



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee SBTMAC 49

Meeting Minutes

Teleconference

27 September 2024

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1. Preliminaries

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair opened the 49th meeting of the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (MAC) at 12:30pm, 27 September 2023.
2. Apologies had been received prior to the meeting from Industry Member (Farm industry sector) Mr Andrew Wilkinson. An apology was received from Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) observer Dr Campbell Davies.
3. Participants on the teleconference included:

Members	
Max Kitchell	Chair
Selina Stoute	AFMA Member
Peter Fare	Industry Member (Farm industry sector)
Terry Romaro OAM	Industry Member (Longline)
Marcus Stehr	Industry Member (Farm industry sector)
Glenn Sant	Environment Member
Brett Cleary	Recreational Member
David Galeano	Scientific Member
Invited participants	
Dan Casement	Australian SBT Industry Association
Prof Gavin Begg	The Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), State Government
David Ellis	Tuna Australia
Observers	
Ann Preece	CSIRO
Jeremy Smith	AFMA

1.2 Declarations of interest

4. Declaration of interest were circulated to members on 30 August 2024, with a request to update with any new information. The Chair requested that members provide updates to declaration of interests. Members and invited participants provided several updates to the meeting. The updated declarations of interest are at **Attachment 1a**.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

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

1.4 Actions arising and intersessional work

6. The MAC noted there are no actions from the last meeting.

2. Member Updates

2.1 Informal industry report on the 2023/24 catching season, markets and outlook

Farm Sector

7. The MAC noted the update from Industry Members including:

- In 2024, Southern Bluefin Tuna (SBT) size increased in the farm sector which caught a total of 4,505 tonnes for season. There were 4 companies catching and 5 companies farming following the recent exit of 2 companies one in 2022/23 and one in 2023/24.
- The principal market continues to be exports to Japan. However, market conditions including reduced demand and weak exchange rate are creating challenges in the fishery. Industry expects that the increase in fish size will continue in future seasons.
- In 2023/24 several SBT consignments were exported to China and early predictions are that this demand will continue into future seasons. China exports are currently limited to fresh product with geography, supply chain and infrastructure constraints impeding import of frozen and super frozen SBT.
- 2023/24 saw a return to more traditional fishing areas south and west of Port Lincoln. Fishing early in the season saw large quantities of fish being caught high in Spencer Gulf which has not previously been observed and created some benefits in terms of reduced cost/emissions etc. for fishing and towing operations.
- The industry continues to adapt to changing fishing and economic conditions with one company in 2023/24 transitioning to year-round farming operations in contrast to the traditional catching, farming and harvest in the first half of the year.
- Economic conditions for the sector have been challenging since the 2022/23 market correction for the price paid for frozen sashimi tuna when SBT prices were impacted by an oversupply of Bigeye, Yellowfin and Atlantic Bluefin in 2022. Industry is hopeful that the deflated prices in 2024 represents the bottom of the market in Japan and hoping for price recovery in 2024/25. Cold chain stockpiles across key markets are at capacity impeding the flow of new product onto the market.
- SBT was removed from the list of threatened species under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in June 2024.
- The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment is proceeding, with a site visit in Port Lincoln on 23/24 September 2024. The MSC assessment has only become possible following the de-listing of the species.

East Coast Report:

8. Mr David Ellis, Tuna Australia, provided an update on the 2024 fishing season on the east coast including:

- Half of Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF) fleet including several new entrants targeted SBT in some capacity throughout the season. An extended longline season targeting SBT has again been observed in 2024, with the catch now exceeding 1600t and a significant eddy off the coast of Eden still being targeted for catches of SBT.
- Significant quantities of fish are being exported to Hawaii and mainland United States. However, as those markets are becoming saturated with product, large quantities of export quality SBT is entering the domestic market at low prices. Increase domestic supply of SBT is impacting the domestic value of other tropical tuna species.

