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**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION  
for the  
CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS**

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**R E P O R T  
for biennial period, 2000-01  
PART II (2001) - Vol. 1  
English version**

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MADRID, SPAIN

2002

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

## **CONTRACTING PARTIES**

(as of December 31, 2001)

Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

## **COMMISSION OFFICERS**

### *Commission Chairman*

J. BARAÑANO, EC-Spain  
(Acting, since 1 April 2000)

### *First Vice-Chairman*

J. BARAÑANO, EC-Spain  
(since 22 November 1999)

### *Second Vice-Chairman*

A. SROUR, Morocco  
(since 22 November 1999)

### **Panel No.**

### **PANEL MEMBERSHIP**

### **Chair**

-1- <i>Tropical tunas</i>	Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Cote d'Ivoire, European Community, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, Sao Tome & Príncipe, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Venezuela	United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)
-2- <i>Temperate tunas, North</i>	Algeria, Canada, China, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Japan, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States	European Community
-3- <i>Temperate tunas, South</i>	European Community, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States	Japan
-4- <i>Other species</i>	Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela	United States

## **SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION**

### *Chairman*

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

J. JONES, Canada  
(since 21 November 1997)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

Sub-Committee on Statistics: P. PALLARÉS (EC-Spain), Convener  
Sub-Committee on Environment: J.M. FROMENTIN (EC-France), Convener  
Sub-Committee on By-catches: H. NAKANO (Japan), Convener

J. Gil PEREIRA, EC-Portugal  
(since 12 October 2001)

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

F. WIELAND, EC  
(since 19 November 2001)

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT  
STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

K. BLANKENBEKER, United States  
(since 19 November 2001)

## **ICCAT SECRETARIAT**

*Executive Secretary:* Dr. A. RIBEIRO LIMA

*Assistant Executive Secretary:* Functions executed by Dr. V. R. RESTREPO

*Address:* C/Corazón de María 8, Madrid 28002 (Spain)

*Internet:* <http://www.iccat.es>. *E-mail:* [info@iccat.es](mailto:info@iccat.es)

## FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "*Report for the Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part II (2001)*", which describes the activities of the Commission during the second half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the reports of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, held in Murcia, Spain, in November, 2001, and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and a series of National Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention Area.

The Report for 2001 has been published in two volumes. *Volume 1* includes the Reports of the Secretariat on its activities, the Proceedings of the Commission Meetings and the reports of all the associated meetings (with the exception of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics -SCRS), as well as the National Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission. *Volume 2* contains the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and its appendices.

This Report has been prepared, approved and distributed in accordance with Article III, paragraph 9, and Article IV, paragraph 2-d, of the Convention, and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

*J. Barañano*  
*Acting Commission Chairman*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### SECRETARIAT REPORTS

2001 Administrative Report .....	1
2001 Financial Report .....	8
Report on Statistics & Coordination of Research in 2000-2001 .....	21

### RECORD OF COMMISSION MEETINGS

#### First Plenary Session

1 Opening of the meeting .....	49
2 Adoption of Agenda and arrangements .....	49
3 Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations .....	50
4 Introduction and admission of Observers .....	50
5 Report of the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures .....	50
6 Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria .....	51
7 Use of objection procedure .....	51
8 Management procedures .....	52
9 Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) .....	52

#### Final Plenary Session

5 Report of the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures (cont) .....	53
7 Use of objection procedure (cont) .....	54
8 Management procedures (cont) .....	54
10 Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention adopted in Madrid in 1992 .....	54
11 ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements .....	54
12 Relations with other fora .....	54
13 Review of the Report of the Meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein .....	54
14 Review of the Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of regulatory measures proposed .....	55
19 Election of Executive Secretary .....	56
20 Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission .....	56
21 Adoption of Report .....	56
22 Adjournment .....	56

Note by the Secretariat .....	57
-------------------------------	----

<b>ANNEX A</b> Opening Address by Mr. J. R. Barañano, Commission Chairman .....	58
<b>ANNEX B</b> Opening Address by Mr. Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, President of the Region of Murcia .....	59

<b>ANNEX 1</b> Commission Agenda .....	61
--	----

<b>ANNEX 2</b> List of Commission Participants .....	62
--	----

<b>ANNEX 3</b> List of Commission Documents .....	81
---	----

<b>ANNEX 4</b> Statements to the Plenary Sessions .....	82
---	----



ANNEX 5	Report of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures ( <i>Brussels, Belgium - May 2001</i> ) .....	105
ANNEX 6	Report of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria ( <i>Brussels, Belgium - May 2001</i> ) .....	121
ANNEX 7	Report of the 4 <sup>th</sup> ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria ( <i>Murcia, Spain - November 2001</i> ) .....	177
ANNEX 8	ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities .....	211
ANNEX 9	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS &amp; RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2001</b>	
9-1	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT concerning a management standard for the large-scale tuna longline fishery .....	
9-2	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas .....	216
9-3	<b>Supplemental Recommendation</b> by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries .....	217
9-4	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission .....	218
9-5	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT on the 2002 Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures .....	219
9-6	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits .....	220
9-7	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT Regarding the SCRS Mixing Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna .....	221
9-8	<b>Supplemental Recommendation</b> by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean .....	222
9-10	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit .....	223
9-11	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT for Evaluating Alternatives to Reduce Catches of Juveniles or Dead Discards of Swordfish .....	225
9-12	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT on the Interpretation of the <i>Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish</i> .....	227
9-13	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish .....	228
9-14	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT to Amend the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations .....	229
9-15	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks .....	231
9-16	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program .....	232
9-17	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT Establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program .....	243
9-18	<b>Supplemental Resolution</b> by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program .....	254
9-19	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish and their Products from Honduras .....	256
9-20	<b>Recommendation</b> by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bigeye Tuna and Bigeye Tuna Products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines .....	257
9-21	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT Concerning More Effective Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing by Tuna Longline Vessels .....	258
9-22	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT Further Defining the Scope of IUU Fishing .....	260
9-23	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity .....	261
9-24	<b>Resolution</b> by ICCAT Concerning Financial Contributions to ICCAT by Contracting Parties .....	262
ANNEX 10	Other Recommendations and Resolutions .....	263
ANNEX 11	Report of the Working Group on Compliance .....	266
ANNEX 12	Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee .....	276
	Appendices .....	283
	Compliance Tables .....	285

<b>ANNEX 13</b>	<b>REPORTS OF PANELS 1 TO 4</b>	
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 1 .....	297
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 2 .....	303
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 3 .....	310
	Report of the Meeting of Panel 4 .....	312
	Panel Appendices .....	320
<b>ANNEX 14</b>	Report of the 10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) .....	335
	Appendices .....	345
	List of IUU Vessels (as of November, 2001) .....	358
<b>ANNEX 15</b>	Report of the Technical Experts Meeting to Develop Statistical Document Programs for Bigeye Tuna and Billfish ( <i>Silver Spring, Maryland, USA - July 2001</i> ) .....	389
<b>ANNEX 16</b>	Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) ..	400
	Tables 1 - 4 .....	405
<b>ANNEX 17</b>	Documentation on the Mail Voting Process Following the 17 <sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission	409

## NATIONAL REPORTS

Angola .....	423
Brazil .....	426
Canada .....	429
China .....	437
Côte d'Ivoire .....	442
Croatia .....	446
European Community .....	448
EC-France .....	454
EC-Greece .....	460
EC-Ireland .....	462
EC-Italy .....	463
EC-Portugal .....	469
EC-Spain .....	475
EC-United Kingdom .....	484
France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) .....	486
Ghana .....	489
Japan .....	492
Korca .....	505
Libya .....	507
Morocco .....	515
Namibia .....	521
Russia .....	523
South Africa .....	525
Trinidad and Tobago .....	529
Tunisia .....	534
United Kingdom (Bermuda) .....	540
United States .....	541
Uruguay .....	556
Venezuela .....	559

## SECRETARIAT REPORTS

### 2001 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT (COM/01/006)<sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Contracting Parties to the Convention

The Legal Services Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) notified the Secretariat that the Government of Honduras, on January 30, 2001, and the Government of Algeria, on February 16, 2001, had deposited instruments of adherence to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. In accordance with Article XIV, paragraph 3, Honduras and Algeria are now full members of the Commission.

As of November, 2001, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is comprised of 31 Contracting Parties, as follows: Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Honduras, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, St. Tome and Principe, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

As regards the Panels, in 2001, in virtue of Article 12, paragraph 5, of the Rules of Procedure, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), and Ghana joined Panel 4 and Algeria joined Panel 2.

#### 2. Approval, ratification or acceptance of the Madrid Protocol to the ICCAT Convention

In accordance with its Article 3, the Protocol adopted in Madrid in June, 1992, will enter into force, for all the Contracting Parties, on the 90th day following the deposit with the Director General of FAO of the last instrument of approval, ratification or acceptance by three-quarters of the Contracting Parties, which should include all the Parties classified by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as of June 5, 1992, as developed market economy countries.

In February, 2001, the Executive Secretary wrote to the authorities of Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, and Sao Tomé & Príncipe, reminding them that the entry into force of the Protocol was urgent in order to be able to apply it to the calculation of the contributions for the future biennial period.

In March, 2000, France deposited an instrument of approval with the Director General of FAO, which completes the list of developed market economy countries. In November, 2001, Ghana also deposited an instrument of approval with the Director General of FAO. The ratification of Ghana reduces to only one the number of ratifications necessary for the entry into force of this Protocol.

As of November, 2001, the following Contracting Parties had officially ratified or accepted the Protocol (some of these automatically accepted upon becoming Contracting Parties to the Convention):

Republic of Korea	Acceptance on June 11, 1993
Canada	Ratification on September 22, 1993
South Africa	Acceptance on September 30, 1993
United States of America	Ratification on August 24, 1994

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1. The Administrative Report presented at the Commission Meeting in November 2001 has been updated to December 31, 2001.

Russian Federation	Acceptance on September 14, 1994
Republic of Guinea (Conakry)	Acceptance on April 13, 1995
United Kingdom	Acceptance on November 10, 1995
People's Republic of China	Acceptance on October 24, 1996
Morocco	Ratification on December 9, 1996
Brazil	Ratification on January 15, 1997
Uruguay	Acceptance on July 24, 1997
Croatia	Acceptance on October 20, 1997
European Community	Acceptance on November 14, 1997
Tunisia	Acceptance on December 16, 1997
Libya	Acceptance on January 14, 1998
Venezuela	Acceptance on May 5, 1998
Japan	Acceptance on May 27, 1998
Panama	Acceptance on December 28, 1998
Trinidad & Tobago	Acceptance on March 30, 1999
Namibia	Acceptance on November 10, 1999
France	Approval on March 6, 2000
Gabon	Acceptance on October 26, 2000
Barbados	Acceptance on December 13, 2000
Honduras	Acceptance on January 30, 2001
Algeria	Acceptance on February 16, 2001
Ghana	Acceptance on November 23, 2001

### 3. ICCAT Regulations and Resolutions

#### – Adopted in 2000

On December 27, 2000, the Secretariat officially transmitted the texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission at its 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting (Marrakech, Morocco - November 2000) to the Contracting Parties, and to non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities with an Atlantic coast or which fish tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention Area, as well as to intergovernmental fisheries organizations.

The texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in 2000 are published in the *Report for Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part I, Vol. 1*.

On February 20, 2001, during the six-months grace period following the transmission of the Recommendations adopted by the Commission in November 2000, the Government of the People's Republic of China presented an official objection to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures (Rec. 00-1)*. On August 29, 2001, China was informed that, in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 3(d) of the Convention, since only one Contracting Party had presented an objection, this had no effect, and that in accordance with the same Article in its paragraph 3(e), China had an additional 60 days (starting from August 29, 2001) in which to ratify its objection (i.e. until October 29, 2001). On September 19, 2001, the People's Republic of China ratified its objection. Consequently, this Recommendation will not enter into force for China.

On June 25, 2001, during the same grace period, the Secretariat received an official objection to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras and St. Vincent and The Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area (Rec. 00-15)*, from the Government of Barbados, which was duly transmitted to the Contracting Parties on that same date, informing them that the entry into force was delayed for an additional period of 60 days (until August 25, 2001). On August 22, 2001, and in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 3(b) of the Convention, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago presented an objection to the same Recommendation, which was transmitted to the Contracting Parties on August 29. Consequently, according to the provisions of Article VIII, paragraphs 3(b) and 3(c), the entry into force was extended for an additional 45 days, from the date of such notification (i.e. until October 15, 2001).

The Recommendations entered into force on June 26, 2001, with the exception that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures (Rec. 00-1)*, which entered into force on August 26, 2001 (except for China, who ratified its objection), and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras and St. Vincent and The Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated*

*Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area (Rec.:00-15)*, which entered into force on October 15, 2001. However, and in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 3(e) of the Convention, the Governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago have an additional 60 days (until December 17, 2001) in which to ratify their objections.

#### 4. ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme

As of November, 2001, the following Contracting Parties have accepted the ICCAT Scheme of Port Inspection, which was adopted by the Commission at its First Special Meeting (Madrid, 1978) and has been in effect since 1983: Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, United States, and Venezuela.

At its 15th Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1997), the Commission adopted a *Recommendation for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme (Rec. 97-10)*. The revised Scheme, which entered into force on June 13, 1998, supercedes the previous ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme.

#### 5. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and Working Groups - 2001

In accordance with Commission decisions, the following meetings took place in 2001. The Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research (COM-SCRS/01/009), provides details on these meetings:

- BYP - Report of the BYP Coordination Meeting for Sampling Survey Research in the Central Atlantic and Near the Balearic Islands (*Miami, Florida, USA - April 25 and 26*), (SCRS/01/022).
- ICCAT Workshop on Environment and Tuna Recruitment (*Madrid, Spain - May 7 to 12*), (SCRS/01/006).
- Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee for Advice on the Implementation of the ICCAT Relational Database Management System (*Madrid, Spain - May 14 and 15*), (SCRS/01/007).
- Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (*Brussels, Belgium - May 17 & 18*), (COM/01/020).
- Third Working Group on Allocation Criteria (*Brussels, Belgium - May 21 to 23*), (COM/01/021).
- Working Group on Assessment Methods (*Madrid, Spain - June 11 to 15*), (SCRS/01/008).
- Meeting of Technical Experts to Develop Statistical Document Programs for Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish (*Silver Spring, Maryland, USA - July 16 to 18*), (COM/01/022).
- Workshop on Bluefin Mixing (*Madrid, Spain, September 3 to 7*), (SCRS/01/020).
- Data Preparatory Meeting for Atlantic Shark Assessment (*Halifax, Canada - September 11 to 14*), (SCRS/01/021).
- SCRS Plenary Sessions and Sub-Committees (*Madrid, Spain - October 8 to 12*).
- Fourth Working Group on Allocation Criteria (*Murcia, Spain - November 7 to 9, 2001*)

#### 6. Meetings at which ICCAT was represented

Comments and reports on these meetings are contained in the Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research.

- Technical Workshop on Tuna Freezer Vessels (*Bilbao, Spain - January 19*). ICCAT was represented by Adolfo Ribeiro Lima, ICCAT Executive Secretary
- Meeting of Bluefin Tuna Aquiculture (*Campello, Alicante, Spain - February 20*). ICCAT was presented by José Miguel de la Serna (EC-Spain).

- FAO - Second Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies (*Rome, Italy - February 20 and 21*). ICCAT was represented by Victor Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).
- Second Technical Consultation on illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (*Rome, Italy - February 22 and 23*). ICCAT was represented by Victor Restrepo.
- COFI - 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (*Rome, Italy - February 26 to March 2*). Adolfo Ribeiro Lima represented ICCAT.
- EC - Workshop on European High Seas Fishing (*Brussels, Belgium - April 25 and 26*). ICCAT was represented by Adolfo Ribeiro Lima.
- IOTC - Working Party on Methods (*Sète, France - April 23 to 27*). ICCAT was represented by Olivier Maury (EC-France).
- IATTC - 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Working Group (*La Jolla, California, USA - April 30 to May 4*). Javier Ariz (EC-Spain) represented ICCAT.
- IATTC - Meeting to Integrate Information on Swordfish and to Assess Swordfish Stocks in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (IATTC) (*La Jolla, California, USA - May 7 and 8*). ICCAT was represented by Javier Ariz (EC-Spain).
- GFCM - Sub-Committee for Stock Assessment (*Rome, Italy - May 15 to 18*). ICCAT was represented by Victor Restrepo.
- GFCM - 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (*Athens, Greece - July 4 to 7*). ICCAT was represented by Victor Restrepo.
- CWP - 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (*Noumea, New Caledonia - July 10 to 13*). ICCAT was represented by Papa Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat).
- Third International Billfish Symposium (*Cairns, Australia - August 19 to 23*). Victor Restrepo represented ICCAT.
- GFCM - 26<sup>th</sup> Session for the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (*Ischia, Italy - September 10 to 13*). The Japanese delegation represented ICCAT.
- IO-CARIBE - Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project on Sustainable Management of the Shared Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions (*Miami, Florida, USA - September 19 to 21*). ICCAT was represented by David Die (USA).
- Second Technical Consultation on the Suitability of the CITES Criteria for Listing Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (*Windhoek, Namibia - October 22 to 25*). ICCAT was represented by Yuji Uozumi (Japan).
- Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries Matters Among the Coastal African States of the Atlantic (*Libreville, Gabon - October 15 to 17*). ICCAT was represented by Papa Kebe.
- Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) (*Mahé, Seychelles - December 4 to 7*). ICCAT was represented by Pilar Pallarés (EC-Spain).
- Sixth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (*Victoria, Seychelles - December 10 to 14*). ICCAT was represented by Fernando Curcio-Ruigómez (EC-Spain).

## 7. Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)

From October, 2000, to September, 2001, conventional tagging was carried out only in the Gulf of Guinea. A series of circumstances prevented carrying out tagging in the Canary Islands, Madeira and Azores. The research

vessel *Shoyo-Maru* placed two "pop-up" tags in December, 2000, and in April/May, 2001, 12 "pop-up" tags were placed in Azores. A contract was signed with the IRD of France for the evaluation of hard parts destined for growth studies within the framework of the BETYP, and another contract was signed with the National Museum of Natural Sciences of Spain to carry out genetic studies, also within the framework of the BETYP. During this period, there was an improvement in Ghanaian fishery statistics.

## 8. Tagging lottery

The annual lottery for participants in the ICCAT International Cooperative Tagging Program for Tuna and Tuna-like Species was held in Madrid, Spain on October 8, 2001, at the time of the SCRS Meeting. Three US\$500 and one US\$1000 prizes were awarded, corresponding to four categories, as follows:

- *Tropical tunas* (220 tags entered in the lottery); Winner: Tag #BE-007101, for a yellowfin tuna tagged by Ghana and also recovered by Ghana, after 0 days at liberty.
- *Temperate tunas* (39 tags): Winner: Tag #R-177863, for a bluefin tuna tagged by the United States and also recovered by the United States, after 1,986 days at liberty.
- *Billfishes* (31 tags): Winner: Tag #R-270490, for a white marlin tagged by the United States and also recovered by the United States, after 3,064 days at liberty.
- *Bigeye tuna* (561 tags): Winner: Tag #CT-004295, for a bigeye tuna tagged by Senegal and recovered by St. Vincent, after 68 days at liberty.

