

TRAFFIC's six-point plan for 2014 meetings related to the CCSBT

1. The 2014 Scientific committee meeting should advise the 2014 Commission meeting of CCSBT what the long-term target for rebuilding should be to biologically safe levels with a 90% probability by 2050. That target should be adopted by the Commission and the Management Procedure should be tuned accordingly for the setting of an annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to reach such a goal.
2. At its 2014 meeting, the Commission should adopt a Resolution that specifies the penalties for any IUU catch by members of the Commission. Currently there is only wording stating each event will be dealt with on an individual basis with no specifics as to what penalties will be incurred.
3. At its 2014 meeting, the Commission should adopt a Resolution that specifies how the future allocation may be issued for any new entrants to the Commission. This should also make it clear to any current non-cooperating fishing countries that the longer they remain outside the Convention (ignoring their obligations under Law of the Sea), the less will be their allocation when they do decide to cooperate. There is no excuse trying to build catch history outside of existing Conventions as a tactic to gain a larger proportion of the quota pie when you finally join.
4. At its 2014 meeting, the Commission should adopt a binding Resolution on bycatch mitigation for seabirds, sharks and sea turtles
5. The CCSBT still remains the least transparent of tuna Commissions for its decision making. The 2013 meeting saw days spent with the heads of delegations locked in confidential discussions behind closed doors. This deprives observer countries and organizations such as TRAFFIC the opportunity to make interventions or for there to be open debate to decisions made. Therefore the Commission needs to end the "Cold debate" and declare it will only on rare occasions exclude observers from the debate and all documents should be public before and after any meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
6. The Commission needs to assess the results of the stock assessment for the Porbeagle shark currently being undertaken by New Zealand, and given the recent CITES listing, ensure the Commission is very clear on a regional basis what constitutes levels of catch that are sustainable and therefore allow for the issuing of CITES permits for trade.