- freight cost and availability is presenting challenges with getting product to international export markets. As noted in the farm sector the exchange rate is creating difficult economic conditions for fishing and export companies.
- The longline industry continues to work on bycatch mitigation measures including line weighting regimes and, in parallel, evaluate the crew safety implications from risk of gear flyback. Bycatch mitigation continues to be one of the key challenges for the fishery. Tuna Australia acknowledged the support of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) implementing these research projects.
- An industry member mentioned weighted longline (monoline with lead weight core) and asked whether this meets the seabird mitigation line weighting requirements. This equipment has been tested and still presents some crew safety issues and the longline industry continues to investigate options to improve safety including, for example, safety screens that can protect crew from weighted lines that are bitten off.
- Tuna Australia continues to work with the Department of Climate Change, Energy the Environment and Water on the review of the SEMP Network and is hopeful that a solution has been found to open fishing grounds east of Tasmania as the stock recovers and longline fishing continues to grow.
- CSIRO asked whether schools of small fish had been observed on the east coast, noting this has occurred in the past. Mr Ellis had not heard of any observations of schools of smaller fish on the east coast.
- An industry member requested the MAC be provided with basic ETBF statistics including catches, average sizes and economic data out of the east coast including market prices. The member also noted the challenges with market prices at the moment and asked if the longline sector has undertaken any long-term market analysis to maximise market value.
- Mr Ellis noted Tuna Australia has been investigating MSC preference across key tuna markets with the intent to prioritise certified product into these markets and thereby free-up supply of non-MSC species into other markets.

2.2 Informal report from the recreational sector member

9. The MAC noted the update from Recreational member including:

- There were no significant changes in 2024, although there appears to have been a shift in the location of large fish caught that are usually observed off the east coast of Tasmania. However, in 2024 there have been a significant quantities of large SBT (>100kg) caught off South Australia and Western parts of Victoria. In South Australia there appears to have been less small fish being caught in inshore areas. Observations of large fish in South Australia have occurred as far west as Coffin Bay, west of Port Lincoln which is unusual
- Very small fish (6kg and less) are being caught in the Western Australia off the South coast adjacent to Albany and Esperance.
- The Tuna Champions Program is winding down as government funding for the program ends. The program continues to run with some additional funding provided by non-government sources and the recreational sector is hopeful that continues.

2.3 Informal report from the environment/conservation member

10. The MAC noted the update from the Environment member including:

- The sector is focused on fishing impacts on sharks particularly as shark are increasingly subject to the requirements of international agreement including, for example, the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

- The focus of the environment sector has been improved tracking of shark species being landed.
- Part of this is a product called [SharkTrace](#) that is designed to track shark products in fishery supply chains.
- There are concerns around high seas fishing for CITES listed shark species and concerns around the incorrect administration of CITES permit requirements particularly as it applies across nations and territories.

2.4 AFMA Manager's report

11. The SBT manager provided an update to the MAC including:

Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

- The meeting of the CCSBT, Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) was held in June 2024 and discussion focused around longline SBT fishing and potential impacts on populations of seabirds. A spatial risk assessment was tabled that identified high risk fishing areas in the Tasman Sea where there is overlap of seabird populations and fishing for SBT. It is expected that impacts of longline fishing for SBT on populations of vulnerable seabirds will be subject to increasing pressure in CCSBT, particularly as the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) continues to grow.
- An update on CCSBT Extended Scientific Committee (ESC) meeting will be provided at agenda item 3 and the Compliance Committee and CCSBT are scheduled to meet in October 2024. Key discussion topics are expected to be Australia's progress towards trialling stereo video and increase allocation being sought by Indonesia.

General Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery (SBTF) update

- The SBTF is due for reassessment under the EPBC Act in 2025 with AFMA's submission due in May 2025.
- AFMA's Climate Change program was mentioned including the Climate Change Status report which was finalised following input from the MAC in 2023. The MAC was asked to provide any updates to the status report.
- CSIRO noted the benefits of CSIRO/CCSBT's gene tagging program in terms of monitoring potential climate change impacts on recruitment into the SBTF. It's used as an index of recruitment abundance in the adaptive management procedure which means that global TACs will be adjusted in the event that changes in recruitment are observed.
- The MAC noted the total SBT catch, as of the morning of the 27 September, had exceeded the threshold for 100% carry over of uncaught quota into the 2024/25 fishing season. While final figures are contingent on catch reported over October and November, the quantity of overcatch is expected to be 1,200-1,300t. This in turn will push up the threshold for 100% carryover of uncaught quota from the 2024/25 season into 2025/26 season.
- An Industry member asked about the Australian Government and AFMA's efforts in terms of responding to compliance risks for IUU fishing on the high seas.
- The SBT manager noted the various activities undertaken by AFMA and other Australian Government agencies in terms of trying to improve or monitor compliance outcomes for RFMO's and high seas fishing fleets including, for example, AFMA's recent participation in and hosting of Operation Nasse which is a multi-lateral compliance operation targeting high seas fishing fleets.

3. CCSBT - Outcomes from CCSBT 28th Extended Scientific Committee meeting (September 2024).

12. The CCSBT ESC, met in Taiwan in September 2024. 2024 was a non-stock assessment or non-management procedure year. However, in accordance with the management procedure the ESC considered whether exceptional circumstances warranted an adjustment to the agreed 2025 global TAC set at 20,647t. The ESC found no grounds for exceptional circumstances and recommended that the agreed 2025 global TAC be adopted by CCSBT in October.
13. ESC discussed CCSBT budget issues, which may impact on funding for scientific research and particularly the gene tagging and close kin mark recapture programs that have become key inputs to the management procedure and stock assessment.
14. CSIRO noted the risks of triggering exceptional circumstances if key the inputs to the management procedure are compromised.
15. MAC members noted the important role that science and innovative research plays in securing and monitoring the recovery of the SBT stock and strongly recommended ongoing investment in these important programs.

4. Compliance update and outcomes

16. The SBT manager noted that there were several compliance efforts that were undertaken during the year. A number of minor compliance issues were observed specifically around skippers not being authorised agents and one example of SBT retained on board without a record of the mortality in the logbooks. In these instances, crew and skippers were educated.
17. There were also instances of data collection practices in east coast processing facilities that were not consistent with our CCSBT obligations. This included collecting length measurements curved over the body of the fish (not Straight Fork Length as required) and measurements rounded to the nearest 5cm. These issues were discussed directly with processing facilities and have been rectified.
18. Observer coverage in the SBTF was approximately 10% for both catch and tow operations. The SBT manager noted that the MSC site visit earlier in September for the purse seine sector highlighted some minor issues around discrepancies between observer and logbook records relating to reporting of bycatch. AFMA will engage with industry in the 2024/25 season to improve reporting of bycatch in logbooks.

5. Domestic Management

5.1. Stereo Video 2024 trial outcomes

19. Members were referred to the paper for details on the progress of the stereo video trial to date. In summary:
 - an operational trial was conducted in Port Lincoln in February 2024. The primary purpose of the operational trial was to evaluate the ability of stereo video to integrate

with normal farm operations and to estimate the costs of operating the system in the SBT operating environment. The operational trial followed a 2023 accuracy trial that sampled a limited number of SBT (x60) which stated stereo video could accurately measure fish being transferred.

- The operational trial sampled 3 tow cages. The first tow cage was found to produce unreliable estimates and was excluded from the trial. The results from the remaining 2 tow cages sampled were included in the trial.
- Stereo video footage was analysed according to two categories (1) performance mode (real-time on vessel) and (2) quality mode (analysis following the field work). The quality mode (higher resolution and higher frame rate) sampled more fish and consistently produced lower average lengths than the performance mode across all transfers.
- The system integrated well with normal farm transfer operations. However, several issues were identified including duplicate measurements of individual fish and two fish measured as a single fish.
- One of the major questions remaining following the trial is the commercial availability of the automatic sampling software. This creates uncertainty about the operational viability of a stereo video system and the cost of implementation.
- The contractor submitted a draft final report to the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry in July 2024 and comments from the Australian Government including AFMA and the Australian Bureau of Rural and Economic Sciences (ABARES) were provided. The contractor is responding to those comments in terms of updating the report.