## 9. Commission Chairman's letters to various countries

In accordance with the Commission's decision, in January, Mr. J. R. Barañano, sent various letters regarding the ICCAT Bluefin Action Plan (Res. 94-3), the Swordfish Action Plan (Res. 95-13), and the 1998 ICCAT Resolution on unregulated and unreported catches (Res. 98-18), as follows:

- **Letters of warning to:**
  - Denmark (Faroe Islands) regarding Atlantic bluefin fishing
  - Iceland on Atlantic bluefin and swordfish fishing
  - Malta on bluefin tuna fishing, and
  - Turkey on bluefin tuna fishing.
- **Letters of identification to:**
  - Vanuatu regarding its vessels fishing in detriment to the effectiveness of ICCAT's SWO conservation measures
- **Letters requesting information to:**
  - Argentina, Barbados, Grenada, Liberia, Mozambique and Netherlands Antilles regarding their swordfish catches; and Norway regarding excessive catches of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean.
- **Letter regarding Cooperating Status to:**
  - Philippines granting them Cooperating Status
  - Mexico and Chinese Taipei regarding continuation of Cooperating Status
- **Letters regarding non-compliance with ICCAT management and conservation measures and bigeye trade restrictions to:**
  - Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Document COM/01/025 has more details on this matter.

## 10. Secretariat Publications - 2001

The following publications were issued:

- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 30 (part printed and part on diskette)
- Data Record (June, 2001, catalog printed, data on CD)
- Report for Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part I (Vols. 1 and 2): English
- Report for Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part I (Vols. 1 and 2): French
- Report for Biennial Period, 2000-2001, Part I (Vols. 1 and 2): Spanish
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. 52 (on CD)
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. 53 (on CD)

## 11. Secretariat staff

In January, 2001, Mrs. María Isabel de Andrés joined the Secretariat staff to fill a post in the Spanish Department.

Dr. Peter Miyake, who held the position of Assistant Executive Secretary at the Secretariat, retired on August 31, 2001.

At the end of December, 2001, Ms. María Ana Fernández de Bobadilla, retired from her post in the Spanish Department.

In virtue of the authority granted in Article 33 of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*, the Executive Secretary decided to grant a one-year extension beyond retirement age to Ms. Elisabeth Carel, of the French Department.

In December, 2001, the Secretariat staff was comprised of the following: Executive Secretary (D-1), 1 Chief Scientist (P-4), 1 Bigeye Program Coordinator (P-4), 1 Biostatistician (P-3), 1 Systems Analyst (P-2), 5 multilingual secretaries in the language departments (3 in GS-7 and 2 in GS-4) and 1 in the Department of Statistics (GS-4), 4 Clerks (1 in GS-3, and 3 in GS-1), and 1 local contract in the Department of Statistics.

Following herewith is a description of the major tasks and responsibilities of the ICCAT Secretariat staff. This list is not all-inclusive, since the staff share many other tasks (mainly concerning correspondence).

### *Executive Secretary*

*Adolfo R. Lima*

### *Chief Scientist*

*Victor R. Restrepo*

Also executes the functions of Assistant Executive Secretary

### *Department of Statistics*

*Papa Kebe*

Department Head. Also responsible for the computer facilities and email management.

*Carlos Palma*

Biostatistician. Responsible for the development of the relational data bases and the analysis of trade statistics

*Jenny Cheattle*

Statistics Secretary. Also responsible for ASFA bibliographic entries and the maintenance of the compliance lists.

*Juan Luis Gallego*

Responsible for data entry and network backups.

### *Publications Office*

Functions of the Scientific Editor are currently executed by *Victor R. Restrepo*.

### *Department of Administration*

*Juan Antonio Moreno*

Responsible for financial and administrative matters. Also manages office equipment and supplies.



**Language Departments**

*Philomena M. Seidita* (English); *Elisabeth Carel* and *Christine Peyre* (French); *Marisa de Andrés* and *María José García-Orad* (Spanish): Mainly responsible for all translation work (reports, meeting announcements, etc). Among other tasks, they also share the responsibility of compiling the scientific documents for the *Collective Volume* series; the organization of the *Biennial Reports* (SCRS and Commission); maintain the files of correspondence with regional fisheries organizations; contacts with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the general archive; tracking the entry into force of the ICCAT regulations and the Statistical Document Programs, and the lists of the IUU fishing vessels.

**Reception**

*Felicidad García*

Receptionist. Also carries out secretarial work for the Executive Secretary and organizes logistical arrangements for the meetings.

**Mailing, Publications**

*Cristobal García*

*Juan Angel Moreno*

Also responsible for the library and the archive of old documents.

**2001 FINANCIAL REPORT**  
*(COM/01/7-Revised)<sup>1</sup>*

**1. Auditor's Report - Fiscal Year 2000**

The Executive Secretary transmitted a copy of the Auditor's Report to the governments of all the Contracting Parties in May, 2001. The General Balance at the close of Fiscal year 2000 (**Statement 1**, attached ) showed a balance in Cash and Bank of 49,300,229 Pesetas, corresponding to the available in the Working Capital fund (32,963,154 Pesetas), to advances on future contributions accumulated at the close of Fiscal Year 2000 (1,508,534), and to the available in funds for other programs (14,828,541 Pesetas).

The accumulated pending contributions at the close of Fiscal Year 2000 (corresponding to 2000 and to previous years) amounted to 229,172,414 Pesetas.

**2. Financial status of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the biennial budget - Fiscal Year 2001**

All the financial operations of the Commission corresponding to Fiscal Year 2001 were maintained in Pesetas. The accounting entries which originated in U.S. dollars are also registered in Pesetas, applying the official monthly exchange rates facilitated by the United Nations.

The 2001 Regular Budget (252,943,060 Pesetas) was approved by the Commission at its 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2000). The General Balance Sheet (attached as **Statement 2**) shows the income and expenditures to the close of Fiscal Year 2001; details are provided in **Tables 1 to 6**.

**Table 1** shows the status of the contributions of each Contracting Party to the close of Fiscal Year 2001.

Of the total budget approved, income received towards 2001 contributions amounted to 189,982,810 Pesetas as of the close of the Fiscal Year. Only 12 of the 28 Contracting Parties included in this Budget have paid their total contribution (Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, European Community, France-Overseas Territories, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, and the United States). Angola has paid 98.03% of its 2001 contribution (3,463,188 Pesetas); Namibia has paid 99.90% (4,890,378 Pesetas); United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) has paid 93.21% (5,503,041 Pesetas); the People's Republic of China has paid 97.53% (4,628,355 Pesetas); Russia has paid 99.92% (3,579,424 Pesetas); South Africa has paid 99.95% (4,922,057 Pesetas); and Trinidad and Tobago has paid 82.36% (3,516,837 Pesetas). Advances received in 2000 from Angola (80,259 Pesetas), the People's Republic of China (72,413 Pesetas) and Tunisia (1,355,861 Pesetas) were applied toward payment of their 2001 contributions. Advances totalling 834,148 Pesetas were also received from Korea (164,761 Pesetas) and Tunisia (669,387 Pesetas) and will be applied to the payment of their future contributions.

The contributions to the 2001 Regular Budget pending payment from the Contracting Parties as of the close of Fiscal Year 2001 amounted to 62,960,250 Pesetas.

The total accumulated debt from budgetary and extra-budgetary contributions at the close of Fiscal Year 2001 amounted to 256,578,171 Pesetas, which includes, among others, extra-budgetary contributions from Contracting Parties to the Commission (Barbados and Honduras), and the debt from Benin, Cuba and Senegal, which are no longer Contracting Parties to ICCAT.

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1. The Financial Report presented at the 2001 meeting was revised and updated to the close of Fiscal Year 2001.

**Statement 2** shows the liquidation of budgetary expenses to the close of Fiscal Year 2001, broken down by chapters.

Following herewith are some general comments, by chapter:

**Chapter 1 - Salaries:** The salaries and remuneration for 11 members of the ICCAT Secretariat staff were charged to this chapter. One classified in D-1, one in P-5, three in G-7, two in G-4, one in G-3 and three in G-1.

The total for Chapter 1 includes the updating of the remuneration schemes to those currently in effect for staff classified in the United Nations categories, including step (tenure) raises. Also charged to this chapter was the first payment to Dr. P. M. Miyake for repatriation upon retiring as Assistant Executive Secretary, and the final liquidation due to retirement of a staff member.

**Chapter 2 - Travel:** The expenses charged to this Budget chapter amounted to 6,672,912 Pesetas and correspond to those for travel and per diem for Secretariat participation at the following meetings: inter-session meetings of the Commission (2,269,626 Pesetas), travel related to the preparation of the Commission meeting (499,751 Pesetas), travel to Contracting Parties relative to the Commission's work (1,591,536 Pesetas), trips of invited external experts (201,102 Pesetas), trips to participate in meetings of other international organizations (1,336,198 Pesetas), and travel relative to benefits of Secretariat staff in the professional category (774,699 Pesetas).

**Chapter 3 - Commission Meetings:** Expenditures totalling 11,177,015 Pesetas concerning Secretariat participation in the following inter-sessional meetings are included in this chapter:

- ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria and the ICCAT Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, both held in Brussels, with expenses totalling 2,662,300 Pesetas, were covered by the extra-budgetary contributions received from Canada (CAN\$ 7,000 = 1,359,204 Pesetas), from the European Community (851,528 Pesetas) and observer fees (451,569 Pesetas).
- Fourth ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria held in Murcia, with expenses totalling 6,100,772 Pesetas, and which were covered by the extra-budgetary contributions received from Chinese Taipei (US\$ 3,000 = 549,075 Pesetas), Trinidad and Tobago (US\$ 2,000 = 366,050 Pesetas), the United States (US\$ 20,000 = 3,601,000 Pesetas), and Canada (CAN\$ 10,000 = 1,174,569 Pesetas), and observer fees (410,078 Pesetas). The Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food of Spain contributed towards the aforementioned meeting through payment of the expenses for simultaneous translation.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, held in Murcia, with expenses totalling 14,325,268 Pesetas. As a result of the contribution of 3,148,253 Pesetas from the Association of Tuna Businessmen of the Region of Murcia, expenses of this chapter were maintained within the budget. The Chancellery of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of the Region of Murcia assumed all the extraordinary expenses incurred from holding the annual Commission meeting in Murcia.

Total meeting expenditures	=	20,088,340 Pesetas
Total extra contributions received	=	11,911,325 Pesetas
Total real expenditures in this Chapter	=	11,177,015 Pesetas

**Chapter 4 - Publications:** Charged to this chapter were the expenses for the purchase of material for publications: paper, (onec (1,678,891 Pesetas); reproduction of publications (945,165 Pesetas); printing of ICCAT tabletop Planning (952,360 Pesetas); and the expenses for binding of the following publications by a printing company: Statistical Bulletin, Data Record, Biennial Report, Part I, volumes 1 and 2 in the three official languages of the Commission, and the Collective Volume of Scientific Papers (5 volumes).

**Chapter 5 - Office Equipment:** The expenses charged to this chapter to the end of Fiscal Year 2001 include the last payments on a sorter (119,036 Pesetas), the purchase of diverse office furniture for the Secretariat (480,124 Pesetas), and the first payment on the purchase of a new postage metre adapted to the Euro (127,298 Pesetas).

**Chapter 6 - Operating Expenses:** The expenses charged to this chapter to the end of Fiscal Year 2001 amounted to 20,824,974 Pesetas, which correspond to communications: mail, phone, and fax (7,499,919 Pesetas), bank expenses (439,020 Pesetas), audit (815,728 Pesetas), maintenance contracts, garage rental, office cleaning (3,372,348 Pesetas), representational expenses (2,928,833 Pesetas), office material and reproduction of documents (5,769,126 Pesetas).

The increase in expenses in this chapter is due to the significant increase in postal rates for the mailing of official ICCAT correspondence, to the increase in phone and fax expenses, and to the payments for rental of photocopiers. As the meetings have become more complicated and there are more participants, the expenses for preparation of the meeting and the meeting itself have increased. In November, 2001, there were close to 300 participants at the Commission meeting and close to 400,000 photocopies were made.

**Chapter 7 - Miscellaneous:** This chapter includes various expenses of a minor nature, such as the use of taxis for official missions, minor repairs at the Secretariat.

#### **Chapter 8 - Coordination of Statistics and Research:**

*A) Salaries:* Salaries and remuneration for five Secretariat staff members (one classified in P-4, one in P-3, one in P-2, one in G-4 and a local contract) were charged to this sub-chapter. The observations made under Chapter 1 as regards the salary schemes currently in force for 2001 for U.N. classified staff also apply to this sub-Chapter.

Also included are the salary and Spanish Social Security expenses of one staff member who chose to continue in this special regime.

*B) Travel to improve statistics:* Expenses charged to this sub-chapter amounted to 5,807,531 Pesetas and correspond to travel and per diem for Secretariat participation in the following meetings:

- Travel relative to SCRS inter-sessional meetings (2,401,839 Pesetas), travel to participate in scientific meetings of other organizations (2,326,910 Pesetas), and travel to improve statistics (1,078,782 Pesetas).

*C) Statistics/Biology:* Expenses charged to this sub-Chapter include external translation work and Secretariat staff overtime for the preparation of scientific meetings (2,895,189 Pesetas), travel of invited experts (228,353 Pesetas), expenses for participation in meetings of other international organizations (717,768 Pesetas), ICCAT lottery prizes (367,964 Pesetas), and the purchase of a CD writer and memory expansion for a computer.

*D) Computer-related items:* The amount incurred in this sub-chapter corresponds to the purchase of computers (2,616,032 Pesetas) and memory expansion for an computer.

- Data base revision: At the close of Fiscal Year 2001, expenses charged to this sub-chapter amounted to 5,041,199 Pesetas, and correspond to the purchase of another video projector (910,484 Pesetas), computer equipment (1,967,012 Pesetas), Internet domain (1,436,961 Pesetas), and maintenance of the Internet domain (726,742 Pesetas).

*E) Scientific meetings (including the SCRS):* Expenses charged to this sub-chapter amounted to 9,865,320 Pesetas, and corresponded to those for the annual SCRS meeting in Madrid. This amount includes payment to the Hotel Reina Victoria (where the plenary sessions of this scientific committee were held), payment to the interpreters, technical sound equipment, Secretariat staff overtime, and diverse office material for the meetings.

*F) Bluefin Year Program (BYP):* The Contracting Parties financed a budget of 2,266,000 Pesetas as an ICCAT budgetary contribution towards this program. The breakdown of the deposits and expenses is given in the table concerning this Program.

*G) Bigeye Year Program (BETYP):* The Contracting Parties decided not to allocate any special contribution to the Program this year. The breakdown of deposits and expenditures is given in COM-SCRS/01/016, prepared by the BETYP Coordinator.

*H) Billfish Research Program:* The Contracting Parties financed a budget of 1,751,000 Pesetas as an ICCAT budgetary contribution towards this Program. The breakdown of deposits and expenditures is shown in the table regarding this Program.

*I) Miscellaneous:* As of the close of Fiscal Year 2001, there were no expenses charged to this sub-chapter.

**Chapter 9 - Contingencies:** Charged to this sub-chapter to the close of Fiscal Year 2001 were part of the expenditures relative to the retirement of the Assistant Executive Secretary in accordance with Article 35 of the Staff Regulations and Rules, and those for contracting temporary help to substitute for Secretariat staff.

**Table 3** shows budgetary and extra-budgetary income received by the Commission during Fiscal Year 2001. Budgetary income amounted to 188,474,276 Pesetas, corresponding to Contracting Party contributions paid in 2001 towards the 2001 Budget, contributions paid towards previous budgets by United Kingdom-Overseas Territories (550,259 Pesetas), Uruguay (2,215,167 Pesetas, South Africa (2,413 Pesetas), Brazil (7,427,777 Pesetas), Russia (1,204 Pesetas), Libya (5,639,950 Pesetas), Gabon (1,915,086 Pesetas), Trinidad and Tobago (2,843,972 Pesetas), Ghana (9,263,193 Pesetas), and Venezuela (11,719,120 Pesetas), and from other income (extra-budgetary) received in 2001. This extra-budgetary income received in 2001 included: contribution from Angola (adherence in 2001), observer fees, bank interest, reimbursement for publications and the return of Value Added Tax (VAT).

**Table 4** shows the composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund at the close of Fiscal Year 2001. The Fund shows a positive accounting balance of 22,682,069 Pesetas, which represents 8.97% of the 2001 Budget. The percentage of the annual budget that corresponds to this Fund has decreased in recent years, mainly since the Commission only receives, on average, 75-80% of the budgetary contributions.

**Table 5** shows cash flow during Fiscal Year 2001, as regards income received and expenses incurred.

**Table 6** shows the status of Cash and Bank to the close of Fiscal Year 2001, with a balance of 39,640,216 Pesetas, which correspond to the total available in the Working Capital Fund (22,682,069 Pesetas) as well as the funds available for other Programs (16,123,999 Pesetas), and advances on future contributions (834,148 Pesetas).

