

**LETTER FROM CCAMLR SECRETARIAT IN REPLY  
TO CCSBT LETTER OF 19 OCTOBER 2005**

Dear Mr Macdonald,

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2005 advising that the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna ('CCSBT') had agreed at its 2005 annual meeting that it should enter into an agreement with the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ('CCAMLR'). Your letter was discussed by CCAMLR at its annual meeting in October/November 2005.

CCAMLR noted that there is an overlap between the responsibilities of CCAMLR and CCSBT. CCAMLR is responsible for the management and conservation of all Antarctic marine living resources within the CAMLR Convention Area, while CCSBT has responsibility for the management and conservation of southern bluefin tuna throughout its range. CCAMLR therefore very much welcomed the approach from CCSBT to conclude an agreement to ensure that fishing activities in relation to southern bluefin tuna within the CAMLR Convention Area are appropriately managed and to clarify the respective roles of CCAMLR and CCSBT in this respect. In particular, CCAMLR would welcome the opportunity to discuss measures to reduce incidental mortality of CAMLR Convention Area seabirds due to fishing of southern bluefin tuna.

CCAMLR considered that the appropriate way to progress this matter would be the establishment of an ad hoc working group comprised of members from the CAMLR and CSBT Commissions, which would meet as soon as possible. The aim of the group would be to establish an agreement in relation to fishing for southern bluefin tuna within the CCAMLR Convention Area. CCAMLR would hope to have such an agreement as soon as possible.

In the interim, CCAMLR requires the following measures:

- (i) CCSBT will advise the CCAMLR Secretariat of the names, Flag States, owners, operators, call signs and Lloyds/IMO numbers of all vessels licensed by CCSBT Parties to fish for southern bluefin tuna;
- (ii) CCSBT will not license any vessels on the CCAMLR IUU Vessel Lists to fish for southern bluefin tuna (and CCAMLR will reciprocate should CCSBT adopt such lists);
- (iii) CCSBT will require all vessels licensed to fish for southern bluefin, in respect of fishing activities for southern bluefin tuna within the Convention Area, to:
  - (a) submit automatic satellite-linked VMS reports in accordance with Conservation Measure 10-04 to the CCSBT Secretariat;
  - (b) apply Conservation Measure 25-01 on use and disposal of plastic packaging bands;
  - (c) apply Conservation Measure 25-02 (minimisation of incidental mortality of seabirds), except those provisions relating to line weighting;
  - (d) submit to the CCSBT Secretariat data on catch, by-catch and incidental mortality of seabirds in a manner consistent with the data requirements of CCAMLR;

- (e) comply with the CCAMLR System of Inspection, including allowing compliance inspections at sea within the CAMLR Convention Area;
- (iv) CCSBT will forward to the CCAMLR Secretariat all reports received under paragraph (iii) above.

Without prejudice to further development of the agenda for the working group, CCAMLR would also wish to discuss the following issues, with a view to concluding a final agreement as soon as possible:

- (i) effective measures to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds, appropriate to the methods used to fish for southern bluefin tuna;
- (ii) observer coverage;
- (iii) illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

If the CCSBT is content with this approach, I would be grateful if you could contact me to discuss arrangements for a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Denzil G.M. Miller  
Executive Secretary