20. In response to the update, the MAC provided the following comments:

- Industry is supportive of investigating and introducing technology where it can introduce efficiencies to operations and improve accuracy.
- Industry reported that the conditions observed during the trial in terms of water clarity and surface conditions are thought to be the most ideal conditions that would be experienced during transfer operations. There would need to be confidence that the system would be able to operate during the full range of conditions experienced throughout the season/s.
- Additional understanding of the system adjustments made following the field work will be important to determine whether ongoing adjustments will be required and the technical capabilities of users to implement those adjustments.
- Understanding the resource requirements to remove errors from fish measurements (double fish and duplicate measurements) will be important to evaluate the full cost of implementation.

5.2. Analysis of length-weight relationship for southern bluefin tuna, *Thunnus maccoyii* from southern Australia- ABARES 2024S

21. The SBT manager outlined work undertaken by ABARES in 2023 to develop a length weight (L/W) relationship for use in the operational stereo video trial in 2024 if required. The work was in response to the stereo video accuracy trial in 2023, which found the L/W relationship used in 2011 (developed by CCSBT) was not consistent with subsample of fish included in the accuracy trial.

22. ABARES analysed data from 100 fish average weight samples to develop a L/W relationship for SBT caught and measured in the Australian domestic fishery in fishing seasons 2016/17 to 2022/23. The analysis also:

- a) explored differences in the L/W relationships of caught SBT among seasons and months,
 - b) compared to L/W relationship agreed by the 1994 trilateral workshop on age and growth that was previously used for the 2011 stereo-video trials,
 - c) compared to previously estimated length-weight relationship calculated using the 40 fish sampling data collected prior to 2011.
23. ABARES analysis found while *“some year and month effects are statistically significant, the effects are relatively minor and therefore a single length-weight regression was considered suitable to use for any month in the trial”*. This suggests it may be feasible to use a single L/W key across the season for the purposes of quota management in the farm sector of the SBTF.
24. The scientific member noted that, due to the natural variability of fish, any derived relationship between length and weight may underestimate or overestimate the actual weight of fish caught. However, on average the L/W relationship, produced by the study and assuming the sampled lengths are representative of the fish in tow cages, should provide a reliable estimate of the weight of fish transferred into tow cages.
25. An industry member noted that given the risk of overestimating or underestimating landed fish the risk may impact some farming companies more than others. AFMA acknowledged this risk noting that all methods that rely on a sub-sample of fish landed, including the current transfer weighing process, carry a risk of producing underestimates or overestimates of fish landed.
26. Industry members noted that the additional consideration of the methodology used in ABARES study to produce the L/W relationship would be required if L/W were to be used for quota management in the future.

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

Transfer weighing determination for the 2024/25 season commencement

27. The SBT manager noted under clause 22B.2 of the SBTMP the method for estimating weight of SBT transferred from tow cages into farm pontoons must be determined by AFMA. Prior to making a determination, AFMA must consult with the MAC on the determination.
28. The current methodology involves a minimum 100-fish sample of fish $\geq 8\text{kg}$ (previously a minimum 100 fish $\geq 10\text{kg}$ fish) to estimate weights to decrement from quota. The methodology was adjusted in the 2022/23 season to sample a minimum 100 fish ≥ 8 kilograms (max sample size 150 fish) in response to smaller size fish observed in the fishery.
29. The MAC was advised that a draft determination consistent with the requirements above was at Attachment 5.3a for consideration. MAC endorsed the draft to be put in place for the commencement of the 2024/25 season.