### 3. Billfish Research Program

	<i>Pesetas</i>	
Balance at start of Fiscal Year 2001		6,690,695
<b>DEPOSITS</b>		
Financed by ICCAT	1,751,000	
Voluntary contribution from Chinese Taipei (\$10,000)	1,868,510	
Contribution Billfish Tournament (\$2,500)	467,127	
<i>Total Deposits</i>		<i>4,086,638</i>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program expenses	5,241,777	
Bank charges	8,532	
<i>Total Expenses</i>		<i>-5,250,309</i>
<b>BALANCE AT CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 2001</b>		<b>5,527,024</b>

**4. Bluefin Year Program (BYP)**

		<i>Pesetas</i>
Balance at start of Fiscal Year 2001		8,137,846
<b>DEPOSITS</b>		
Financed by ICCAT	2,266,000	
Contribution from Chinese Taipei (\$5,000)	934,255	
<i>Total Deposits</i>		<i>3,200,255</i>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program expenses	739,598	
Bank charges	1,528	
<i>Total Expenses</i>		<i><u>-741,126</u></i>
<b>BALANCE AT CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 2001</b>		<b>10,596,975</b>

**STATEMENT 1. GENERAL BALANCE AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 2000 (Pesetas)**

<i>ASSETS</i>		<i>LIABILITIES</i>	
<b>Available:</b>	<i>Pesetas</i>		<i>Pesetas</i>
		Acquired holdings (net)	10,044,431
– BBVA:		Guaranty deposit	61,564
Acct. 020-0176725 (Pts.)	1,239,251	Available in the Working Capital Fund	32,963,154
Acct. 020-0173290 (Pts.)	2,501,383	Available in funds for Programs:	
Acct. 201-0012035 (US\$)	\$164,111.86      31,568,393	– Billfish Research Program	6,690,695
– Barclays		– Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	<u>8,137,846</u> 14,828,541
Acct. 21001466 (Pts.)	1,107,094	Advances on future contributions	1,508,534
Acct. 41000347 (US\$)	\$12,508.94      2,406,207	Accumulated pending contributions	229,172,414
– Banco Luso Español			
Acct. 0150255223 (Conv. Pts.)	10,402,901		
Cash on hand (Pts.)	<u>75,000</u>		
Total Available (Pts.)	49,300,229		
(Exchange rate: 1US\$ = 192.359 Pts.)			
<b>Receivables:</b>			
Past due contributions	229,172,414		
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Acquired before 2000	27,643,781		
Acquired during 2000	2,174,801		
Retired during 2000	<u>0</u>		
Total Fixed Assets, in use	29,818,582		
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(19,774,151)</u>		
Fixed Assets (net)	10,044,431		
<b>Guaranty deposit</b>	61,564		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>288,578,638</u>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>288,578,638</u>

**STATEMENT 2. GENERAL BALANCE AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 2001 (Pesetas)**

<i>ASSETS</i>		<i>LIABILITIES</i>	
<b>Available:</b>	<i>Pesetas</i>		<i>Pesetas</i>
		Acquired holdings (net)	9,993,700
<b>BBVA:</b>		Guaranty deposit	61,564
Acct. 020-0176725 (Pta.)	459,125	Available in the Working Capital Fund	22,682,069
Acct. 020-0173290 (Pta.)	19,941,507		
Acct. 201-0012035 (US\$)	\$20,361.27 3,804,524	Available in funds for Programs:	
		- Billfish Research Program	5,527,024
<b>Barclays:</b>		- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	<u>10,596,975</u> 16,123,999
Acct. 21000545 (Pta.)	1,067,130	Advances on future contributions	834,148
Acct. 41000347 (US\$)	\$21,247.16 3,970,053	Accumulated pending contributions	256,578,171
<b>Banco Luso Español:</b>			
Acct. 0150255223 (Pta.)	10,322,877		
Cash on hand (Pta.)	<u>75,000</u>		
<b>Total Available (Pta.)</b>	<b>39,640,216</b>		
(Exchange rate: 1US\$ = 186.851 Pta.)			
<b>Receivables:</b>			
Past due contributions	<b>256,578,171</b>		
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>			
Acquired before 2001	29,818,582		
Acquired during 2001	1,890,800		
Retired during 2001	<u>0</u>		
<b>Total Fixed Assets, in use</b>	<b>31,709,382</b>		
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(21,715,682)</u>		
Fixed Assets (net)	<b>9,993,700</b>		
<b>Guaranty deposit</b>	<b>61,564</b>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>306,273,651</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>306,273,651</b>



**TABLE 1. STATUS OF CONTRACTING PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 2001)**

<i>Contracting Party</i>	<i>Balance due at start of Fiscal Year 2001</i>	<i>2001 Contracting Party contributions</i>	<i>Contributions paid in 2001 or applied to the 2001 Budget</i>	<i>Contributions paid in 2001 towards other budgets</i>	<i>Balance due at the close of Fiscal Year 2001</i>
<b>A) Regular Commission Budget:</b>					
Angola <sup>(1)</sup>	0	3,532,527	3,463,188	0	69,339
Brazil	22,088,782	13,050,464	0	7,427,777	27,711,469
Canada	0	5,022,190	5,022,190	0	0
Cape Verde	26,939,119	3,017,957	0	0	29,957,076
China <sup>(2)</sup>	0	4,745,240	4,628,355	0	116,885
Côte d'Ivoire	0	2,697,511	2,697,511	0	0
Croatia	0	2,548,977	2,548,977	0	0
European Community	0	87,875,665	87,875,665	0	0
France (St.Pierre & Miquelon)	0	2,306,914	2,306,914	0	0
Gabon	12,205,269	2,355,070	0	1,915,086	12,645,253
Ghana	83,302,852	23,286,325	0	9,263,193	97,325,984
Guinea Ecuatorial	11,433,139	1,793,608	0	0	13,226,747
Guinea Conakry	8,409,758	1,252,551	0	0	9,662,309
Japan	0	14,246,127	14,246,127	0	0
Korea <sup>(3)</sup>	0	3,872,157	3,872,157	0	0
Libya	5,639,950	4,149,847	4,149,847	5,639,950	0
Morocco	0	8,325,676	8,325,676	0	0
Namibia	0	4,895,272	4,890,378	0	4,894
Panama	0	6,323,607	6,323,607	0	0
Russia	1,204	3,582,293	3,579,424	1,204	2,869
Sao Tome & Principe	11,897,648	2,497,611	0	0	14,395,259
South Africa	2,413	4,924,521	4,922,057	2,413	2,464
Trinidad & Tobago	2,843,972	4,269,817	3,516,837	2,843,972	752,980
Tunisia <sup>(4)</sup>	0	3,200,685	3,200,685	0	0
United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)	550,259	5,903,620	5,503,041	550,259	400,579
United States	0	18,910,174	18,910,174	0	0
Uruguay	4,681,785	2,518,372	0	2,215,167	4,984,990
Venezuela	12,151,915	11,838,281	0	11,719,120	12,271,076
<i>Sub-total (A)</i>	<b>202,148,065</b>	<b>252,943,059</b>	<b>189,982,810</b>	<b>41,578,141</b>	<b>223,530,173</b>
<b>B) New Contracting Parties:</b>					
Algeria (16-2-2001)	0	4,808,733	4,808,733	0	0
Barbados (13-12-2000)	0	1,837,876	0	0	1,837,876
Honduras (30-1-2001)	0	4,185,773	0	0	4,185,773
<i>Sub-total (B)</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,832,382</b>	<b>4,808,733</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,023,649</b>
<b>C) Withdrawals of Contracting Parties:</b>					
Benin (31-12-1994)	8,403,961	0	0	0	8,403,961
Cuba (31-12-1991)	11,034,300	0	0	0	11,034,300
Senegal (31-12-1988)	7,586,088	0	0	0	7,586,088
<i>Sub-total (C)</i>	<b>27,024,349</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,024,349</b>
<b>TOTAL (A+B+C):</b>	<b>229,172,414</b>	<b>263,775,441</b>	<b>194,791,543</b>	<b>41,578,141</b>	<b>256,578,171</b>

(1) Advance from Angola (80,259 Pesetas) received in 2000, has been applied towards partial payment of Angola's 2001 contribution.

(2) The advance from China (72,413 Pesetas) received in 2000, has been applied as partial payment towards China's 2001 contribution.

(3) The advance from Korea (164,761 Pesetas) will be applied towards Korea's future contributions.

(4) The advance from Tunisia (1,355,861 Pesetas) received in 2000 has been applied in its entirety towards partial payment of Tunisia's 2001 contribution.

An advance of 669,387 has also been received, which will be applied towards Tunisia's future contributions.

**TABLE 2. LIQUIDATION OF BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 2001)**

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>2001 Budget</i>	<i>Expenditures to the end of Fiscal Year 2001</i>
<b>1. Budget and budgetary expenditures: 1/</b>		
Chapter 1. Salaries	113,044,560	108,675,527
Chapter 2. Travel	6,695,000	6,672,912
Chapter 3. Commission Meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	11,330,000	11,177,015 2/
Chapter 4. Publications	5,150,000	4,268,432
Chapter 5. Office Equipment	1,236,000	726,458
Chapter 6. Operating Expenses	14,935,000	20,824,974
Chapter 7. Miscellaneous	927,000	890,965
<i>Sub-total Chapters 1-7</i>	<i>153,317,560</i>	<i>153,236,283</i>
Chapter 8. Statistics and Research		
8A- Salaries	62,418,000	62,269,342
8B- Travel to improve statistics	5,665,000	5,807,531
8C- Statistics/Biology	5,150,000	4,500,434
8D- Computer-related items	3,605,000	2,645,200
Data base revision	6,050,000	5,041,199
8E- Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	9,991,000	9,865,320
8F- Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	2,266,000	2,266,000 3/
8G- Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)	0	0
8H- Billfish Research Program	1,751,000	1,751,000 3/
8I- Miscellaneous	927,000	0
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>97,823,000</i>	<i>94,146,026</i>
Chapter 9. Contingencies	1,802,500	1,996,717
<b>TOTAL BUDGETARY EXPENDITURES (Chapters 1 to 9)</b>	<b>252,943,060</b>	<b>249,379,026</b>
<b>2. Extra-budgetary expenditures</b>		
Negative difference in currency exchange		2,172,538
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED IN 2001</b>		<b>251,551,564</b>

1/ For more information on the variations in the various chapters, please see section 2 of this report.

2/ The Chancellery of Agriculture, Water and Environment of the Region of Murcia and the Association of Tuna Businessmen of the Region of Murcia assumed the extraordinary expenses of the Commission Meeting in Murcia.

3/ ICCAT contribution to these programs.

**TABLE 3. BUDGETARY & EXTRA-BUDGETARY INCOME RECEIVED (Pesetas) (to the close of Fiscal Year 2001)**

<b>1.1 Contributions received in 2001 towards the 2001 Budget:</b>			
Canada	(16 February)	5,022,190	
European Community	(19 February)	87,875,665	
United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)	(5/14 March, 18/23 April & 16/25 May)	5,503,041	
United States	(07 March)	18,910,174	
Korea	(17 April)	3,872,157	
Croatia	(23 April)	2,548,977	
Japan	(03 May)	14,246,127	
Panama	(23 May)	6,323,607	
South Africa	(30 May)	4,922,057	
Côte d'Ivoire	(11 June)	2,697,511	
Tunisia	(20 June)	1,844,824	
Namibia	(27 June)	4,890,377	
Russia	(23 July)	3,579,424	
China	(24 August)	4,555,942	
Angola	(28 August)	3,382,929	
Libia	(18 September)	4,149,847	
Trinidad and Tobago	(30 November)	3,516,837	
France (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	(10 December)	2,306,914	
Morocco	(31 December)	8,325,676	188,474,276
<b>1.2 Contributions received in 2001 towards previous budgets:</b>			
United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)	(05 March)	550,259	
Uruguay	(29 May)	2,215,167	
South Africa	(30 May)	2,413	
Brazil	(13 June)	7,427,777	
Russia	(23 July)	1,204	
Libya	(18 September)	5,639,950	
Gabon	(23 October)	1,915,086	
Trinidad and Tobago	(30 November)	2,843,972	
Ghana	(30 November)	9,263,193	
Venezuela	(31 December)	11,719,120	41,578,141
<b>1.3 Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties received in 2001:</b>			
Algeria	(05 September)	4,808,733	4,808,733
<b>1.4 Other extra-budgetary income:</b>			
Observer fees at ICCAT Meetings		2,998,409	
Bank interest		1,381,641	
Refund from VAT		492,479	
Reimbursement for publications		28,266	4,900,795
<b>TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED IN 2001</b>			<b>239,761,945</b>

**TABLE 4. COMPOSITION AND BALANCE OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND (Pesetas) (at the close of Fiscal Year 2001)**

Balance available in the Working Capital Fund (at the start of Fiscal year 2001)		32,963,154
<b>a) Liquidation of income and expenditures of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2001</b>		
<i>Deposits:</i>		
- Contributions paid in 2001 and/or in advance for application to the 2001 Budget	189,982,810	
<i>Deductions:</i>		
- Real budgeted expenditures (Chapters 1 to 9) in Fiscal Year 2001	<u>(249,379,026)</u>	<b>(59,396,216)</b>
<b>b) Other income and expenditures not included in Budget for Fiscal Year 2001</b>		
<i>Deposits:</i>		
- Extra-budgetary contributions paid in 2001 towards previous budgets	41,578,141	
- Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties	4,808,733	
- Other extra-budgetary income	<u>4,900,795</u>	
	51,287,669	
<i>Deductions:</i>		
- Extra-budgetary expenditures	<u>(2,172,538)</u>	<b>49,115,131</b>
<b>BALANCE AVAILABLE AT THE CLOSE OF FISCAL YEAR 2001</b>		<b>22,682,069</b>

**TABLE 5. CASH FLOW (during Fiscal Year 2001) (Pesetas)**

<i>INCOME &amp; ORIGIN</i>		<i>EXPENSES &amp; APPLICATION</i>	
Balance in Cash and Bank (at the start of Fiscal Year 2001)	49,300,229	Available in Program funds at the close of Fiscal Year 2000 applied in Fiscal Year 2001	14,828,541
<b>Income:</b>			
Contributions paid in 2001 and/or in advance for their application to the 2001 Budget	189,982,810	Advances on contributions to the close of Fiscal year 2000 applied in Fiscal Year 2001	1,508,534
Contributions pending from previous budgets paid in 2001	41,578,141	Budgetary expenses for Fiscal Year 2001 (Chapters 1 to 9)	249,379,026
Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties received in 2001	4,808,733	Extra-budgetary expenses	2,172,538
Other extra-budgetary income received in 2001	4,900,795	<b>Available at the close of Fiscal Year 2001:</b>	
Advances on future contributions received in 2001 (Korea and Tunisia)	834,148	Available in the Working Capital Fund	22,682,069
	<b>242,104,627</b>	Advances received pending application to future contributions at the close of Fiscal Year 2001 (Korea and Tunisia)	834,148
<b>Balance at close of Fiscal Year 2001 for Programs:</b>		<b>Available in Programs:</b>	
Billfish Research Program	5,527,024	Billfish Research Program	5,527,024
Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	10,596,975	Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	10,596,975
	<b>16,123,999</b>		<b>16,123,999</b>
			<b>39,640,216</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME &amp; ORIGIN</b>	<b>307,528,855</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; APPLICATION</b>	<b>307,528,855</b>

**TABLE 6. STATUS OF CASH & BANK (Pesetas) (at the close of Fiscal Year 2001)**

<i>SUMMARY</i>		<i>BREAKDOWN</i>	
Balance in Cash and Bank	39,640,216	Available in the Working Capital Fund	22,682,069
		Total advances received	834,148
		Available in Funds for other Programs	16,123,999
<b>TOTAL CASH IN CASH &amp; BANK</b>	<b>39,640,216</b>	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>39,640,216</b>

**REPORT ON STATISTICS  
AND COORDINATION OF RESEARCH IN 2000-2001**  
(COM-SCRS/01/009)

## 1. Introduction

This report is a summary of the work undertaken by the Secretariat in relation to statistics and research between October 2000 and September 2001. Excluded from this summary is a progress report on the development of a Relational Database System (ICCAT-RDB), which is given in document COM-SCRS/01/016.

## 2. Submission of catch data

### 2.1 Task I and Task II

**Table 1**, showing the progress made by the Secretariat in the collection of 2000 Task I and Task II (catch/effort and size) data submitted by the national offices, is attached. As in previous years, few data were submitted by the deadlines, as discussion during the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Statistics in 2000 showed these deadlines, particularly for Task I data, to be impractical.

Following the meeting of the GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fish in the Mediterranean Sea, held in September 2000, a request was sent to COPEMED to obtain catch and effort data and size data from Mediterranean countries which had been collected with financial assistance from COPEMED. These data had not been received at the time of writing, either from COPEMED directly or from ICCAT Contracting Parties participating in the COPEMED project.

As in previous years, the species composition of Ghanaian Task I data was adjusted in accordance with the Task II size samples submitted.

Task I data in respect of 2000 were received during the SCRS Species Group Meeting from the following: Chinese Taipei (Southern bluefin tuna), Côte d'Ivoire, EC-Ireland (albacore), EC-Spain, EC-UK, Ghana (billfish and swordfish), Japan, Libya and United States (SSM, KGM), and during the SCRS plenary session from Brazil (small tuna), Croatia, EC-Greece, EC-Ireland (bluefin and swordfish), EC-Italy (swordfish and albacore), EC-Portugal (southeast catches), Malta and Morocco.

### 2.2 Tagging data

Release information for 15,482 tags placed by Japan during the International Skipjack Year Program in the Gulf of Guinea was received by the Secretariat. The USA also submitted a new tagging data base containing 283,850 records, and a new shark tagging data base.

Several archival tags have been received at the Secretariat and transmitted to the relevant tagging agency. However, no release information has been received by the Secretariat, and thus it is difficult to know to which agency the tags should be sent, and by whom the reward will be paid. It is unknown whether or not any of the rewards are still pending payment.

All tagging data received from the Bigeye Tuna Year Program has been entered into the data base. For more details on tagging carried out under the BETYP, please refer to document COM-SCRS/01/012.

### 2.3 Revisions to historical data

Revisions to historical data have been proposed by Trinidad and Tobago and by Algeria. Mr. Papa Kebe, the ICCAT systems analyst, visited Trinidad and Tobago in April 2001 in order to assist with the revision of historical data. His findings are reported in **Appendix 3**.

The proposed revisions to the Algerian historical series, together with the catches currently entered in the ICCAT data base are presented in **Table 2** for consideration by the Sub-Committee on Statistics. It should be noted that no data submission was received from Algeria in 1998 or 1999, and thus the data for these years have been accepted by the Secretariat. The Bluefin Species Group examined the historical catch submitted by Algeria and decided that the bluefin tuna catches reported as being taken by Japanese vessels should be included in Algerian catches in the Task I data base, as these had not been reported by Japan. It was decided that other historic data (1991-1997) would not be accepted until an explanation for the changes had been received from Algeria, except for small tunas, as data for these species had previously been estimated by the Secretariat.

At the 2000 SCRS, the Tropical Tuna Species Group reclassified the Russian purse seine tropical tuna catch data, using a similar species composition to that of the catches of European purse seiners. Russian scientists, however, confirmed their original data, as most of the catch is taken in the Sierra Leone economic zone where the bigeye tuna proportion in catches is low compared to open ocean areas. Furthermore, in 1993, 1996 and 1999, the fishery was restricted solely to this zone, and a selective fishery for free schools of yellowfin tuna was operated. Therefore, the Secretariat has reinstated the original Russian data in the ICCAT data base. However, the adjusted data will be kept on file for use in assessments, if appropriate.

Data for Barbados 1997-1999 were submitted. As data were combined for many species, the Secretariat made estimates based on the species composition of Trinidad and Tobago. 1999 data were carried to 2000.

Data for Benin 1997-1999 for tropical and small tunas was submitted and entered in the ICCAT data base. As data were submitted combined for many species, the species breakdown was estimated by the Secretariat on the basis of the species composition for 1996.

Côte d'Ivoire submitted revised data for billfish and swordfish 1988-2000. The justification for these revisions can be found in document SCRS/01/089, and were accepted by the Species Groups. Data for 1996 to 2000 for tropical tuna and small tuna were also submitted and accepted by the Species Groups.

Following the decision by the Billfish Workshop in 2000 to accept estimates of blue marlin and white marlin by-catches taken by French and Spanish purse seiners operating tropical fisheries, the series for sailfish was also included in the base. This series has been accepted by the Group, and estimates were made for 2000.

Due to the nature of the Japanese fishing year, data for Japan previously submitted as preliminary for 1997 - 1999 were revised. Data for 1999 may be subject to further revision. Such revisions to recent years are automatically accepted by the Secretariat, as they are not considered to be revisions to "historical" data.

