



## Catch Documentation Scheme for Southern Bluefin Tuna Information for Licensed Fish Receivers (Fact Sheet 2/4)

**Catch documentation schemes** refer to systems that certify catch at or before the point of landing (e.g. verifying its origin, weight and species composition, as well as whether it was taken legally). This is usually in conjunction with trade documents that track the trade cycle of fish and prohibit the entry of uncertified fish into the world market. Such schemes are generally put in place for high value products where there is a risk of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

### Key Objectives of the CDS

The **Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)** is the regional fisheries management organisation responsible for the sustainable utilisation of southern bluefin tuna (STN). CCSBT adopted a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in October 2009.

The purpose of the CDS is to gain better information on **global catches** of STN. It also provides a source of cross-checks for reported catch information which helps **prevent illegally caught** fish from entering the market (because each individual fish will have a unique tag attached to it and CCSBT Member nations will not accept a whole fish into the market unless it has a valid tag).

Accurately reporting STN catches and ensuring each fish is weighed, measured, and tagged contributes to the collection of **scientific information** to help with management of the stock.

### Key Features of the CDS

The CDS applies to **ALL** commercially caught southern bluefin tuna, including exports and tuna sold domestically.

The CDS has two main components – **tagging** and **catch documents**. Every southern bluefin tuna must be tagged with an approved CCSBT tag; controls in the marketplace ensure that only tagged fish can be sold. Fishers are responsible for ensuring they have tagged all southern bluefin tuna they catch, with tags supplied by Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ).

Catch documents are forms that are filled out when the fish is caught, and includes information on volumes exported, imported, and sold on domestic markets. In most instances Licensed Fish Receivers are responsible for filling out catch documents.

There are two main forms – a paper **Catch Monitoring Form** (which collects information on how/where the fish was caught) and an electronic **Catch Tagging Form** (which collects information on individual fish, including lengths and weights).

#### For More Information

Fact Sheet 1 – CDS Requirements for Fishers

*Fact Sheet 2 – CDS Requirements for LFRs*

Fact Sheet 3 – CDS Requirements for Validators

Fact Sheet 4 – Correctly Tagging STN

## The Role of Licensed Fish Receivers

The primary role of a Licensed Fish Receiver is to record details of the catch (origin, weight, length, tag number, and process state) by filling out the necessary forms for the Catch Documentation Scheme.

- **Catch Monitoring Form (CMF)** – Information in this form includes: vessel name/registration number, weight and numbers of fish, and product state. *This form needs to be validated by a fisheries trade validator who has been approved by FNZ.* LFRs who trade in southern bluefin tuna usually have an authorised validator on staff to validate CDS documents, but if this is not the case contact the FNZ Highly Migratory Species (HMS) team for guidance (HMS@mpi.govt.nz).
  - The Catch Monitoring Form is in triplicate. Once the information is filled out and verified, the top copy of the completed documentation must be sent with the fish, the second copy must be sent to Fisheries New Zealand (address below) and the bottom copy retained. *Note that each of the three copies needs to be stamped by the validator.*
  - Copies of CMFs should be sent to Fisheries New Zealand **no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month after the month in which the tuna was received.**
- **Electronic Catch Tagging Forms (CTF)** record information about each individual southern bluefin tuna caught, including: the tag number, when the fish was caught, the vessel that caught the fish, and the length and weight of each fish.
  - The Catch Tagging Form needs to be completed **no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month after the month in which the tuna was received** (CTFs are submitted electronically via FishServe).
- **Re-export or Export After Landing Forms (REEF)** – this form must accompany each CMF that was previously landed as domestic product but is now being exported, OR each STN shipment that was imported and is now being re-exported. Each REEF must be accompanied by a copy of the associated CMF and copies of any previously issued REEFs, and a copy must be provided to the issuing State/fishing entity. **This form is not required for the “first” export of STN if those STN are being landed for the sole purpose of exporting (in this case only a CMF is required).** *REEFs also need to be validated by a fisheries trade validator who has been approved by FNZ*
  - Copies of REEFs should be sent to Fisheries New Zealand **no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month after the month in which the tuna was exported.**
- Ensure **every fish is tagged** – the fisher should apply the tag, but if they don’t have tags then the LFR must do this. Tags are supplied by FNZ. See Fact Sheet 4/4 for instructions on tagging STN.

Each year, FNZ provides forms to LFRs who have landed STN in the past. LFRs who haven’t landed STN before can request them from FNZ ([HMS@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:HMS@mpi.govt.nz)). Copies of CMFs and REEFs should be sent to Fisheries New Zealand (CTFs are submitted electronically via FishServe):

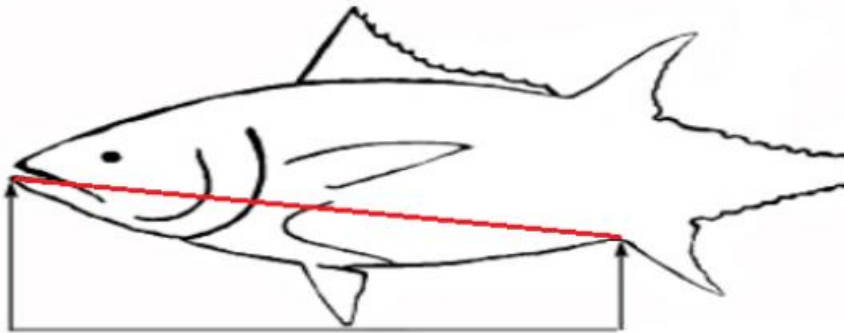
*HMS Fisheries  
Fisheries New Zealand  
PO Box 53066  
Auckland 2022*

## **Guidance on measuring STN length for CTFs**

STN length must be measured and submitted for each fish via electronic Catch Tagging Forms (CTFs) either at time of kill or upon landing. STN can be measured in two ways - anal length (AL) or fork length (FL). Most of the STN catch in New Zealand is landed 'tailed' (i.e. the tail has been removed), meaning fork length is not able to be measured. Therefore, AL can be measured as a straight horizontal line from the tip of the lower jaw to the front of the anal fin. If STN has been landed with its tail intact then FL should be used. FL is measured as a straight line horizontal (not curved over the body) length of the fish from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail in the straightest line possible. Ideally this would be done with giant callipers for the most accurate measurement, however a measuring tape or brag mat may also be used (if using a measuring tape or brag mat, measure as straight along the body as possible as the measurement won't be as accurate if the extra length over the curve of the fish's body is included).

See below for examples on how to measure AL and FL.

### ***Measuring anal length (AL)***



### ***Measuring fork length (FL)***