Alternative transfer weighing procedure

30. The MAC noted instances during the 2024/25 season where completing the 100 fish sample proved difficult due to fish “not taking the hook”. In one instance approval was given to

transfer into and complete the 100 fish sample from farm pontoons. Industry was later informed that further exceptions were unlikely.

31. Industry later requested AFMA consider introduction of an alternative methodology that allowed transfers in the event that completing the 100 fish sample is not possible and the remaining fish to be sampled from farm pontoons.
32. The MAC was informed that an alternative transfer weighing methodology that allowed average weight to be completed from farm pontoons would require an amendment to the SBTMP.
33. Regarding a possible amendment to the SBTMP, the MAC was asked to consider and provide advice on 2 options:
 1. amend the SBTMP immediately to make an alternative procedure formally available for the 2024/25 season.
 2. delay amendments to align with the outcomes of the review process discussed under agenda item 5.4.
34. In considering the two options the MAC was asked to note:
 - a) resource constraints and other procedural requirements of amending legislation may prevent an alternative methodology to being available for the 2024/25 season.
 - b) Option 1. (amending the SBTMP immediately) may lead to circumstances where additional amendments are required later in 2024 following a comprehensive review of the SBTMP for other amendments. This would result in additional management costs for the SBTF.
35. AFMA informed the MAC it was open to considering an amendment to the SBTMP, and supported introduction of an alternative transfer weighing methodology in the future. However, AFMA's preferred approach continues to be the current transfer weighing methodology as the most cost-effective method of implementing quota management in the SBTF.
36. AFMA noted, if the SBTMP is amended, an alternative transfer weighing methodology would only be permitted in limited circumstances. The MAC was asked to consider a preliminary list of criteria to proceed with the alternative transfer weighing methodology and provide advice on these criteria including possible additions.
37. The MAC did not provide any additions or amendments to the preliminary list. However the ASBTIA invited participant committed to working with AFMA to continue to refine the criteria out of session.
38. The discussion noted the decision on whether criteria had been met would be based primarily on advice from AFMA's authorised representative in Port Lincoln, currently Seatec Pty Ltd.
39. The MAC agreed the current transfer weighing methodology remains the preferred approach including from the perspective of the commercial fishing industry and should be the methodology applied generally across the fishery.

40. It was highlighted the request from industry stems from an operational need to have flexibility in the event the challenges observed in 2024 occur again in future seasons. It was noted that delays to transfer, in the event a 100 fish sample is not possible, presents financial impediments to industry as well as risks to fish health.
41. The MAC noted difficulty providing advice on the options presented without understanding the likelihood of these issues occurring again in 2024/25. The MAC acknowledged multiple rounds of amendments to the SBTMP is not ideal, while noting industry concerns around a lack of options to manage similar incidents if they occur in 2024/25. unable to reach a conclusion on which option should be adopted, it was agreed that AFMA would continue to liaise with industry on the best option moving forward.
42. The MAC noted that if the SBTMP was amended there was an option to introduce an alternative transfer weighing methodology through a revised transfer weighing determination which would need to be considered by the MAC.

5.4. Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management Plan 1995 review and amendment

43. The SBT manager opened discussion on this item noting that a review of the SBTMP had been mentioned under the previous agenda item. The SBTMP was last updated in 2020 to allow for the 5% set aside for mortality from recreational fishing. Since then, other aspects of the SBTMP that require updating have been identified, including elements of multi-year TAC settings that will be discussed at agenda item 5.5.
44. The MAC did not provide any additional aspects of the SBTMP in need of updating and invited AFMA to continue to work with industry on the review for necessary updates consistent with the needs of the SBTF and other management plans administered by AFMA.