Data for billfish and small tuna were submitted by Senegal for 1997-1999. These data had not previously been reported, and were accepted by the Species Groups.

The historical series of billfish data were accepted by the Billfish Species Group and included in the ICCAT data base. The local longline series for swordfish and tropical tuna were accepted by the Swordfish and Tropical Tuna Species Group, but it was decided not to include foreign flagged longline catches in the Trinidad & Tobago catch until it could be determined that this would not imply double counting. Surface catches of small tunas were accepted by the Small Tuna Group.

Venezuela submitted a series of data from 1991-1999 for a local gillnet fishery which had not previously been reported. The main ICCAT species taken by this fishery are billfish and some tropical and small tunas. A series from 1992-1999 of local artisanal longline vessels based in the same area were also submitted, with a similar species composition to that of the gillnet fishery. These data were accepted by the respective Species Groups.



*Other*

Billfish data for Aruba, Benin, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela (rod and reel) were carried over from 1997 to complete the series.

Data for tropical tunas were also carried over from earlier years for Congo, Dominica, Liberia, Libya, São Tome e Principe and Senegal, in order to complete these series.

Sailfish data which had been reported since 1991 by north/south or unclassified area by China, EC-Portugal and USA were broken down into east/west on a 50:50 basis.

**2.4 Shark statistics**

In 2001, all parties, entities and fishing entities were requested to re-submit all historical shark data, regardless of whether or not these had been previously submitted to ICCAT, in order to ensure that the data base was complete in time for the Data Preparatory Meeting in September 2001. However, few complete series were received. Table 1 shows those countries, entities and fishing entities which submitted some shark data, although the submission format continues to vary. The temporary shark data base, containing all shark catch data received up to 5 September 2001, was made available to the Shark Data Preparatory Meeting. No data base for size data has yet been created, and only information from the USA has been received so far. For more information, please see document SCRS/01/045.

**2.5 Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BFTSD) and other trade information**

Given that the trade information available at ICCAT Secretariat has never been compiled and structured for integration in a database (data sets with different structures and also different levels of aggregation), the Secretariat has revised and processed the available data sets (hard copies and/or soft copies) and developed a database for that purpose.

Meanwhile, some problems were encountered in particular data sets, the most problematic being the quality of some hard copies (impossible to digitalize and process). The Secretariat requested soft copies for the BFTSD problematic data sets. The BFTSD information provided by the European Union needs an exhaustive revision, given the structural heterogeneity of the data sets provided over the years.

Last year the SCRS recommended that all parties importing Bluefin Tuna should submit to the Secretariat copies of individual BFTSD in order to check double reporting. At present, only USA has sent to the ICCAT Secretariat the detailed BFTSD for 1999 and 2000.

The trade data received by the Secretariat since November 2000 are shown in Table 3.

Transshipment data for swordfish, yellowfin, bigeye, sailfish and billfish 1996-2000 were received from Trinidad and Tobago.

**3. Uncertainty in capture data**

At its 2000 meeting, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) recommended that "the Secretariat develop a...detailed questionnaire on national statistic collection systems and procedures, and carry out a survey among all countries/entities/fishing entities fishing for tuna .... in order to understand the uncertainties associated with the national statistics." The questionnaire was circulated on June 6, 2001, and a summary of the results is presented in document SCRS/01/023.

#### **4. Other data**

##### **4.1 Observer data**

In 2000, the Secretariat carried out a survey on the availability of observer data. Responses to this survey showed that observer data which had not yet been submitted to the Secretariat could be made available. As a result the Secretariat requested, on 6 August 2001, that those Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities provide all observer data available. To date, only one party has responded, stating that they have no data available.

No data base for such data has yet been established, as there are still uncertainties as to the format and type of data required. The variety of data available requires a formal structure to be defined before progress can be made in this area, and issues of confidentiality need to be taken into account.

##### **4.2 Vessel registry**

Two lists of vessels are maintained by the Secretariat. The first, in accordance with the *Recommendation Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* (Ref. 98-8) is a register of vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, participating in a directed fishery for northern albacore. This recommendation applies to those with average catches greater than 200 MT, those being the European Community, Japan, United States, Venezuela and Chinese Taipei. At the time of writing, information has been received from Canada, United States and Chinese Taipei in respect of 2001.

The second list is maintained in accordance with *Recommendation Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels Fishing for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the Convention Area* (Ref. 00-17), which requires the submission of all vessels greater than 24 meters in length fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area. More detailed information is provided in document COM/01/024.

##### **4.3 VMS (Vessel Monitoring System)**

Where available, information of vessels greater than 24 meters which have installed VMS systems is provided in COM/01/24. All Contracting Parties are required to include information on the progress made in the installation of vessel monitoring systems in their national reports. This information will be compiled for distribution at the next Commission meeting.

##### **4.4 Compliance tables**

Contracting Parties are obliged, under the terms of the *Recommendation on Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* (Ref. 98-14), to submit Reporting Tables with their National Reports. However, in order to expedite the preparation of the Compliance Tables for consideration by the Compliance Committee, the Secretariat requested Contracting Parties to submit their reporting tables by September 15, 2001, where possible. Information received will be compiled in accordance with the relevant recommendations and submitted to the Commission. Task I data will only be used for this purpose in the absence of officially transmitted reporting forms.

##### **4.5 Catch and canning**

Catch and canning data were requested and compiled for the calculation of country contributions. In certain cases, where catch and canning statistics but no Task I data were received, the Secretariat has used the former for entry in the ICCAT data base as preliminary estimates.

#### **5. National and international statistical activities**

##### **5.1 International and inter-agency coordination and planning**

The Nineteenth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) was held at the office of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia from July 10 to 13, 2001. Please refer to document COM-SCRS/01/014.

The Second meeting of Secretariats of Tuna Agencies and Programs was held at FAO, in Rome, on February 23, 2001. It was agreed that each agency would circulate to other tuna agencies and programs, a list of vessels operating within their area of competence.

## *5.2 National data collection systems and improvements*

Please see documents SCRS/01/023 and **Appendix 3**.

## **6. Publications**

### *6.1 Collective Volume of Scientific Papers*

Volumes 52 and 53 were published in mid-2001. Volume 53, the Proceedings of the Fourth ICCAT Billfish Workshop (Miami, July 2000), was published in a hard bound volume and on CD-ROM. Volume 52 was published on CD-ROM only. Together, the two volumes contain 146 documents totaling 2,339 pages. **Appendix 1** lists the SCRS documents that were submitted in 2000 but not included in Volume 52.

The production of the Collective Volume series on CD has resulted in a considerable increase in the workload of the Secretariat, mainly due to the formatting of documents which are not consistent in styles and often complex, with many figures and tables.

### *6.2 Data Record*

According to the recommendation made by the SCRS in 2000, this publication (DR-Vol.41) was released in July, 2001 and comprises two parts:

- The first part is a hard copy book and contains only the catalogue showing the list of all data (catch & effort and size) included in the ICCAT data base.
- The second part on CD-ROM contains all the new data received since the publication of the volume DR-41.

This new publication facilitates data dissemination and reduces mailing costs. It is proposed in the future to attempt to include the entire Task II data base on CD ROM, instead of only including new data entries.

### *6.3 Statistical Bulletin*

The Statistical Bulletin Volume 30 was published in May and can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site. Two software packages developed by FAO, Fishstat Plus and Tunastat, can be used to extract, aggregate and export the data according to the requirements of the user. This publication has two parts: The first part is a hard copy volume which contains only summarized catch tables. The second part, available on diskette or downloadable from the Web, contains all the detailed data from 1950 to 1999 by fleet, gear, species and area.

### *6.4 Biennial Reports*

The ICCAT Report for Biennial Period 2000-01, Part I, was printed in two volumes (SCRS and Commission) in English, French and Spanish. As last year, the national reports were included in the Volume I (Commission).

### *6.5 ASFA and bibliography*

ICCAT became an International Partner to the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) in 2000. The Secretariat prepared 129 entries to the ASFA database, corresponding to the ICCAT publications that were printed in 2000. The Secretariat received the ASFA database on CD-ROM and an Internet subscription to the database, both of which can be used by scientists while visiting the Secretariat.

The bibliographic database for Collective Volume publications that was started three years ago was again updated and placed on the ICCAT Web. It is expected that this database will be discontinued next year and replaced with an

extract from the ASFA database which has more complete records (e.g., ASFA records include abstracts and keywords). However, this change pre-supposes that resources will be available to write the required software.

## **7. Internet**

### **7.1 Web pages**

Two web pages have been maintained in parallel, [www.iccat.es](http://www.iccat.es) and [www.iccat.org](http://www.iccat.org), although only the first is the official ICCAT site. The former domain is hosted in Spain and the latter in the USA; they may result in different access speeds depending on the location of the user and other factors. One of the two sites will likely be terminated in the future, but the domain names will be kept.

The web pages maintain the same format as last year. They have been updated with meeting announcements and when new publications have become available. In addition, the papers in volumes 52 and 53 of the Collective Volume series have been uploaded. The pages consist of approximately 450 files and 150 www links, occupying 90 Mb of space.

### **7.2 Secretariat connectivity**

*External.* Throughout the last three years, and especially during 2000 and early 2001, the Secretariat experienced many difficulties with its access to the Internet. At times, connections could only be established during a few hours of the work day and downloading files >1Mb was nearly impossible. As these problems could not be fixed, the Secretariat was forced to change its Internet Service Provider to a commercial one (the previous ISP was free, kindly offered by a Spanish network of research institutions). The new ISP service is working much more efficiently. Some problems remain, but it appears that these have to do with the ISDN telephone lines rather than the ISP.

*Internal.* No major changes have been made to the Local Area Network installed in 2000.

## **8. Special research programs**

### **8.1 Enhanced Program for Billfish Research**

Please see the Progress Report on the Enhanced Program for Billfish Research (COM-SCRS/01/013).

### **8.2 Bluefin Year Program**

A coordination meeting of the Bluefin Year Program for Sampling Survey Research in the central Atlantic and near the Balearic Islands was held in Miami April 25-26, 2001 (see SCRS/01/022). Major research in 2001 included a survey to better define the Balearic Sea spawning grounds, including a hydrographic survey. Research in the central north Atlantic during 2001 concentrated on exploratory fishing for spawning sized bluefin.

### **8.3 Bigeye Tuna Year Program (BETYP)**

A complete progress report of the BETYP is contained in document COM-SCRS/01/012.

## **9. Meetings**

### **9.1 ICCAT scientific meetings**

The following scientific meetings were held in the inter-sessional SCRS period:

- Workshop on Environment and Recruitment (*Madrid, May 7 to 12, 2001*).
- Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Advice on the Implementation of the ICCAT Relational Database Management System (*Madrid, May 14 & 15, 2001*).
- ICCAT Assessment Methods Working Group (*Madrid, June 11 to 15, 2001*).

- Workshop on Bluefin Tuna Mixing (*Madrid, September 3 to 7, 2001*).
- Shark Data Preparatory Meeting (*Halifax, Canada, September 11 to 14, 2001*).

In addition, the following groups met during the week of October 1, 2001, before the SCRS plenary sessions: Albacore, Billfish (conducting an assessment of Atlantic sailfish), Bluefin, Southern Bluefin, Small Tunas, Swordfish, Tropical Tunas (yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack), and the *ad hoc* Working Groups on SCRS Organization, Precautionary Approach and Database Development Monitoring.

There were also two informal meetings that were held at the Secretariat in 2001. One was held February 6-8 to initiate the development of an integrated stock assessment model for bigeye tuna (see SCRS/01/046). The other was held July 4-6 to draft an initial response to the Commission's request for scientific advice on protecting juvenile swordfish in the Mediterranean (see SCRS/01/050).

A coordination meeting of the Bluefin Year Program was held in Miami, April 25-26, 2001. The report of that meeting is contained in SCRS/01/022.

## 9.2 Other meetings

**Appendix 2** lists the meetings at which ICCAT was represented, together with a summary of each meeting.

**2000 SCRS Documents that were not included in Volume 52  
of the *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers***

SCRS/00/9 <sup>1</sup> / SCRS/00/10 <sup>2</sup> / SCRS/00/10bis <sup>2</sup> / SCRS/00/12 <sup>3</sup> / SCRS/00/17 <sup>3</sup> / SCRS/00/18 <sup>3</sup> / SCRS/00/20 <sup>3</sup> / SCRS/00/31 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/32 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/36 <sup>5</sup> / SCRS/00/39 <sup>3</sup> / SCRS/00/77 <sup>3</sup> / SCRS/00/93 <sup>5</sup> / SCRS/00/106 <sup>5</sup> / SCRS/00/112 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/118 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/123 <sup>5</sup> / SCRS/00/131 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/141 <sup>5</sup> / SCRS/00/147 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/148 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/168 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/169 <sup>4</sup> / SCRS/00/180 <sup>5</sup> / 	(COM/00/9) Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2000 - ICCAT Secretariat (COM/00/10) Compendium of management recommendations and related resolutions adopted by ICCAT for the conservation of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species - ICCAT Secretariat (COM/00/10bis) Historical Table - ICCAT Secretariat (COM/00/12) Expert Consultation on Implications of the Precautionary Approach for Tuna Biological and Technological Research (Phuket, Thailand, March 7-15, 2000) - V. R. Restrepo, P.M. Miyake (COM/00/17) A partnership with ASFA for maintaining the ICCAT bibliographic database - V. R. Restrepo (COM/00/18) Strategy towards the ICCAT relational database management system (ICCAT-RDB) - C. A. M. Palma First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Assessment Methodology (Madrid, Spain, May 8-11, 2000) - Executive Summary Ghana trip report : 24 October 1999-8 November, 1999 - A. Hervé Ghana trip report : 15 November, 1999-12 December, 1999 - P. O. Bannerman Approximate estimate of the MSY from catch data without effort information: Application to tuna fisheries - D. Gaertner, A. Fonteneau Integrating CPUE standardisation within stock assessment - P. A. H. Medley (Draft) Etat des statistiques thonnières de Tema: Rapport de mission à Tema, 18-20 mai 2000 - F. X. Bard Progress Report on changes to the ICCAT Web pages - V. R. Restrepo (Rev.) Atlantic bluefin tuna: Does current knowledge support an assessment based on the "two separate stocks" hypothesis? - F. Hester (Preliminary) Report on the Moratorium on the use of FADs by purse seiners in tuna fishing in Ghana 1st November-31st January 2000 - P. O. Bannerman Workshop on Seabird Incidental Catch in the Waters of Arctic Countries (Halifax, N.S., Canada, 26-28 April 2000): Report and Recommendations, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) - J. W. Chardine, J.M. Porter, K.D. Wohl Meeting Report: Symposium on Tagging and Tracking Marine Fish with Electronic Devices (University of Hawaii at Manoa, 7-11 February 2000) - J. M. Porter Analyse préliminaire des indices d'abondance à partir de la pêcherie marocaine du thon rouge pêché aux madragues - A. Srour, N. Abid By-catch of billfishes by the European tuna purse seine fishery in the Atlantic Ocean - D. Gaertner, F. Ménard, C. Develter, J. Ariz, A. Delgado de Molina Genetic analyses of Atlantic northern bluefin tuna populations - B. Ely, D.S. Stoner, J.R. Alvarado Bremer, J.M. Dean, P. Addis, A. Cau, E.J. Thelen, W.J. Jones, D.E. Black, L. Smith, K. Scott, I. Naseri, J.M. Quattro A report to ICCAT on archival and pop-up satellite tagging of bluefin tuna in the western North Atlantic - B. A. Block, H. Dewar, S. Blackwell, T. Williams, A. Boustany, E.D. Prince, C. Farwell Standardized CPUE for South Atlantic albacore caught by Taiwanese longline fisheries, 1968-1998 - C. L. Wu, S.Y. Yeh Comparison between searching algorithm versus cutting method for conversion of length distribution to age composition - Y. Chang, S.Y. Yeh Availability of observer data - ICCAT Secretariat
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<sup>1</sup> Published in *Biennial Report 2000-2001*, Part I, Vol. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Working paper distributed for information.

<sup>3</sup> Published in *Biennial Report 2000-2001*, Part I, Vol.2.

<sup>4</sup> File not submitted.

<sup>5</sup> Withdrawn by author.

**Meetings at which ICCAT was Represented  
Between November 2000 and October 2001**

*SUMMARY*

This appendix presents basic information about scientific and administrative meetings where ICCAT was represented either by a member of the Secretariat staff or by someone else on behalf of the Secretariat. Basic information presented for each meeting includes substantive agenda items and the main implications for ICCAT.

**3rd MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC)**

**VENUE:** Mahé (Seychelles). December 5-8, 2000.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Pilar Pallarés (Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Madrid, Spain).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Progress Report of the Secretariat. Report of the Permanent Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics. Report of the Working Party on Tropical Tunas. Report of the Working Party on Tagging. Report of the Working Party on Billfish. Proposal for a mode of functioning of the species Working Parties. Advice of the Scientific Committee on questions asked by the Commission. Options for a moratorium on purse-seine fishing on drifting objects to reduce fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna. Optimum Fishing Capacity of the Fleet. Permanent Report on the Status of the Species. Progress on a survey of predation of longline-caught fish. Proposal for training activities. Southeast Boundary of the IOTC Convention Area. Effects of Voluntary Limits of Worldwide Catches.

**COMMENTS:** As a result of the work carried out by the IOTC Secretariat, the coverage of catch data in recent years is more than 90% for the major fleets and noticeably improved for the historical period. As concerns the data base, the new design allows for more flexibility and represents an important improvement in the automated procedures of data validation. Due to the lack of appropriate statistics, a complete assessment of the state of the yellowfin tuna stock could not be carried out. The lack of basic data and the uncertainties in the available indices of abundance for swordfish and billfishes were pointed out. The Committee accepted the proposal of an extensive tagging program as the most efficient and realistic means to know the status of the stocks of yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye within a reasonable period. The lack of size data and the scarcity of information on catch data of the artisanal and IUU fleets were identified as serious problems. The results were reviewed of the project that is being carried out in the Indian Ocean, to estimate mortality by mammal predation on the longline catches. Various proposals were made to improve the efficiency of the work of the Committee (e.g. the development of an executive summary by species such as those of the SCRS, the preparation of a permanent report on the knowledge of each species, and the creation of a methods working group.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** The SCRS could consider the usefulness of organizing joint meetings of the working groups on methods.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** Available as Appendix XII to the Report of the Fifth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, [ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/IOTC/Reports/IOTC-00-05\(E\).pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/document/IOTC/Reports/IOTC-00-05(E).pdf)

**SECOND MEETING OF REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES.**

**VENUE:** Rome, Italy. February 20-21, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Review of some external factors that may impact on the work of regional fishery bodies and fisheries management. Indicators to assess the performance of regional fishery bodies. Cooperation in global trends and status reporting in fisheries. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Developments in CITES Criteria for listing commercially-exploited aquatic species. Opportunities and challenges for coordinated activities on ecosystem-based management of fisheries.

