBTF – Farm sector –Transfer Weighing Determination**

43. The SBT Manager noted that currently within the SBTF methodology for estimating weight of SBT transferred from tow cages into farm pontoons is required by the SBTMP. The current methodology involves a minimum 100-fish sample of fish  $\geq 8$ kg (previously a minimum 100 fish  $\geq 10$ kg fish) to estimate weights to decrement from quota. The methodology was adjusted in the 2022/23 season to sample a minimum 100 fish  $\geq 8$  kilograms (max sample size 150 fish) in response to smaller size fish observed in the fishery.
44. It was noted that during the stereo video accuracy trials in 2023, the previously CCSBT agreed length-to-weight conversion may have changed. It was noted the stereo video operational trial scheduled for early 2024 may require a revised length-to-weight relationship in order to accurately determine the weight of fish transferred.
45. AFMA informed SBTMAC they had been working with ABARES to analyse recent historical data from 100-fish  $\geq 10$  kg samples to determine whether the length-to-weight relationship has changed. David Galeano emphasized the need to analyse the data from the 100-fish  $\geq 10$  kg samples and the potential dangers of drawing conclusions from a small accuracy trial.
46. The SBTMAC agreed to the recommendation that that we continue to use the 2023 transfer weighing methodology in 2024.

### **5.4. Environment update**

47. SBTMAC discussed the listing of SBT as conservation dependant under the EPBC Act in the context of the stock rebuilding. Mr Jeffriess noted SBT should be delisted as conservation dependant at the upcoming November 2023 TSSC. The east coast industry association member noted the complexity of the listing process in that it does not include clear criteria for listing and in turn when listing is no longer required.
48. The SBT Manager noted AFMA is in the process of updating the ecological risk assessment framework to become practical for both AFMA and Industry.
49. The environment member noted the revision of regulation for the import of product from Illegal Unreported Unregulated fisheries which could potentially impact imported feed for the farm sector. Mr Jeffriess noted that ASBTIA had supplied substantial data for the imported feed studies.

### **5.5. SBT 2023-24 budget**

50. The SBT Manager noted that the 2023-24 budget has been completed; however, AFMA is finalising the acquittal process from 2022-23. Carry over of underspend will be determined soon and it is understood that this will soon be shared with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) for consideration. AFMA is expecting a small underspend for the SBTF to be carried forward into 2023-24.
51. Mr Ellis raised cost sharing and cost recovery arrangements between the SBTF and the ETBF noting that SBT catches continue to increase on the east coast. Mr Jeffriess noted

discussions between the industry associations to date have been unable to reach agreement on this matter. However, Mr Ellis suggested that AFMA will need to consider how management costs are assessed under the CRIS to ensure fair and equitable cost sharing in the future.

## 6. Other Business

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52. SBTMAC did not note any other business for this meeting.

## 7. Next Meeting

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53. The SBT Manager noted next meeting will be held in September 2024. However, an additional meeting may be held in August to discuss research priorities to align with AFMA's research annual funding cycle.

54. SBTMAC extended their gratitude and appreciation to Mr Jeffriess as outgoing Chief Executive Officer of ASBTIA. Members noted the significant contribution and dedication Mr Jeffriess has made to the committee, the industry and the management of the SBTF. They acknowledged his professionalism, expertise, and role he has made in the stock rebuilding process.

55. The SBTMAC Chair thanked the members, invited participants and observers, and closed the meeting at 2:00pm

### Member, invited participant and observer's declarations of interest as advised at SBTMAC 48.

Name	Declared Interests
Mr Max Kitchell	Employed as the SBTMAC Chair. No pecuniary interest in the SBT Fishery.
Ms Selina Stoute	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery
Mr Andrew Wilkinson	Public Officer of company that owns and operates a tuna farm/catching business. Consultant to various SFRMs.
Mr Terry Romaro OAM	Director of a company that owns SBT, ETBF & WTBF quota SFR's & a Fish Processing factory & a factory that recycles SBT waste in Pt Lincoln. Mr Romaro further advised he is also a member of Squid Resource Assessment Group and Tropical Tuna Management Advisory Committee (TTMAC) and an invited participant on the Tropical Tuna Resource Assessment Group (TTRAG). Mr Romaro attends Indian Ocean Tuna Commission & CCSBT meetings representing Industry & is a Director of Tuna Australia P/L.
Mr Marcus Stehr	Board member of Clean Seas, Board member of Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy and Board member of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association. Mr Stehr is also an SBT quota holder.
Mr Brett Cleary	Trustee International Game Fishing Association and Life Member of Game Fishing Association of Australia [GFAA]*. Mr Cleary has no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. *Have or are funding research into SBT.
Mr Glenn Sant	Employee of University of Wollongong under a collaboration agreement with TRAFFIC, no pecuniary interest in SBT fishery.
Mr David Galeano	Employee of ABARES, no pecuniary interest in SBT fishery, noting that ABARES conducts research on a range of fisheries issues.
<b>Invited participants</b>	
Brian Jeffriess AM	Chief Executive Officer of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association.
Prof Gavin Begg	Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA. No pecuniary interest in SBT fishery.
Mr David Ellis	CEO of Tuna Australia (industry association).
<b>Observers</b>	
Mr Robert Wood	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery
Ann Preece	Employee of CSIRO, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. Noting that CSIRO conducts research on range of fisheries issues.

Name	Declared Interests
Dr Campbell Davies	Employee of CSIRO, no pecuniary interest in SBT Fishery. Noting that CSIRO conducts research on range of fisheries issues.
Jeremy Smith	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in the Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee

Meeting

8 September 2023

# Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (SBTMAC) 48 Meeting

Friday 8 September 2023

10:00am to 2:30pm (AEST)

Teleconference

## AGENDA

### 1. Preliminaries

- 1.1. Welcome and apologies
- 1.2. Declaration of interest
- 1.3. Adoption of agenda
- 1.4. Actions arising SBTMAC 46 and intersessional work

### 2. Member updates

- 2.1. Informal industry report on the 2022/23 catching season, markets and outlook
- 2.2. Informal report from the recreational sector member
- 2.3. AFMA Manager's report

### 3. CCSBT - Outcomes from CCSBT 28th Extended Scientific Committee meeting (August/September 2023).

### 4. Compliance update and outcomes

### 5. Domestic Management

- 5.1. Climate adaptation program update including the SBTF Climate and Ecosystem Status Report (AFMA/CSIRO)
- 5.2. SBT TAC update
- 5.3. Monitoring arrangements in the SBTF – Farm sector – Transfer Weighing Determination
- 5.4. Environment update
- 5.5. SBT 2023/24 budget

### 6. Other Business

### 7. Next Meeting