5.5. SBT TAC update

45. The SBT manager opened the discussion noting the earlier update from CCSBT ESC (agenda item 3). ESC recommended the 2025 global TAC, agreed in 2023, be adopted by CCSBT. Pending confirmation at CCSBT31 in October 2024, Australia's allocation is expected to remain at 7,295t with the Australian National Catch Allocation (ANCA)¹ again being approx. 6,930t in 2025. AFMA will seek a decision on the 2025 ANCA and associated season settings from the AFMA commission in November 2024.
46. AFMA noted the SBTMP allows ANCAs to be set for multiple seasons, where CCSBT has agreed to an allocation to Australia for those seasons. Noting CCSBT makes decisions on the global TAC that applies to 3-year quota blocks, AFMA has the option to also set ANCAs for 3 year. However, preliminary analysis of the SBTMP, identified impediments to adjusting some settings if implemented over multiple seasons. These impediments may prevent AFMA responding to all instances where changes to multi-year settings are required.
47. The MAC was informed, once the impediments in the SBTMP have been addressed, AFMA intends to put in place multi-year ANCAs and associated season settings and asked for MAC comment on this proposal.

¹ Australia's Total Allowable Commercial Catch

48. CSIRO noted that one of the triggers for CCSBT to make changes to the global TAC during quota blocks is in response to exceptional circumstances which is an annual process.
49. The MAC agreed that generally multi-year season settings are ok providing that the SBTMP includes the necessary mechanisms to respond to any changes including those put in place by CCSBT or domestic issues as required.

5.6 CCSBT obligations and SBT discard mortality

50. In 2016, Australia made a commitment to CCSBT it would account for all sources of mortality in the SBT by the 2018 quota year. CCSBT defines all sources of mortality as “but not be limited to, discards and recreational fishing, including the fate –live and vigorous; moribund; dead”.
51. To meet our CCSBT obligations Australia conducted a significant body of work to estimate and account for mortality associated with recreational fishing. However, there has been less progress on estimating the level of mortality from discards in the longline sector. This is partly due to limited effort in the longline sector. However, reported discards have increased as quota has become increasingly available in the longline sector of the ETBF.
52. The MAC was informed of the different approaches followed by CCSBT members, including detailed methodologies used by New Zealand and Japan in contrast to other members that apply a fixed estimate or do not account for discard mortality.
53. The MAC raised concerns with different approaches used by CCSBT members to account for mortality associated with discards. Having a consistent approach for estimating mortality associated with discards that could be applied across CCSBT would ensure equity across members.
54. The MAC noted the current high level of regulation in place in the ETBF and cautioned against a mechanism to account for discard mortality that is complex from a regulatory perspective.
55. The conservation member stressed the importance of accounting for all sources of fishing mortality an issue they had consistently raised previously with regard to recreational fishing. The member strongly supported the proposal to estimate and account for discard mortality of SBT in the longline sector.
56. AFMA noted that in accounting for discards a balance would be sought that meets our CCSBT and domestic statutory obligations while minimising the complexity of the regulatory approach.
57. The MAC was informed that analysis would be undertaken in 2025 to develop an estimate for a level of discard and discard mortality in the ETBF and a mechanism to account for this mortality in Australia’s attributable catch to meet our CCSBT obligations.
58. In response to the paper the MAC noted the need for this work to be conducted and did not provide any preliminary thoughts on the proposed project. However, the MAC invited feedback on the level of discards in the ETBF and further discussion on accounting for these discards once the analysis had been undertaken.

5.7 Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery Management and cost recovery