**COMMENTS:** Representatives from 24 RFBs (including FAO and non-FAO bodies) attended the meeting. To some degree, the meeting was intended as a forum for discussing, among the RFBs, some of the topics that would be debated during the following week at COFI (e.g., IUU, Status and Trends Reporting, and CITES Criteria). However, meeting participants felt that they could not speak broadly for their respective Commissions, especially in reference to items that had not even been discussed by the various Commissions' member countries at COFI. Therefore, the discussions took place primarily from the individual perspectives of those present. In addition, it was agreed to hold the next meeting after (rather than before) the next COFI meeting in 2003, so that the RFB meeting agenda could contain, among other things, items already approved by COFI.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** Continue efforts to include environmental/ecosystem considerations into the decision-making process (e.g., through the SCRS Subcommittees on By-catch and the Environment).

**Commission:** Improve communication with CITES on matters related to species of competence to ICCAT.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** FAO Fisheries Report No. 645, 2001.

**SECOND TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING**

**VENUE:** Rome, Italy, February 22-23, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Consideration of the draft international plan of action to combat IUU fishing.

**COMMENTS:** The first consultation, held in October 2000, was unable to finish modifying and adopting the draft IPOA in its entirety; this second consultation was held in order to finish drafting the IPOA before the 2001 meeting of COFI. Most changes to the IPOA section dealing with RFBs were intended to clarify the duties of non-contracting parties.

**ACTION ITEMS:** None.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** Will be published in the FAO Fisheries Report.

**COFI COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (24TH SESSION)**

**VENUE:** Rome, Italy, February 26-March 2, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** A. R. Lima (ICCAT Secretariat).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Progress report on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related International Plans of Action. Decisions and recommendations of the Seventh Session of the COFI-Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. Proposed COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. CITES criteria for commercially-exploited aquatic species. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Proposal for improved global reporting on the state and trends of fisheries. Conclusions and recommendations of the FAO Expert Consultation on Economic Incentives and Responsible Fisheries. Medium-Term Plan 2001-2007.

**COMMENTS:** The establishment of a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was recommended. A greater involvement of fisheries experts with respect to CITES Criteria is likely with COFI's support for improved communication between FAO, fisheries management bodies and CITES; a technical consultation was planned ([September], 2001). A technical consultation was also recommended to consider how fishery status and trends reporting could be improved effectively, including the possible adoption of a Status and Trends IPOA in the future. A second expert consultation on Economic Incentives and Responsible fisheries, to be followed by a technical consultation, was recommended. COFI approved the IPOA to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing; FAO will disseminate the IPOA text widely (available from FAO). It was also recommended that COFI continue to monitor progress towards the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.



**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Commission:** The Commission should consider supporting the IPOA to deter and eliminate IUU fishing. The Commission could consider getting more involved in assisting CITES with the development of criteria for tuna and tuna-like species.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** FAO Fisheries Report No.665, 2001.

**IOTC WORKING PARTY ON METHODS**

**VENUE:** Sète, France. April 23-27, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** O. Maury (Institut pour la Recherche et Développement, Sète, France).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Review of main longline catch-and-effort data. Standardization of longline CPUE indices. Review of purse-seine data. Standardization of PS CPUE indices. Production models (definition and creation of a simulated data set for production models testing; definition of a reference framework for testing traditional models, alternative approaches against the simulated data set.

**COMMENTS:** Representatives from Australia, France, IOTC, Japan, Seychelles and Spain, attended the meeting. This meeting was the first of the IOTC WPM. It was intended to organize the group to assist the work of the species Working Parties. A number of papers dealing with the agenda were present by participants. The group first examined the quality of the longline CPUE from Japan, Korea and Taiwan and concluded that the use of CPUE for defining abundance indices should be based on Japanese data. Then, various technical points concerning the use of GLM and GAMs for CPUE standardization were discussed. The group considered that given the lack of size data in the Indian Ocean, production models should be preferably used to assess the stocks. The impact of changes in selectivity on estimations was questioned. Age structured production models seem to be the most relevant approach in this case but the group recognized the need for testing alternative methods such as the PROCEAN framework with simulations. Given the lack of contrast in most of the fishery data, the WPM noted that a bayesian approach is desirable and encouraged the development of relevant priors on production-model parameters. The WPM finally defined the specifications that a generic simulation framework should have to be useful for testing assessment methods. The development of such a realistic simulation model is a long-term project that would benefit from cooperation with other organizations. Other matters concerning the determination of an optimal fishing capacity was discussed and the ICCAT FASST project (part of the BETYP) was presented.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** Organizations such as ICCAT, IATTC, IOTC and SPC should consider carrying out joint work concerning the development of a generic operating simulation model.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** Available on the IOTC website: <http://www.seychelles.net/iotc/>

**2nd MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP (IATTC)**

**VENUE:** La Jolla, California, USA. April 30 to May 4, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Javier Ariz (Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Review of the stock assessments by IATTC. Methods and results (yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye, bluefin, blue marlin, albacore, others). Progress in multi-species sampling. Modelling of ecosystems. Recommendations.

**COMMENTS:** The general objective of the Working Group was to review the stock assessments carried out by IATTC for the annual meeting of the Commission in El Salvador. The working group concentrated its work on tropical tunas (yellowfin – YFT, skipjack – SKI, and bigeye – BET). The assessments were carried out taking into account the existence of one stock of each species in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO): 40° – 40° S, coast of America y 150° W. The model used, A-SCALA, showed some changes from that used the year before (in part due to the recommendations of the scientists that participated in the first Scientific Working Group): new growth model, incorporation of a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment relation, new fecundity scheme and the development of criteria for the selection of the model. This time new catch data were incorporated (surface 2000

and longline 1999) and the historical series analyzed corresponded to the 1980-81 period (depending on the species) up to the present. In the case of BET, preliminary data were presented from the assessment of a unit stock in the Pacific Ocean with a different model from the A-SCALA and which contains a specific area structure. The results obtained in the new sampling program were analyzed to estimate the species composition of the purse seine catches. The comparison between the "normal" procedure (based on data from fishing logbooks and from industry) and the new method of "species composition" (sampling during unloading to simultaneously estimate the species composition and the size distributions), did not show significant differences in the species composition or in the size distributions. It was considered that the "species composition" method should continue for a few years before deciding which is the most adequate procedure, taking into account that in 2000 and in the first half of 2001 the catches of bigeye tuna were extremely low. Lastly, a paper was presented on the interactive effects of the climate and fishing on the pelagic ecosystem of the tropical EPO. An analysis (Ecopath and Ecosim) was carried out on the trophic networks among the species caught (tunas), functional groups (flying fish, sharks, marine birds), sensitive species (marine turtles and dolphins), other groups (sharks, swordfish, and others), environmental effects (such as El Niño, ENOS) and fishing. It was noted that at present these models represent a useful instrument as a guide for future research but they do not serve as a basis for providing concrete advice for management.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** Since the tropical tuna species, the fisheries that develop on them, and the problems in the assessments are similar for the three oceans, the SCRS could consider the possibility of holding joint meetings of the working groups on methods for the tropical tunas (ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC, etc.).

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** <http://www.iattc.org/Meetings2001SPN.htm>

**MEETING TO INTEGRATE INFORMATION ON SWORDFISH AND TO ASSESS SWORDFISH STOCKS IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC OCEAN (IATTC)**

**VENUE:** La Jolla, California, USA. May 7-8, 2001

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Javier Ariz (Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Description of fisheries and information by area. Swordfish Stock Assessment in the eastern Pacific. Recommendations.

**COMMENTS:** The main objective of the Scientific Working Group (WG) on swordfish (SWO) was to discuss the data available on this species, to identify the current deficiencies in the data, and to suggest types of future research and analyses in order to carry out an assessment of swordfish in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO). The current fisheries were reviewed, as concerns the directed swordfish fisheries as well as those that catch this species as by-catch. The indices of abundance, for the EPO, were calculated by GLM with the following structure: CPUE = year + quarter + area + environmental index + fishing gear + interactions. The conclusion of the WG is that SWO are probably under-exploited in the EPO and that in the current state of under-exploitation it is very difficult to establish the MSY for this species. As recommendations, the WG established the need to rely on better catch, effort, CPUE and biological data; as concerns research, tagging with archival tags in key regions is encouraged and new assessments should be carried out considering one stock in the EPO and a unit stock in the Pacific Ocean.

**ACTION ITEMS:** None.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** <http://www.iattc.org/Meeting2001ENG.htm>.

<http://www.iattc.org/Meetings2001SPN.htm>.

**GFCM SAC SUB-COMMITTEE FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT**

**VENUE:** Rome, Italy. May 15-18, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Review and analysis of the assessments presented to the small pelagics and demersal Working Group. Review of the conclusions of the GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic

Fishes (Malta, 9/2000). Discussion on assessment methodology. Review of current management measures, of the alternative management options and formulation of proposals for future management. Research activities and needs.

**COMMENTS:** That portion of the meeting which was devoted to large pelagic fishes dealt almost exclusively with the recommendations made during the last GFCM/ICCAT Large Pelagic Fishes meeting in Malta. The recommendations that received the most attention were those having to do with data collection and reporting, as it was pointed out that data deficiencies were the main obstacle to conducting new assessments. The Sub-Committee endorsed all of the recommendations made in Malta. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to report data to ICCAT, especially data that have been collected recently through programs such as COPEMED.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** The SCRS should continue encourage the involvement of scientists familiar with Mediterranean fisheries to participate in its meetings.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** The report is available from the GFCM Secretariat in Rome. It can also be downloaded from <ftp://cucafera/icm.csic.es/pub/scsa>.

**GFCM SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4TH SESSION)**

**VENUE:** Athens, Greece. July 4-7, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat)

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** International Activities. Review of recommendations of Twenty-fifth Session GFCM concerning SAC mandate. Review of reports of Sub-Committees' meetings. Review of conclusions of SAC Working Group on management units. Progress in elaboration of GFCM glossary. Review of national reports on research activities being undertaken in the field covered by the mandate of the four SAC Sub-Committees. Review of the progress of stock assessment studies in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Review of the present management measures and the state of art concerning elements required for the formulation of new options. Formulation of recommendations in the field of fishery management and research. Action required for the set-up of a data base for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea areas.

**COMMENTS:** The SAC commented that GFCM and ICCAT had achieved good results in the past by conducting the joint working group meetings. It was suggested that a new meeting of the joint working group be held in 2002 if it becomes apparent that there will be good participation from Mediterranean countries that will provide data on large pelagics. It was also suggested that such a session be held before the SAC Sub-Committee meetings, i.e. sometime before May. The SAC also endorsed all of the recommendations made by the joint Working Group meeting in Malta (September 2000) which would be forwarded to the GFCM Commission meeting in September 2001. Copies of ICCAT's Resolutions and Recommendations relevant to the Mediterranean that were adopted in 2000 were distributed to SAC participants. The next SAC meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 2002 in Lybia.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** Consider whether the next GFCM-ICCAT data preparatory meeting could be held as early as March or April 2002.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** FAO Fisheries Report, No. 653. 2001.

**19<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS**

**VENUE:** Noumea, New Caledonia. July 10-13, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** P. Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Reports of Inter-Sessional Meetings (WG on Publication of Integrated Catch Statistics for the Atlantic, WG on Precautionary Approach Terminology, Meetings of Tuna Agencies). Agency Programmes in Fishery Statistics. STATLANT Issues. Elasmobranch Statistics. Data implications of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Discard data availability and dissemination. Joint dissemination of

fishery statistics. Charging and dissemination policies for supply of data. Record of vessels fishing on the high seas (Compliance Agreement). Classification of fishing-related activities. Coordination of descriptions of national statistical methodologies. Role of the CWP in relation to statistical development. Handbook on Fishery Statistics - completion and revisions. Future Activities of the CWP.

**COMMENTS:** The meeting was attended by 21 experts. Several issues were discussed in relation to the improvement of statistics. The CWP agreed that there could be merit in harmonizing catch certification schemes used by different regional fishery management bodies, as these have been useful in identifying unreported catches, but that the implications of this required further study. The problem of incorrect usage of terms of catch, discards, landings and by-catch among different bodies was noted, and it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next CWP session. In the context of the Compliance Agreement which requires FAO to keep a record of all vessels fishing on the High Seas, it was agreed that FAO would draft a list of essential and desirable vessel identifiers for vessel registries (keeping them to a minimum) for the consideration of regional fishery bodies, and that FAO would consult with the RFBs about unique vessel identifiers.

**ACTION ITEMS:** CWP recommended that the efforts made by regional fishery bodies and FAO to improve elasmobranch reporting and statistics should be maintained and intensified. It was also agreed that the compilation and publication of an integrated data-file for the Atlantic Ocean would be continued, which will require data submission by ICCAT. The next meeting of the CWP will be held in the Seychelles in early 2003.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** FAO Fisheries Report, No. 656, 2001.

### **THIRD INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH SYMPOSIUM**

**VENUE:** Cairns, Australia. August 19-23, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** N/A (50 oral 14 poster presentations).

**COMMENTS:** The symposium was attended by 110 people including scientists, managers, NGO representatives, and recreational fishermen. There were several presentations related to the biology, assessment and management of Atlantic billfishes.

**ACTION ITEMS:** None.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** The Symposium proceedings will be published as a special issue of the Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research (<http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/mfr/>).

### **26<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL FISHERIES COMMISSION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

**VENUE:** Ischia, Italy, September 10-13, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** (Japan).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Review of the activities of the GFCM and GFCM Subsidiary Bodies during the inter-sessional period. Review of the implementation by members of the recommendations and resolutions of the Commission. Status of acceptance by members of the autonomous budget. Programme of work for the next period and any other matters.

**COMMENTS:** The GFCM Commission reviewed the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions relevant to the Mediterranean Sea that came into effect on the June 26, 2001, and endorsed Recommendation (00-9) on Bluefin Catch Limits: East Atlantic & Mediterranean, Recommendation (00-14) on Compliance with Management Measures Which Define Quotas and/or Catch Limits, and Recommendation (00-17) on Vessel Registration & Exchange of Information. The GFCM Commission also discussed the problem related to the sustainability of bluefin tuna resources and its relation to the present development of bluefin tuna penning/farming in the Mediterranean and agreed on the recommendation requesting the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group to address this issue.

**ACTION ITEMS:** None.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** GFCM Report, No. 26, Rome, FAO, 2001.

**IOCARIBE CARIBBEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM PROJECT ON SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE SHARED MARINE RESOURCES OF THE CARIBBEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (CLME) AND ADJACENT REGIONS**

**VENUE:** Miami, Florida, USA, September 19-21, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** D. Die (University of Miami).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** This project has been developing for the last five years. In 1997 a PDF-B project proposal was submitted for GEF funding but was unsuccessful. Finally this year GEF granted PDF-A funds to further develop the project with the following constraints:

1. The LME should be defined without including the Gulf of Mexico, for which there is another LME project under development;
2. The project should focus on the management of trans-boundary marine living resources.

The meeting took the form of a workshop of experts where a Draft Concept Paper for the full project and a draft PDF-B proposal were developed.

The concept paper defines the scope and objectives of the full LME project. It defines a project where science is only one of the components of the project; the others being, provision of advice, institutional strengthening, decision making and capacity building. The project aims to enhance the capacity of existing regional and international (like ICCAT) fisheries organizations with responsibilities on marine resources within the LME. The species managed by ICCAT are likely to be a major focus of the project (but not the only focus). A positive outcome of the project is likely to be an increase in the regional capacity to collect data, conduct research, and implement management of those marine resources that are under the ICCAT mandate.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** IOCARIBE requests the support of SCRS in the development of the LME project by:

- commenting on the Draft Concept Paper and PDF-B proposal when these are completed and ready to be considered for funding;
- if and when the PDF-B is implemented, designating an ICCAT representative to the team that will develop the full LME project.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** Draft PDF-B proposal and Draft Concept Paper available from IOCARIBE Secretariat.

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**VENUE:** Libreville, Gabon, October 15-17, 2001

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Papa Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat)

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Report of the Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean; Review of Cooperation Programs recommended by the Conference; Relations with other organisms; Cooperation and collaboration among member states within the framework of international organizations and meetings.

**COMMENTS:** Seventeen African countries were represented, eight of which are ICCAT Contracting Parties. Of the four non-African countries present, two (Japan and France) were ICCAT Contracting Parties, and 11 organizations, including ICCAT, were represented. Discussion centered on the tripartite cooperation between Japan, Morocco and other African member states of this institution. Of note were the presentation of Japan on "Competition for food in the ocean between cetaceans and fisheries in the north Pacific", and the resolution taken by the Conference to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and identify vessels engaged in such activities. The ICCAT quota allocation criteria were also a the subject of controversial debates.

The Expert meeting (October 15-17) was followed by a meeting of Fisheries Ministers (October 18-19).

**ACTIONS:** ICCAT regulations should be sent to all the member states of this Conference, and to the Permanent Secretariat. The Reports of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria should also be made available. ICCAT should be represented at the next meeting of this Conference.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** The Report is available from the Permanent Secretariat, e-mail: elkabiri@mp3m.gov.ma

**SECOND TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON THE SUITABILITY OF THE CITES CRITERIA FOR LISTING COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES.**

**VENUE:** Windhoek, Namibia. October 22-25, 2001.

**REPRESENTATIVE:** Y. Uozumi (Japan).

**SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS:** Evaluation of the suitability of the CITES (Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listing criteria for commercially-exploited aquatic species, focusing on the listing criteria for Appendix II, and proposing a scientific framework for evaluating the status of species for such listing.

**COMMENTS:** Representatives from 28 FAO Member States, one from a non-member State, four international governmental organizations and two international non-governmental organizations attended the meeting.

The Consultation recognized that a historical-extent-of-decline to 5-20% of the reference baseline, depending on the productivity of the species which are commercially exploited in marine and large freshwater bodies, is recommended as a general guideline for consideration for listing on Appendix I. The rate-of-decline that would bring population size down to the Appendix I extent-of-decline guideline from the current decline level within 10 years is recommended as a guideline for consideration of listing on Appendix II. In both cases the guideline should be used in close conjunction with consideration of the relevant modifying factors and rigorous and quantitative scientific evaluation to refine the estimate of threat of extinction on a case-by-case basis. It is also necessary that each proposal should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a transparent and neutral scientific review process. The Consultation recommended that COFI should elaborate components of a Memorandum of Understanding or other mechanisms between CITES and FAO to improve the process of evaluation of proposals.

At this meeting, "look alike clause", "split listing" and "Introduction from the sea" were not discussed and will be discussed at the coming Eight Session of the COFI Sub-Committee of Fish Trade. These items are one of the most important issues for the fisheries in the CITES criteria. Therefore, the discussions in the sub-committee should be monitored carefully.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**SCRS:** None, but each member should monitor the progress through each nation's CITES authority.

**Commission:** None, but comments of each member should be presented at the sub-committee on fish trade and also submitted to CITES directly through each nation's CITES authority.

