

(c) Answers by Australia and New Zealand submitted on 20 August 1999 to a further request by the Tribunal

FURTHER REQUEST BY THE TRIBUNAL

ANSWERS BY AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Tribunal requests the parties to elaborate further on the schedule and duration of the annual fishing for SBT in the framework of the 1993 CCSBT. In particular the Tribunal would like the parties [to] provide information on:

- (i) The time of the year when fishing for SBT commences, and whether the time is the same or varies for individual parties.

The Australian fishing season commences on 1 December each year and continues until the end of November the following year.

New Zealand's fishing season applies from the 1st of October each year and continues until the 30 September the following year.

- (ii) The length of the period (in months) during which parties fish for their allocated quotas of the TAC for the year, and whether this period is the same for all parties or varies from party to party.

In the last few years, the bulk of the Australian SBT catch has been taken in southern Australia from December to the end of March each year. The vast majority of this surface fishery catch is utilised in the SBT farming operations at Port Lincoln in South Australia. Australian longline vessels catch SBT along the eastern seaboard of Australia generally between April and September each year.

In Australia, individual operators within the fishery are given an annual allocation of SBT quota which sums to the total Australian SBT allocation. This gives the individual operators the right to catch quantities of SBT up to their individual allocation at any time within the quota year.

In New Zealand fishing takes place with longlines throughout the year with the main catch being taken during the southern winter in the months of June and July.

- (iii) The expected commencement date of the 1999/2000 fishing season for each of the parties.

For Australia, the 1999/2000 fishing season is scheduled to commence on the 1st of December 1999.

For New Zealand, the next period of catch limit applies from 1 October 1999. However, the next period of peak fishing activity is anticipated to commence in June 2000.

August 20, 1999