59. The SBT manager opened the agenda item noting there had been discussions between AFMA, ASBTIA and Tuna Australia regarding the growing SBT catch in the longline sector and the economic contribution that SBT quota makes to the ETBF and the impact of targeted SBT fishing has on ETBF management costs.
60. The MAC noted that since the 2018/2019 financial year a proportion of electronic monitoring costs in the ETBF have been cost recovered from SBT quota holders. This cost sharing adjusts according to a 2-year rolling average of the proportion (by weight) of SBT catch in the longline sector compared to other ETBF quota species. The calculated proportion is then multiplied by the total ETBF EM costs to apportion part of those costs to SBT quota SFR holders.
61. The Tuna Australia invited participant provided additional input on the issue and concerns from other ETBF concession holders, particularly those that do not target SBT. With the increase catch there has been an associated shift in effort away from other ETBF quota species. There is a view from Tuna Australia and ETBF concession holders that the uptake of SBT quota in the ETBF should be accompanied by a financial contribution to the management of the fishery consistent with Tier 2 species.
62. AFMA noted it convened a meeting between the 2 industry associations in July 2024, to discuss the issue and committed to providing an indication of how the cost contribution of SBT SFR quota holders to EM costs has changed and in addition how staff resources in the Tuna and International Section are managed to allocate resources across issues relevant to targeted fishing of SBT and tropical tuna species.
63. AFMA noted that attributing levies to SFR quota issued under a management plan for management activities undertaken under a separate management plan would not be consistent with the current cost recovery framework. AFMA further advised that making amendments to the CRIS is not the preferred approach to address this issue.
64. The MAC was informed there were no easy and immediately available solution to address the issue. AFMA will continue to work with the two industries to resolve a way forward consistent with other management priorities.

6. Other Business

65. CSIRO provided a short update on the gene tagging project. This includes challenges around extension of the purse seine season as the sampling of yr 2 animals is preferentially sampled after purse seine fishing is completed. This ensures tagged animals are not subject to mortality from fishing until the following season where recaptures are sampled.
66. Port sampling of recaptured fish has been running smoothly. The gene tagging surveys are indicating an increase in recruitment but continuing to monitor this will be important to separate natural variation from long term trends.

7. Next Meeting

67. The SBT manager noted next meeting will be held in September 2025.

68. The MAC Chair thanked the members, invited participants and observers, and closed the meeting at 3:55pm

Attachment 1a

Member, invited participant and observer's declarations of interest as advised at SBTMAC 49.

Name	Declared Interests
Mr Max Kitchell	Employed as the SBTMAC Chair. No pecuniary interest in the SBTF.
Ms Selina Stoute	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interest in SBTF
Mr Andrew Wilkinson	Public Officer of company that owns and operates a tuna farm/catching business. Consultant to various SFR holders.
Mr Terry Romaro OAM	Director of a company that owns SBTF, ETBF & WTBF quota SFR's, a factory that recycles SBT waste in Port Lincoln. Mr Romaro 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 and is a participant in the farm sector of the SBTF and longline fisher in the ETBF.
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 SBTF. GFAA 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 SBTF.
Mr David Galeano	Employee of ABARES, no pecuniary interest in SBTF, noting that ABARES conducts research on a range of fisheries issues.
Invited participants	
Mr Dan Casement	Chief Executive Officer of Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association. An invited participant of the TTMAC
Prof Gavin Begg	Executive Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture, PIRSA. No pecuniary interest in SBTF.
Mr David Ellis	CEO of Tuna Australia (industry association). An Industry member of the TTMAC and an invited participant of the TTRAG
Observers	
Ann Preece	Employee of CSIRO, no pecuniary interest in SBTF. Noting that CSIRO conducts research on range of fisheries issues.
Jeremy Smith	Employee of AFMA, no pecuniary interests in the SBTF.

Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee Meeting

27 September 2024

Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory
Committee (SBTMAC) 49 Meeting
Friday 27 September 2024
12:30pm to 5:00pm (AEST)
Teleconference

AGENDA

1. Preliminaries

- 1.1. Welcome and apologies
- 1.2. Declaration of interest
- 1.3. Adoption of agenda

2. Member updates

- 2.1. Informal industry report on the 2023/24 catching season, markets and outlook
- 2.2. Informal report from the recreational sector member
- 2.3. Informal report from the environment/conservation member
- 2.4. AFMA Manager's report

3. CCSBT - Outcomes from CCSBT 29th Extended Scientific Committee meeting (September 2024).

4. Compliance update and outcomes

5. Domestic Management

- 5.1. Stereo Video 2024 trial outcomes
- 5.2. Analysis of length-weight relationship for southern bluefin tuna, *Thunnus maccoyii* from southern Australia- ABARES 2024
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6. Next Meeting