**REPORT AVAILABILITY:** FAO Fisheries Report, No. 667, 2002.

**Report on Visit to Trinidad and Tobago**  
*(April 16 to 25, 2001)*

Papa Kebe<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Introduction

During the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago expressed her concerns regarding the current data collection system in Trinidad and Tobago, as the annual catches of tuna and tuna-like species reported to ICCAT in previous years did not reflect the true level of catches. Subsequently, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago formally requested technical assistance from the ICCAT Secretariat to review historical catches and establish a more accurate data collection system.

In response to this request, I visited Trinidad and Tobago from April 16 to 25, in order to provide such technical assistance. With the help of the staff of the Fisheries Division Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, I reviewed historical tuna catch data and the data collection systems currently in operation in Trinidad and Tobago. This report summarizes the conclusions reached during my visit.

## 2. Fisheries Division of Trinidad and Tobago

### 2.1 Human and information technology resources

To comply with the obligations as a Contracting Party (since 1999), Trinidad and Tobago should designate a statistical correspondent and a tagging correspondent. The former would receive ICCAT circulars and statistical publications, and be responsible for the submission of data related to nominal catch, catch and effort, biological sampling, vessel register, catch and canning, import/export data, and any other relevant information. There is no tagging programme currently in operation in Trinidad and Tobago, but any historical tagging data should be recovered. The person nominated statistical correspondent could also act as tagging correspondent.

At present, there are various people in charge of the different aspects of statistical collection (catch, landing, exports, vessel list). In order to facilitate the tracking of information and monitoring statistics, the Fisheries Division should contract or designate one person to be in charge of overall statistical activities relating to tuna and tuna-like species. This person should collect all necessary data, including biological data, and be assisted where necessary, by a port inspector.

As the reporting requirements of the Commission have become very important and are increasingly complex, it is important that the collection and dissemination of data be computerized and that there is adequate personnel to operate such a system. The authorities of Trinidad and Tobago should, therefore, study the possibilities of increasing the staff of the Fisheries Division. The computer equipment, particularly that of Tobago, needs to be updated, as important data series are now computerized, but with old equipment (PC-386), and with no backup possibilities.

It is also important that the Fisheries Division have access to Internet in order to access reports, circulars and data from the ICCAT website, and to facilitate the exchange of data and other information. This is particularly important in the light of the new relational data base which is currently being established.

### 2.2 Domestic legislation

ICCAT has adopted a considerable number of Resolutions and Recommendations to combat IUU fisheries, to prohibit the landing of undersized fish, to monitor and inspect fishing vessels, etc. At present, compliance with ICCAT regulatory

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measures is not fully covered by Trinidad and Tobago domestic legislation. In order to comply with these regulatory measures, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities need to set up, or in some cases improve, national laws, rules and procedures.

An agreement should be drawn up with Tobago to implement procedures to collect and monitor tuna export data.

### 3. Current data collection system

#### 3.1 Artisanal fisheries in Trinidad

The system currently in operation to collect artisanal fishery data is well designed and appropriate to this type of fishery, entered in an Oracle data base. This data should be submitted annually to ICCAT, together with the list of vessels, through the Statistical Correspondent.

#### 3.2 Artisanal fisheries in Tobago

The data collected and entered do not represent the total nominal catch of this fishery. To calculate the total catch, estimates need to be made for those vessels not included in the sampling coverage. The formula which we adopted to raise the data to the total catch is:

Total catch  $[(C_1 / \#trips) * \# vessels + K] * \text{fishing days}$

where

$C_1$  = the total sampled catch by month

# trips = number of trips sampled

# vessels = number of vessels by landing port

fishing days = number of fishing days by month

K = estimate of total catch made during additional trips (some vessels make more than one fishing trip per day)

The software needs to be improved to permit the selection of only large pelagic species from the data base before submitting the data to ICCAT. A survey should be carried out to re-estimate the number of additional trips made by vessels, and to reevaluate the total number of vessels.

#### 3.3 Local commercial fisheries in Trinidad

Some tests have been carried out during the first months of 2001. The general standard logbook form with some minor changes was supplied to three of the six local commercial fishermen by the Fisheries Division. During my visit we had a general discussion with these owners to get some feedback on the use of the logbooks and the following conclusions emerged:

Owners were reluctant to use the logbooks because of the difficulties encountered by the vessel captains in completing the forms. It was considered that this would diminish the efficiency of fishing activities. It was therefore agreed that a new simplified version of the logbook would be used instead of the standard logbook. This would report information in a more summarized way, by omitting the area and sea surface temperature, and reducing the number of species.

#### 3.4 Locally owned foreign flag vessels

Due to restrictions in domestic legislation, several locally owned vessels are registered abroad, mainly in USA, St Vicente & the Grenadines and British Virgin Islands. The catches of these vessel are included in the attached table as LLFB. It should be determined whether or not these catches are already included in the reports of the flag country, before including these catches in Trinidad and Tobago, to avoid the possibility of double reporting.



### 3.5 Transshipments

An agreement has been initiated between the Fisheries Division and the industry, which would allow the Fisheries Division to inspect vessels unloading at Trinidad and Tobago and obtain total catch by time and area from each vessel. This information would be derived from the logbooks supplied to foreign flag vessels unloading in Trinidad and Tobago ports, and could then be cross checked with biological information submitted by such parties/entities/fishing entities.

### 3.6 List of vessels

All foreign and local vessel owners agree to submit periodically the list of vessels engaged in tuna and tuna-like fisheries. This list, once received by the Trinidad and Tobago authorities, will be submitted to ICCAT.

### 3.7 Recreational fisheries

As this fishery is very sporadic and limited human resources are available to sample the ports, it is recommended that discussions be held with the game fishing association to obtain information on catch statistics and size of fish caught.

### 3.8 Supplementary export data

Supplementary data on imports/exports by country has been collected over several years. This data could be used to estimate the unreported catches of three of four parties / fishing entities to improve the ICCAT catch data base for use during assessments.

## 4. Revision of data

The documentation and information available permitted the revision of raw data from 1993 to 2000. On examination of the data it was noted that:

- Catch data submitted to ICCAT was only export data
- The quantity reported was in gilled and gutted weight, not converted to round weight
- No conversion factors have ever been calculated
- Catch from Tobago was not included
- Catch sold on the local market was not included
- Catch from recreational tournaments was not included
- Catch from Trinidad and Tobago vessels flying foreign flags was not included

Following discussions with commercial fishermen, it was estimated that local market sales represent approximately 15% of the total catch.

In order to convert dressed weight catch to live weight, the Fisheries Division were informed of the ICCAT conversion factors for swordfish, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and billfish:

- ° Swordfish:  $RWT = DWT \times 1.33$
- ° Bigeye and yellowfin:  $RWT = GWT \times 1.13$
- ° Billfish:  $RWT = DWT \times 1.20$

The catch was therefore re-estimated and estimates of local market sales were included. A system was also developed to raise the sampled catch from Tobago to total catch. These new total catch estimates, shown in the attached table, are much more accurate.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CATCHES BY GEAR AND SPECIES (in round weight, metric tons)

		1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>SEMI-INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES</b>									
YFT	LL	3.5	31.5	50.5	76.6	124.2	133.1	133.1	111.5
	LLFB		88.8	28.5	106.1	98.5	79.7	29.9	
	TOTAL	3.5	120.2	79.1	182.6	222.7	212.7	163.0	111.5
	ICCAT BASE	219.0			27.0	56.0	23.0	39.0	
ALB	LL					1.5	1.0	0.7	1.6
	ICCAT BASE	639.0				1.0	1.0		
BET	LL	3.1	3.0	14.5	13.0	12.2	10.6	8.1	5.2
	LLFB		26.0	12.1	24.3	23.8	13.5	10.8	
	TOTAL	3.1	29.0	26.7	37.4	36.0	24.0	18.9	
	ICCAT BASE	258.0			17.0	8.0	4.0	8.0	
SWO	LL	10.5	56.5	105.6	68.2	43.0	74.5	82.1	41.0
	LLFB		123.4	44.4	89.5	66.8	55.4	55.6	
	TOTAL	10.5	180.0	150.0	157.7	109.8	129.9	137.7	
	ICCAT BASE	125.0			43.0	14.0	15.0	39.0	
BIL	LL	2.6	7.8	9.9	10.7	14.3	24.7	18.0	9.1
	LLFB		18.8	1.2	9.8	4.4		0.3	
	SURF			34.6		62.3		14.5	
	TOTAL	2.6	26.6	45.7	20.5	81.0	24.7	32.8	
	ICCAT BASE	226.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	13.0			
SAI	LL	0.8	1.4	0.5	2.5	9.7		4.0	2.9
	LLFB		0.7		1.0	0.7			
	TOTAL	0.8	2.1	0.5	3.5	10.4	24.7	36.8	2.9
	ICCAT BASE	62.0							

**ARTISANAL FISHERIES**

BRS	SURF		1816.4	1567.5	1699.1	2130.0	1328.1	
	ICCAT BASE		2130.0	2130.0	2130.0	2130.0	2130.0	
KOM	SURF		470.7	1029.4	875.2	746.3	446.9	
	ICCAT BASE			1029.0	1698.0	1698.0	1698.0	
FRI	SURF		55.9	199.4	367.8	126.5	137.9	
	ICCAT BASE			199.0	367.0	367.0	367.0	
WAH	SURF			0.1	0.7	1.2	0.9	
	ICCAT BASE							
KGX	SURF							
SSM	ICCAT BASE			1567.0	1698.0	1698.0	1698.0	
SKJ	SURF		2.9		0.1	0.0		
	ICCAT BASE							
BON	SURF		169.2	266.0	219.8	29.5	116.9	
	ICCAT BASE		750.0	750.0	750.0	750.0	750.0	
MIX	SURF		24.6	133.5	205.6	91.5	80.8	
	ICCAT BASE				3.0			
BIL	SURF		34.6		62.3	45.3	14.5	

LL=LOCAL OWNED AND LOCAL FLAG  
 LLFB=LOCAL OWNED AND FOREIGN FLAG  
 SURF=ARTISANAL FISHERIES  
 ICCAT BASE=FIGURE IN THE ICCAT  
 SECRETARIAT DATA BASE

YFT=YELLOWFIN:Thunnus albacares  
 ALB=ALBACORE:Thunnus albigula  
 BET=BIGEYE:thunnus obesus  
 SWO=WORDFISH: Xiphias gladius  
 BIL=Billfishes unclassified: Istiophoridae  
 SAI=SAILFISH:Istiophorus albicans  
 BRS=Serm Spanish mackerel:Scomberomus brasiliensis  
 FRI=FRIGATE:Awaia thazard

WAH=WAHOO:Acanthocybium solandri  
 KGX=SCOMBEROMUS UNCLASSIFIED: Scomberomus spp.  
 SSM=SPOTTED SPANISH MACKEREL:Scomberomus maculatus  
 SKJ=SKIPJACK:Katsuwonus pelamis  
 BON=BONITO:Sarda sarda  
 MIX=MIXED SPECIES OF TUNAS



Table 1. Data reported to ICCAT

FLAG	DATA	DATE	BFT	YFT	ALB	BET	SKJ	BON	SWO	OTHERS	SHK	AREA	REMARKS
EC-FRANCE	TASK I	3.vii.2001	GILL,TRAW		TRAW, GILL	TRAW,GILL		TRAW, GILL	TRAW, GILL			NW, MEDI	
	TASK I		BB,PS		BB			BB	BB				
	TASK I	2.viii.2001		PSG,BB	PSG	PSG,BB	PSG,BB			LTA,FRI		ETRO	
	TASK 1	20.viii.2001			BB,GILL, MWT								
	C&E	20.viii.2001			BB,GILL, MWT								no effort
	C&E	2.viii.2001											
MARTINIQUE	C-A-S	2.viii.2001											
	SIZE	20.viii.2001			GILL, MWT								
EC-GREECE	TASK I												
	C&E												
	SIZE												
EC-IRELAND	TASK I												
	C&E												
	SIZE												
EC-ITALY	TASK I	21.ix.2001	BB,GILL,HAND									MEDI	
			HARP,LL,SPOR										
			PS,OTH										
	C&E												
	SIZE												
EC-PORTUGAL													
MAINLAND	TASK I	7.viii.2001	TRAP, SURF	SURF	SURF	LL	TRAP,SURF, LL	TRAP SURF P	TRP,SRF,LL,PS	BLT,BIL	YES	NE	
MADEIRA	TASK 1	7.viii.2001	BB,LL	BB,LL	BB,LL	BB	BB		BB,LL	BB	YES	MAD,MED,E	
AZORES	TASK I	7.viii.2001	BB	BB	BB	BB	BB		LL	LTA	YES	AZ,MAD,SE	
AZORES	C&E	7.viii.2001	BB	BB	BB	BB	BB	GILL	LLHB	LTA			
MADEIRA	C&E	7.viii.2001	BB	BB	BB	BB	BB		BB	BIL			
MAINLAND	C&E	7.viii.2001	TRAP,SURF	SURF,LL	SURF		TRAP,PS,LL	TRAP,SURF,P	SURF,PS,LL	BLT, BIL			
AZORES	SIZE												
MADEIRA	SIZE	6.ix.2001		LL	LL	LL	LL		LL				
MAINLAND	SIZE	7.viii.001	TRAP					TRAP	LL				
EC-SWEDEN		2.viii.2001	Responded- no catches of tuna or tuna-like species in 2000.										
EC-U.K.	TASK I												
	C&E												
	SIZE												
FRANCE (ST P&M)	TASK I												
	C&E												
	SIZE												
GABON	TASK I	26.ix.2001		TROL, SURF		SURF, GILL	GILL			LTA		ETRO	
	C&E												
	SIZE												
GHANA	TASK 1	5.ii.2001		BB,PS		BB,PS	BB,PS			LTA		ETRO	
	C&E	5.ii.2001		BB,PS		BB,PS	BB,PS			LTA			
	SIZE	5.ii.2001		BB,PS		BB,PS	BB,PS		UNCL	SAI, BUM			BIL.&SWO to 99



**Table 1. Data reported to ICCAT**

□

FLAG	DATA	DATE	BFT	YFT	ALB	BET	SKJ	BON	SWO	OTHERS	SHK	AREA	REMARKS
UK - OT	TASK I	26.ix.2001	LL	LL	LL	LL	LL		LL	WAH,LTA,BIL	YES	NW	
BERMUDA	C&E												
	SIZE												
UK - OT	TASK I	24.iv.2001		BB	BB	BB	BB					SE	
ST. HELENA	C&E	24.iv.2001		BB	BB	BB	BB						
	SIZE												
UK- OT	TASK I	3.v.2001								SLT	YES	SW	
FALKLANDS	C&E	3.v.2001								SLT			
U.S.A.	TASK I	9.viii.2001	LL, HND, PS, HARP, RR, UNC LLD	LL,GILL,TRAW TRAP,UNC,RR HAND	LL,GILL,TRAW UNC,RR,HAND	LL,GILL,TRAW UNC,RR	LL,GILL,TRAW TRAP,UNC,RR HAND	LL,GILL,TRAW UNC,RR,HAND	LL,HAND,TRAW HARP,UNC,RR GILL,LLD,UNCD	BLF,LTA,WAH BUM, WHM,SAI	YES	NW,GOM WTROP, S.ALT,NWC	
	C&E	9.viii.2001	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES			
	SIZE	9.viii.2001	YES	YES	YES	YES			YES		YES		
	C-A-S	9.viii.2001	YES	YES	YES	YES			YES				
URUGUAY	TASK I	11.v.2001		LL	LL	LL			LL		YES	SW	
	C&E												
	SIZE												
VENEZUELA	TASK I	2.vii.2001		PS, BB, LL	PS, BB, LL	PS, BB, LL	PS, BB	LL	LL	BIL, WAH, BLF	YES	NW	
	C&E	2.vii.2001		PS, BB, LL	PS, BB, LL	PS, BB, LL	PS, BB	LL	LL				
	SIZE	2.vii.2001		PS, BB	PS, BB	PS, BB	PS, BB						
<b>COOP. STATUS</b>													
CHINESE TAIPEI	TASK I	31.v.2001	LL	LL	LL	LL	LL		LL	BIL	YES	ALL	Preliminary
	C&E												
	SIZE												
MEXICO	TASK I	8.v.2001	LL	LL		LL	LL	LL	LL	BIL,OTH	YES	GOM	
	C&E	8.viii.2001	LL	LL		LL	LL		LL	BIL			
PHILIPPINES	TASK I	20.iii.2001		LL	LL	LL					YES	ALL	
	C&E	20.iii.2001		LL	LL	LL					YES	ALL	



Table 2: Time series of Mediterranean catches (t) reported by Algeria, in 2001 compared to the data in ICCAT Task 1 database

AreaCode	MEDI
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Catch (t)			Preliminary data reported in 2001										Current Task-1 data										
Species	FleetName	Gear	Year										Year										
			1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
FRI	ALGERIE	GILL	17	36	62	45	31	26	18	39	15	30											
		PS	148	220	267	247	188	202	156	245	149	178											
		UNCL	9	14	19	14	11	10	5	15	9	17					947	947	947				
<b>FRI Sum</b>			<b>174</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>225</b>					<b>947</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>947</b>				
BFT	ALGERIE	GILL	277	349	387	302	279	151	231	200	158	214											
		HAND	267	231	293	270	249	121	145	180	208	159											
		PS	848	642	737	766	751	660	754	900	1056	778											
		TL	175	159	223	255	195	133	106	93	174	88											
		TRAP	548	490	557	607	498	299	359	899	367	299											
		UNCL	196	191	242	185	151	121	118	175	179	101	800	1104	1097	1560	156	156	157				
	EC-ESPANA	LL																					
	JAPAN	LL						457	672			700											
		LLHB																				765	185
	KOREA	LL			308																		
<b>BFT Sum</b>			<b>2311</b>	<b>2370</b>	<b>2439</b>	<b>2385</b>	<b>2123</b>	<b>1942</b>	<b>2385</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>2142</b>	<b>2331</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>1097</b>	<b>1560</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>342</b>				
BON	ALGERIE	GILL	35	52	75	66	98	45	51	91	74	46											
		PS	209	244	342	332	377	219	284	389	376	346											
		TL			25																		
		TRAP																					
		UNCL	17	19	29	20	31	13	22	31	25	13	600	600	596	847	351	351	351				
<b>BON Sum</b>			<b>261</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>351</b>				
BOP	ALGERIE	GILL	57	95	128	108	78	91	197	109	179	122											
		UNCL	30	40	70	45	14	28	27	19	37	13											
<b>BOP Sum</b>			<b>87</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>135</b>											
LTA	ALGERIE	GILL	20	27	21	18	37	22	19	16	61	43											
		PS	332	374	295	290	343	341	301	252	385	321											
		TRAP	130	139	144	123	121	154	106	98	139	116											
		UNCL	40	45	35	28	51	37	22	18	27	14											
<b>LTA Sum</b>			<b>522</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>494</b>											
SKJ	ALGERIE	UNCL	44	90	50	204	138	198	89	171	43	89											
<b>SKJ Sum</b>			<b>44</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>89</b>											
SWO	ALGERIE	GILL	581	441	608	810	729	406	564	590	531	599											
		LL											173	6	173	185	247	247	247				
		PS		105																			
		TL	125		108	165	85	77	74	57	52	51											
		UNCL	246	189	234	200	145	147	152	178	126	166	389	389	389	415	560	560	560				
<b>SWO Sum</b>			<b>952</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>1175</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>807</b>				

NOTE: The data series from 1998 to 2000 has been integrated in ICCAT Task-1 database as no previous data submission had been received for these years.



**Table 3. Trade data sets received by the ICCAT Secretariat since November 2000**

<i>Species</i>	<i>ICCAT Contracting Party</i>	<i>Data set</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Media</i>
Bluefin tuna	Japan	Biannual bluefin tuna imports	1st sem. 2000	Hard copy
		Biannual bluefin tuna imports	2nd sem. 2000	Hard copy & soft copy
		Bluefin tuna exports by year	1997-Apr.2001	Hard copy & soft copy
	EC	Bluefin tuna export data for the 1st semester		Hard copy
	USA	Detailed BFTSD documents (imports/exports/re-exports)	1999 & 2000	Soft copy
	Canada	Bluefin tuna export data by year	1998-2000	Hard copy & soft copy
Other species	Japan	Imports of BET, SWO by year	1997-Apr.2001	Hard copy & soft copy
		Exports of BET, SBF by year	1998-2000	Hard copy & soft copy
	Canada	Imports of ALB, YFT, SBF, unspecified tuna	1998-2000	Hard copy & soft copy
		Exports of ALB, YFT, SKJ/BON	1998-2000	Hard copy & soft copy
	Thailand	Import of YFT	1995-1999	Hard copy

## RECORDS OF MEETINGS

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

(Murcia, Spain - November 12 to 19, 2001)

#### OPENING AND SECOND PLENARY SESSION

##### 1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission was opened on Monday, 12 November 2001, by the Chairman, Mr. Jose Ramón Barañano. Before introducing the President of the Autonomous Community of Murcia, the Chairman drew attention to the importance of industrial tuna fisheries to Murcia, particularly with regard to bluefin tuna. While this fishery was one of the oldest in the Mediterranean, bluefin farming around Murcia was one of the most modern, and measures were being taken to meet the aim of stock sustainability, vital in its turn for the maintenance of the fishery. The Chairman pointed out that the recovery of stocks could only take place through a limit on fishing capacity or a limit in catches, particularly catches of juveniles.

1.2 In order to achieve the goals of the Commission, the Chairman reminded delegates of the need to establish mechanisms to improve compliance with ICCAT regulatory measures and the need to prevent and deter the operations of illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries, which represented unfair competition to ICCAT Contracting Parties making sacrifices to ensure stock rebuilding. The Chairman's opening address is attached as **ANNEX A**.

1.3 The President of the Autonomous Community of Murcia, Mr. Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, welcomed all the delegates to Murcia. Mr. Valcárcel was joined in this welcome by the Director General of Fisheries, Mr. Francisco Moreno Medina, and the Agricultural Counsellor of the Autonomous Community of Murcia, Mr. Antonio Cerdá Cerdá.

1.4 Mr. Valcárcel also stressed the importance of fisheries to the Autonomous Community of Murcia, and that this importance had led to its modernization. The improvements in the fishery had been made possible by the cooperation of all sectors: legislative, political, technical and socio-economic. Mr. Valcárcel noted that in order to ensure the sustainability of the resources this type of cooperation was needed. The opening address by the President of Autonomous Community of Murcia is attached as **ANNEX B**.

##### 2. Adoption of Agenda and arrangements

2.1 The Agenda which had been circulated previously was reviewed. A new agenda item was included to address the use of the Objection Procedure, as was recommended by the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Another new agenda item on Management Procedures was included to address primarily the issues of temporary quota transfers and vessel chartering, both of which were also requested by the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

2.2 Ms. Sylvie Lapointe of Canada was nominated to serve as rapporteur for the new items 7 and 8 of the Agenda. The Secretariat served as rapporteur for the remainder of the Agenda items.

2.3 One delegation suggested that the Commission may decide to evaluate the need for updating the Basic Texts in general, rather than focussing on objection procedures alone.

2.4 The selection of the Executive Secretary was included as new Agenda item 19 in order to differentiate this task from the election of Commission Officers.

2.5 The revised Agenda was adopted and is attached as ANNEX 1.

2.6 The List of Commission Documents is attached as ANNEX 3.

### **3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations**

3.1 Algeria, Barbados, and Honduras were welcomed as new Contracting Parties to the Commission. The Head Delegates of each Contracting Party present introduced their delegations. Delegations from 26 of the 31 Contracting Parties were present, as follows: Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, People's Republic of China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Libya, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Namibia, Russia, Sao Tome & Principe, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. It was noted that the British Virgin Islands were included this year in the representation of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories). The List of Participants is attached as ANNEX 2.

3.2 Opening statements were presented by the following Contracting Parties: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Honduras, Korea, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom Overseas Territories, Uruguay and U.S.A. The opening statements by the Contracting Parties are attached as ANNEX 4.

### **4. Introduction and admission of Observers**

4.1 Delegates from Chinese Taipei, Mexico and the Philippines, as Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities, were present and admitted as observers. The opening statements made by Chinese Taipei and Mexico are included in ANNEX 4.

4.2 The Commission was pleased to note the steps being taken by Mexico to become a Contracting Party, and looked forward to welcoming them as a member.

4.3 Observers were also admitted from Belize, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands), Iceland, Malta, Netherlands Antilles, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Togo, Turkey and Vanuatu and from CARICOM, Greenpeace, and Ocean Wildlife Campaign. Statements made by observers are also included in ANNEX 4.

4.4 The list of observers is included in the List of Participants (see ANNEX 2).

### **5. Report of the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures**

5.1 The Report of the First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures (Brussels, May 2001), was presented by Mr. Friedrich Wieland (European Community). He explained that Appendix 4 of that document contained the General Outline of the Monitoring Measures Proposed by the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures, which encompasses issues such as the duties of flag States, the obligations of Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, and compliance and enforcement. He also noted that some of the text in the general outline had been placed in square brackets to reflect the opinion of some delegations that certain provisions went beyond the mandate of the Working Group.

5.2 The Working Group had requested the Commission to consider the establishment of an informal drafting group of experts to continue the work, but there was a general consensus that it would be better to hold a second meeting of the Working Group which would allow for full participation by all delegations. Japan offered to host the second meeting of the Working Group in May 2002. Mr. Weiland reported that the Working Group agreed that the "Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishery" had a particular urgency and should be discussed at this Commission meeting.

5.3 It was also agreed that the issue of the mandate of the Working Group would be addressed in the Compliance Committee, and that the draft general outline of monitoring measures provided in the report would be revisited at that time.

5.4 The Commission approved the Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group (attached as ANNEX 5), but it was noted that the draft General Outline could be subject to changes made at the second meeting of the Working Group in 2002.

## 6. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria

6.1 Mr. Carlos Domínguez Díaz, Chairman of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, explained that the Third Meeting of the Working Group (Brussels, May 2001) had been held, as requested by the Commission in 2000. Since the work had not been completed at that meeting, a fourth meeting was held in Murcia in November, immediately prior to the Commission Meeting.

6.2 Mr. Domínguez Díaz presented the end result of the work carried out during the four meetings of the Working Group in the form of the text that was agreed to by consensus and which is contained in the document entitled *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (attached as ANNEX 8). He also presented the Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, which was adopted and is attached as ANNEX 6. He explained that the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria would be adopted by correspondence (see ANNEX 7).

6.3 The Chairman of the Working Group complimented all those who had participated in the meetings for their hard work and for their spirit of collaboration and flexibility which had made the negotiations fruitful. He also mentioned that, in the process of finalizing the agreed text of the allocation criteria, the Working Group decided to refer to the Commission four unresolved issues that may affect allocation decisions:

- Contracting Parties in arrears
- Vessel chartering
- Temporary quota transfers
- Objections.

6.4 The various delegates present joined in congratulating Mr. Domínguez Díaz for having led the two meetings of the Working Group held in 2001 with excellent chairmanship skills and in a fair and equitable manner.

## 7. Use of objection procedure

7.1 The Chairman introduced this agenda item, indicating that at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, Parties had agreed that certain issues needed to be addressed at the Commission level, notably, objections.

7.2 The Delegate from Canada informed the Commission that Canada would introduce a draft resolution, jointly sponsored by a number of Parties, intended to promote the effective conservation and management of ICCAT stocks by encouraging Parties to avoid the presentation of objections. The Delegate from Canada stated that while Canada recognized the sovereign right of every Party to object, this right was balanced with the

obligation to cooperate in the conservation and management of stocks regulated by ICCAT. In conclusion, the Delegate from Canada expressed concern with the increasing use of the objection procedure in the past few years, noting that these objections and the alternative measures put in place by objecting Parties not only weakened the integrity and the credibility of ICCAT, but could also lead to stock collapse, as experience had sadly shown elsewhere. Numerous Contracting Parties concurred, including the United States, the European Community and Japan.

7.3 Some delegations, however, indicated that this was a complex and sensitive issue, and that they did not wish to adopt any measures which would have the effect of amending the provisions in Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention, or which would impinge on their legitimate rights to object. South Africa and Morocco noted that the increased number of objections had been precipitated by the failure of ICCAT to equitably address the question of allocation, and that the successful conclusion of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria had removed many of the conditions conducive to the use of the objection procedure.

7.4 The Chairman summarized the two different views expressed, and postponed any further discussions on this matter until Parties had had an opportunity to review the Canadian proposal.

## **8. Management procedures**

### *Temporary transfers of quota*

8.1 The Chairman introduced the question of temporary quota transfers, which was another issue that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria had indicated should be raised at the Commission level.

8.2 While recognizing that the new allocation criteria adopted included a prohibition on the selling and trading of quota, the majority of delegations supported the notion of temporary transfers of quotas, as a way of facilitating cooperation among Contracting Parties. There was general agreement that the Commission should authorize such transfers on a case by case basis, in a transparent manner. The Delegate from Brazil agreed to put forward some general language in this regard for further discussion.

8.3 Some delegations noted that if the quota allocations are decided in a manner that is adjusted to the needs of Parties, there should be no need for transfers of quotas.

### *Vessel chartering*

8.4 A general discussion ensued on the need for ICCAT to adopt clear guidelines to regulate vessel chartering, notably the requirement to inform the Commission, the establishment of a vessel registry, the duration of such arrangements, control mechanisms, and catch attribution. Several delegations indicated that they will be putting forth proposals in this regard and that these should be tabled in Plenary, rather than in the Compliance Committee.

## **9. Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

9.1 The Report of the 2001 Meeting of the SCRS was presented by Dr. Joseph Powers, SCRS Chairman. Dr. Powers explained that he would give an overview during this plenary session and that he would then present species-specific results at the appropriate Panel meetings.

9.2 Dr. Powers explained that 2001 had been a year with a light assessment workload. As a result, the SCRS was able to make substantial progress on other statistical and research issues. The three Sub-Committees held inter-sessional meetings: The Sub-Committee on Statistics had been concerned primarily with the implementation with the new relational database system at the Secretariat; the Sub-Committee on Environment held a workshop to address environmental influences on tuna recruitment; the Sub-Committee on By-Catch held a data-preparatory meeting to update pelagic shark statistics. Dr. Powers noted that there was also an inter-sessional meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Assessment Methods.

9.3 Dr. Powers noted that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Precautionary Approaches had completed its immediate objectives with the participation of ICCAT scientists in an expert consultation organized by FAO in 2000. The report of that meeting, *Implications of the Precautionary Approach for Tuna Biological and Technical Research*, became available in 2001 (FAO Fisheries Circular 963).

9.4 Dr. Powers referred to the various recommendations made in the SCRS Report and emphasized those of a general nature regarding the establishment of a stronger peer-review process for assessments, the hiring of a scientific editor and an additional secretary by the Secretariat in order to catch up with the current workload demands, and the expected assessment schedule for the next two or three years.

9.5 As this Commission Meeting marked the end of his mandate as SCRS Chairman, the various delegations joined in expressing their gratitude to Dr. Powers for his excellent and unbiased leadership and dedication, which had resulted in a much more efficient Commission. The delegates also welcomed the incoming SCRS Chairman, Dr. Joao Gil Pereira (EC-Portugal) and wished him luck.

9.6 There was a discussion about the submission of statistics. It resulted in general agreement that the current deadlines were unrealistic for the data of some fleets and there was support for a new deadline around July 31 which should be met strictly. Dr. Powers also noted that regulatory measures often made it very difficult for the various agencies to collect reliable fishery statistics on a timely basis. He explained that the SCRS suggested to the Commission to use foresight when drafting management Recommendations in order to have a minimal impact on statistics.

9.7 There was also discussion about the need to distinguish between statistics intended for scientific assessments and those for use by the Compliance Committee. The delegate of Algeria stated that only statistics transmitted officially by the government should be used for the latter.

9.8 Concerning the assessment schedule, several delegations expressed concern that the SCRS recommendation to move the marlin assessments to 2003 would be problematic because the Recommendation to establish a rebuilding plan for blue and white marlin [Ref. 00-13] explicitly established the need for an assessment in 2002. There was agreement to resolve the issue in Panel 4.

9.9 The delegations welcomed the research carried out inter-sessionally as being fundamental. In terms of the work on sharks, several delegates noted that some shark species were becoming very important for some tuna fleets and this made it important to intensify research efforts and seek collaboration with experts in other organizations.

9.10 Various delegations stated strong support for the funding and implementation of a peer-review program. It was suggested that the Secretariat examine the possibility of extending this concept to include close collaboration with other tuna organizations.

9.11 The Commission approved the 2001 SCRS Report and all the recommendations therein.

## ***FINAL PLENARY SESSION***

### **5. Report of the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures (continued)**

5.5 The Commission Chairman noted that the Compliance Committee had reached agreement about the mandate of this Working Group so that it would include compliance and enforcement aspects. The Commission approved this revised Working Group mandate. He noted that Japan offered to host the Working Group's 2002 meeting in May, an offer which the Commission accepted.

5.6 The Chairman also noted that the Compliance Committee adopted a *Recommendation Concerning a Management Standard for the Large-scale Tuna Longline Fishery*. The Commission adopted this recommendation (see ANNEX 9-1) by consensus.

**7. Use of the objection procedure (continued)**

7.5 The Chairman stated that no consensus had been reached on this topic and asked that the item be put on the Agenda of the 2002 Commission meeting.

**8. Management procedures (continued)**

8.5 The Chairman introduced the *Recommendation Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* proposed by Brazil. The Recommendation was approved by consensus and is attached as ANNEX 9-2.

8.6 On the issue of chartering, the Chairman noted that a couple of proposals had been developed by the parties. The Delegate of Japan noted that the draft *Resolution Regarding the Chartering of Fishing Vessels*, supported by Brazil, Canada, Japan, Namibia, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), South Africa and the United States, had almost received consensus. Several delegations asked that it be attached to the report and considered again at the 2002 Commission meeting. This request received general support and the draft Resolution is annexed as ANNEX 10-1. The Delegate of Brazil noted that there had been drafts of two other proposals on this issue, one of which was from Brazil, which he asked not to be annexed to the Report. The remaining proposal, drafted by the EC, for a *Recommendation Concerning Chartering Arrangements in 2002 and 2004* is also attached, at the request of several delegations, as ANNEX 10-2.

**10. Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention adopted in Madrid in 1992**

The Executive Secretary noted that the relevant information on this item was contained in the Administrative Report as well as the Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, prepared by the Secretariat, and asked that, for the sake of time, the Commission consider this to suffice. The Chairman concurred.

**11. ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements**

The Executive Secretary noted that the relevant information on this item was contained in the Administrative Report as well as the Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, prepared by the Secretariat, and asked that, for the sake of time, the Commission consider this to suffice. The Chairman concurred.

**12. Relations with other fora**

The Executive Secretary noted that the relevant information on this item was contained in the Administrative Report as well as the Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, prepared by the Secretariat, and asked that, for the sake of time, the Commission consider this to suffice. The Chairman concurred.

**13. Review of the Report of the Meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein**

13.1 Mr. F. Wieland, Chairman of the Compliance Committee, introduced four instruments that were agreed to by the Committee: Revised Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (already adopted under Agenda Item 5), a *Recommendation Concerning the Management Standard for the Large-scale Longline Tuna Fishery* (also adopted under Item 5; see ANNEX 9-1), a *Supplemental Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* (attached as ANNEX 9-3), and a *Resolution on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission* (attached as ANNEX 9-4). The Commission adopted these four instruments by consensus.

13.2 Mr. Wieland explained that the Committee also reviewed and adopted the compliance tables which are attached to the Committee's report. He noted that, in doing so, the Committee reached agreement on a number of interpretative issues concerning the application of existing regulations, such as the year-to-year treatment of overages and underages, and other topics. These interpretative indications would hopefully settle recurrent problems and give guidance for the Secretariat in the future preparation of the tables. The Commission adopted the compliance tables by consensus, and these are attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 12**.

13.3 Mr. Wieland also indicated that the Committee proposed that the import ban imposed on Equatorial Guinea be maintained and that a letter be sent to Panama regarding IUU vessels. These actions were approved by the Commission. The letters to Equatorial Guinea and Panama are attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 12**. One topic was left open in the Committee, namely whether trade sanctions for Honduras be maintained or lifted following its accession to ICCAT on January 30, 2001 and the actions it has taken to eliminate IUU vessels from its registry.

13.4 Various delegations joined in thanking Mr. Wieland for an excellent job as Chairman of the Compliance Committee.

13.5 Concerning the question of the treatment of Honduras, the Commission could not reach agreement on whether or not to lift the bigeye tuna trade restrictions. The ban, therefore, will enter into force on schedule. The Commission will review the issue again at its 2003 meeting. However, the bluefin tuna and swordfish trade measures were lifted under the *Recommendation Concerning Importation of Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish and Their Products From Honduras (ANNEX 9-19)*. The Commission agreed to send a letter to Honduras to recognize the positive efforts that Honduras has made to combat IUU fishing. The letter to Honduras is attached as **Appendix 2-2 to ANNEX 14**.

13.6 The Report of the Working Group on Compliance, which met on November 11, 2001, was presented and is attached as **ANNEX 11**.

#### **14. Review of the Reports of Meetings of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of regulatory measures proposed**

##### *Panel 1*

14.1 Dr. J. Barnes, Panel 1 Chairman, stated that the report would be adopted by correspondence and presented the two substantive issues that were dealt with: The Panel's adoption of a *Recommendation on the 2002 Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures*, attached as **ANNEX 9-5**, and the European Community's indication that it would support the continuation of the moratorium on the understanding that other parties undertake to fulfill their obligations in respect of the moratorium. The Commission adopted the bigeye tuna Recommendation and approved the EC's decision.

##### *Panel 2*

14.2 Dr. C. Ligeard, Panel 2 Chairman, presented the *Recommendation on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits* attached as **ANNEX 9-6**, noting that paragraph 4 would be modified so as to read the same way as in the recommendation adopted in 2000. The Commission adopted the Recommendation.

14.3 Dr. Ligeard presented the *Resolution Regarding the SCRS Mixing Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*, attached as **ANNEX 9-7**, and a *Supplemental Recommendation on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean*, attached as **ANNEX 9-8**. The Commission adopted both measures.

14.4 Dr. Ligeard also presented for the Commission's consideration a proposed *Recommendation on Catch Limits for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* (see **ANNEX 17.3.a**). He also introduced proposed changes to several operative paragraphs, dealing with the overall TAC and the allocation key.

14.5 The Delegates from the United States and Canada stated that there had been no consensus agreement on this recommendation during the meeting of Panel 2, and that no vote had been taken. The Delegates from Korea and the United States questioned the Chairman as to the legal status of the recommendation if consensus was blocked, considering that there was no quorum in the Commission for a vote either.



14.6 The Delegate from the European Community asked the United States and Canada to clarify whether they were abstaining in the consensus or whether they were opposing any consensus. The delegate from the United States explained that he opposed consensus in Panel 2 and he was again blocking consensus. The delegate from Korea joined in opposing the proposed recommendation.

14.7 The Delegate from Algeria asked what the allocation key would be with regards to Algeria if the recommendation was being objected to.

14.8 The Delegate from EC questioned whether a lack of quorum in the Commission meant that no decision could be taken on any aspect, including the proposals that were already reviewed. The Commission Chairman expressed his opinion that a quorum was necessary in case of a vote and that, therefore, the recommendation could not be approved unless a mail vote was carried out in the near future. The Delegate from EC expressed that his interpretation differed from the Chairman's in that, without a quorum, the Commission could not make any decision. The Delegate from EC also stated that, for the record, it was not the Community which had raised the issue of quorum.

14.9 The Delegate of Morocco regretted that the Commission was going backwards after all the hard work achieved during the past two weeks and urged the other Delegates to think more of what united them than of what divided them.

14.10 After a break, the Chairman announced that time was running out and the meeting had to stop. He stated that, in terms of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, the Commission should recommend parties not to exceed last year's catches. The Chairman then moved to Agenda item 19.

## **19. Election of Executive Secretary**

The Commission Chairman explained that at a meeting of Heads of Delegation it was decided to extend the contract of the current Executive Secretary up to retirement age plus one year. The Commission asked the Executive Secretary to prepare, with the help of a small working group, the procedures to be followed for the election of the next Executive Secretary (including a job description, qualification of candidates, a possible performance evaluation system, etc.). Based on this work, the Commission will then approve the rules and procedures for the new election at its 2002 Meeting. The election would be carried out at the 2003 Commission Meeting.

## **20. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission**

20.1 The European Community, on behalf of the Government of Spain, offered to host the 2002 Meeting of the Commission in Bilbao, Spain.

20.2 The European Community, on behalf of the Government of Ireland, offered to host the 2003 Meeting of the Commission in Dublin, Ireland.

20.3 The Chairman thanked the EC for the invitations on behalf of the Commission. The dates for the next Commission Meeting were set for October 28 to November 4, 2002. The dates for the next SCRS Meeting were set for September 30 to October 4, 2002.

## **21. Adoption of Report**

The report was adopted by correspondence.

## **22. Adjournment**

22.1 The Commission Chairman proposed that, as time had run out, the meeting be suspended and the remaining Agenda items be considered during the first day of the 2002 Commission meeting.

22.2 The Delegate from the European Community reiterated his interpretation that, since there was no quorum, no decision could be taken on any issue. However, the EC would notify ICCAT of its 2002 catch levels, and those levels would be set in a responsible way.

22.3 The Delegate from Japan urged the Commission to adopt the PWG Report because of the importance of issues related to IUU fishing, such as the scheduled inter-sessional meeting. The Chairman explained that many decisions would have to be made by mail. The Delegate from Japan then stated that, on the assumption that the PWG Report would be adopted by correspondence, his government would prepare to host the IUU meeting and would also prepare the implementation of the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document program for July 2002.

22.4 The Chairman thanked everyone for their hard work, especially the interpreters, the translators, and the government of the Autonomous Region of Murcia for hosting the meeting.

22.5 The Executive Secretary announced that Mariana (Manana) Fernandez de Bobadilla was retiring after 27 years at the Secretariat and thanked her for her years of dedication.

22.6 The 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission was suspended until October, 2002<sup>1</sup>.

#### NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

Since the meeting had to be temporarily suspended, the Commission Chairman, Mr. José Ramón Barañano, proceeded to carry out mail votes. These mail votes are listed here below and are shown in ANNEX 17:

- December 21, 2001 (ANNEX 17-1): The Chairman proposed making three groups of decisions according to whether they were or were not discussed or agreed upon, and treating each one of these groups in a different manner. Twenty-two Contracting Parties responded supporting, by majority, the Chairman's proposal and thus considering as adopted the items included in the first of the three groups (for which a period until February 21, 2002, was given to receive editorial comments).
- January 28, 2002 (ANNEX 17-2): The Chairman submitted the items included in the second group to a mail vote. Responses were received from 27 Contracting Parties, approving by majority each one of the items included in this second group.
- February 27, 2002 (ANNEX 17-3): The Chairman submitted the proposed recommendation on bluefin tuna catch limits in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to a mail vote. 26 Contracting Parties responded.

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<sup>1</sup> The following statements were submitted in writing and distributed during the meeting, and are included in ANNEX 4:

- Statement by the United States on Sea Turtles
- Statement by Japan on Sea Turtles
- Closing Statement by the Observer of the Ocean Wildlife Campaign

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. JOSÉ RAMÓN BARAÑANO,  
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN**

Good day to all of you. I would like to extend to you a most cordial welcome and wish you a pleasant stay in this beautiful area of the Autonomous Region of Murcia during these days.

Even though the weather conditions are not the best (let's hope conditions improve quickly) and we have a full agenda to complete this week, I hope you have some opportunity to enjoy, even briefly, some of the many opportunities that Murcia offers.

On behalf of ICCAT, I would like to thank the Government the Autonomous Community of Murcia for their invitation to host this Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

I would also express special appreciation to the Honorable Ramón Luis Valcárcel, the President of the Autonomous Community of Murcia, who has honored us with his presence here at this inaugural session of our work.

His presence among us contributes on the one hand to highlight ICCAT's prestige and, on the other, to demonstrate the importance that this Community, which is open to the Mediterranean, assigns to the development of fishing and the local fishing industry. I would like to take advantage of this occasion to thank the Tuna Association of the Region of Murcia (ASETUN) for its support and assistance in holding this meeting. You, distinguished Delegates, can appreciate the importance and enormous development of the bluefin tuna industry in this area of the Mediterranean.

This *Mare Nostrum*, birthplace of great civilizations, is one of the oldest and most highly exploited marine systems. While this is a sea that is poor in catches, with only 25% of the world's catches, its relative poverty should not lead to erroneous conclusions. The commercial value of the species caught is, according to FAO data, five times more than the average of the world catches. Swordfish and bluefin tuna are among the most valued species.

Estimates indicate there about 50,000 fishing vessels in the Mediterranean, some of which are family owned vessels. Fortunately, only a small portion of the fleet targets species regulated by ICCAT.

While ICCAT's work is fundamental in the Atlantic, the regulation and management of the fisheries in the Mediterranean, because of its closed sea characteristics, constitute a key element for the sustainable development of the tuna and swordfish resources in this area.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is one of the oldest regional fisheries organizations (the Convention that constituted it dates back to 1966), and it is also the most advanced because of the nature of the measures adopted.

In this sense, I would like to point out the work carried out by the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, which after four difficult meetings, arrived at a consensus document just a few short hours ago, and which the Commission will have the opportunity to review and adopt at this meeting. From here I would like to congratulate the Chairman and all the participants for their efforts and the flexibility shown which facilitated reaching very positive results that I hope will help unblock some of the difficulties we have encountered at the last two Commission meetings to establish management measures that assure the sustainability of the resources.

Although this represents significant progress, there are other matters for which we have to continue working. The recovery of fish stocks should be one of our major objectives in the development of our work.

Fishing as an economic activity depends on the state of the fish stocks. If we deplete the resources, we will also terminate the professional fishing activity. Only by conserving the fisheries resources at levels close to Maximum

Sustainable Yield will we be able to guarantee profitable levels of catches and assure, the activities of our fishers, over the long-term.

The conservation of the fish stocks is, therefore, an essential element of ICCAT's work and policy. Unfortunately, the majority of the species regulated by ICCAT are over-exploited. The recovery of the over-exploited stocks is only possible by regulating fishing effort and establishing caps on catches. There is an additional element that is unquestionable and which seems limited in the majority of the fisheries, and that is the catches of juvenile tunas.

It is fundamental to reduce the catches of juveniles, and to guarantee that such fish are caught only when they have reached minimum size, thereby providing a reasonable opportunity of contributing to spawning.

We have to advance in adopting and implementing specific measures that will guarantee the recovery and sustainability of the fishery resources over the long-term.

However, there are two issues I would like to refer to briefly that spoil this policy of recuperation of the resources.

I refer first of all to the need to establish mechanisms that assure a higher degree of compliance with the Commission's resolutions.

The lack of information on activities carried out, or partial or erroneous information, not only negatively affects the essential work of the SCRS (Scientific Committee), but can also undermine the confidence of the Contracting Parties in the equal sharing of the necessary effort and lead to systematic non-compliance with the recommendations and agreements.

It is essential to continue working to attain the necessary transparency and this is only possible if we improve the level of compliance and the quality of the information provided.

The problem of the lack of confidence is closely linked to the illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities, whose catches can represent up to 30% of the fishing effort on some species.

We have to tackle these problems very seriously to rapidly lessen their importance. It is difficult to explain measures to our fishing sector that imply considerable sacrifices when there is systematic non-compliance by other fishers. The catches of IUU vessels of non-ICCAT members and those of the so-called flag of convenience vessels that do not comply with the ICCAT conservation measures, not only jeopardize efforts to rebuild the stocks, but also represent real unfair competition for those fleets that do comply and supply the same market.

I would like to close by thanking all of you for your attention, and I would like to ask the President of the Autonomous Community of Murcia to say a few words at this inaugural session.

**ANNEX B**

**OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. RAMÓN LUIS VALCÁRCEL SISO,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REGION OF MURCIA**

I would like, above all, to welcome you to our Region and to express our satisfaction that Murcia's proposal was accepted to hold this meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

I would also like to express my wish that this meeting facilitates the encounter among the countries that share this precious resource and that progress is made towards improving its conservation and management.

Murcia, with a fishing sector that operates exclusively in the Spanish Mediterranean, has during the last six years promoted the adjustment and modernization of its fleet and of its port and ship building infrastructures.

The renovation of its commercial network, the regulation of the aquiculture production, the experimentation and expansion of fishing knowledge, the assumption of responsibilities by the sector and the nautical fishing training, have also been promoted from this regional Administration during these past six years.

All of this has been possible through dialogue with the sectors involved, arriving at stable and current conventions and agreements, including closures and technical fleet stoppages, and the protection of more than 4,000 hectares of reef zones, with a marine reserve of 2000 hectares, for the purposes of safeguarding the environment and achieving a sustainable activity.

At the same time, the characteristics of our coastal section has allowed for the increase in marine aquiculture, the result of a business initiative and innovative technology.

Proof of this is its annual invoicing which surpasses 180 million Euros and the more than 300 jobs that this activity generates, centered mainly in the fattening of bluefin tuna and its subsequent exportation.

These premises accredit a position of the Region of Murcia that is favorable to a regulation of fishing, particularly in the Mediterranean.

The complexity and difficulties that for the Mediterranean fisheries represent the numerous and diverse fleets that operate in this Sea, with different regulations and management schemes, make it necessary to have real harmonization, effective management, and control mechanisms that guarantee the conservation of the fishery resources and their optimal exploitation.

In short, it is essential to update policies that could make the bluefin tuna fishery a sustainable resource. For this it is necessary to advance on different fronts:

- In the regulations, promoting international cooperation, as concerns the schemes and technical means of conservation and management, that are conducive to the most homogeneous legal framework possible.
- On the political front, reinforcing cooperation within the existing organizations.
- In the technical aspect, promoting scientific and technical research that results in the sustainable exploitation of the resources.
- In the socio-economic field, implicating the sector in the application of fishing policy.

The objective of these days is to convert these convictions to actions, determining in each one of them the most appropriate level of management to attain that level.

I also hope that this meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas advances in its response to the questions posed regarding:

- Improvements in the statistical information systems of all the ICCAT members and in the coordination of the research programs;
- Proposals for the establishment of scientific bases on production and management of the tunas; and
- Evaluation and consideration of the current state of the resources.

I am confident that your work throughout these days will achieve progress in the proposal of efficient actions for a better regulation of this fishery and I hope you also have an enjoyable stay in our Region.

## COMMISSION AGENDA

- 1 Opening of the meeting
- 2 Adoption of Agenda and arrangements
- 3 Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
- 4 Introduction and admission of Observers
- 5 Report of the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures
- 6 Report of the Ad Hoc Working on Allocation Criteria
- 7 Use of the objection procedure
- 8 Management procedures
- 9 Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
- 10 Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention adopted in Madrid in 1992
- 11 ICCAT responsibilities in relation to international fishery agreements
- 12 Relations with other fora
- 13 Review of the Report of the Meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
- 14 Review of the Reports of the Meetings of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of regulatory measures proposed
- 15 Review of the Report of the Permanent Working for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of regulatory measures proposed
- 16 Review of the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) - Commission Budget and Contracting Party Contributions for the 2002-2003 biennial period
- 17 Other matters
- 18 Election of Commission Officers
- 19 Election of Executive Secretary
- 20 Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
- 21 Adoption of Report
- 22 Adjournment

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## LIST OF COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

COM/01/001	Tentative Commission Agenda
COM/01/002	Tentative Agenda of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
COM/01/003	Tentative Agenda for Panels 1-4
COM/01/004	Tentative Agenda of the Compliance Committee
COM/01/005	Tentative Agenda of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)
COM/01/006	2001 Administrative Report
COM/01/007	2001 Financial Report
COM/01/008	Estimated Commission Budget & Contracting Party Contributions for the 2002-2003 Biennial Period
COM/01/009	Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Research: 2000-2001 & Addendum
COM/01/010	Compendium of management recommendations and related resolutions adopted by ICCAT for the conservation of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/01/010bis	Historical Table - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/01/012	Report on the BETYP activities from October 2000 up to September 2001
COM/01/014	Meetings at which ICCAT was represented between November 2000 and October 2001 & Addendum- ICCAT Secretariat
COM/01/015	Estimates of unreported landings from export statistics - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/01/016	Progress Report on the Development of the ICCAT Relational Database System (ICCAT-RDB) - C. Palma, C.
COM/01/017	Report on visit to Trinidad and Tobago (April 16-25, 2001) - P.Kebe
COM/01/020	Report of the First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures ( <i>Brussels, Belgium, May 17-18, 2001</i> )
COM/01/021	Report of the 3 <sup>RD</sup> ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria ( <i>Brussels, Belgium, May 21-23, 2001</i> )
COM/01/022	Report of the Technical Experts Meeting to Develop Statistical Document Programs for Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish ( <i>Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, July 16-18, 2001</i> )
COM/01/023	Explanatory Note to preliminary 2001 Compliance Tables prepared by the Secretariat - ICCAT Secretariat
COM/01/024	ICCAT Vessel Registry & Addendum
COM/01/025	Summary of the Commission Chairman's special letters drafted at 2000 Meeting, responses received, and other relevant correspondence from Non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities in 2001 (and attachments) & Addendum
COM/01/026	Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD)
COM/01/027	Information relative to the list of illegal, unreported & unregulated vessels (IUU) compiled at the 2000 Commission Meeting
COM/01/028	Information submitted through National Reports in accordance with ICCAT regulations
COM/01/029	Information on Minimum Size Regulations in force by Contracting Parties & Addendum

**STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS*****BY CONTRACTING PARTIES*****Statement by Algeria to the Opening Plenary Session**

First of all, I want to thank the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which my country has recently joined, for our participation in the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, as members, which represents a great opportunity for us.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Spanish Government and the Autonomous Government of Murcia that have hosted and facilitated this meeting.

Algeria attaches major importance to the rational, responsible and durable management of the fisheries resources under its national jurisdiction and, more generally, to the biological resources in the Mediterranean Sea, always respecting the various international instruments that regulate the multiple utilizations of the marine environment.

Therefore, our adherence to ICCAT has thus been done within the framework of the universal objective of conservation of the renewable marine resources, and in particular, the large migratory species.

Furthermore, ICCAT represents the appropriate framework that permits Algeria, as well as the other States that participate in its work, to exploit a part of this potential in accordance with the principles of equality, sustainability, and precaution.

In conclusion, we wish you every success in the work of the Commission.

**Statement by Brazil to the Opening Plenary Session**

It is a real pleasure for the Brazilian Delegation to be here in the attractive city of Murcia. We take this opportunity to thank its Autonomous Government for hosting this XVII Regular Meeting of the Commission.

There is no doubt that today we are gathering in a different environment — this time a very positive one. The successful outcomes of the meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria held last week were emblematic of this new environment. For my delegation such outcomes have a special meaning since Brazil is one of the ICCAT Contracting Parties that started advocating more than three years ago the need to modify the Commission's quota allocation regime. Our satisfaction is even greater because we feel that all Contracting Parties now recognize that a new time has finally come to ICCAT — a time for compromise. Murcia will be remembered by all of us as the venue of mutual understanding.

Not only the positive results themselves of the negotiations on allocation criteria caused satisfaction to my Delegation. We were also very much pleased to notice the political will of each and every Delegation to show flexibility, to avoid confrontation and to reach mutually satisfactory solutions. We sincerely hope that the good spirit that encouraged us all to act constructively in the Working Group on Allocation Criteria will keep inspiring our deliberations in the coming days. Brazil is certain that this pro-active attitude will keep us in the right track towards confidence building and true partnership.

In this new environment it is crucial that all Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitments to principles that must keep guiding ICCAT activities, such as the compliance of conservation and management measures, in order to guarantee the sustainability of stocks, the equitable access to resources, and consequently the improvement of social and economic conditions in all member countries — developed and developing alike. We will be then effectively contributing to strengthen the credibility of the Commission as a regional fisheries management organization.

In this context, throughout this XVII ICCAT Regular Meeting my Delegation will be ready to provide for detailed information on measures that the Brazilian Government has taken in order to adequately comply with ICCAT recommendations. In advance, I highlight the adoption of some fishery regulations, as for instance the establishment of a minimum-size limit for swordfish; the prohibition of shark finning; the restriction of the number of leased vessels allowed to fish for swordfish as a target species, and the domestic implementation of ICCAT recommendations of minimum weight limits for yellowfin and bigeye. Moreover, recent regulations established catch limits for swordfish and blue and white marlin and made mandatory the release of all billfish specimens that are still alive by the time of boarding. It was also made mandatory the monthly submission of information on the catches of swordfish, bigeye tuna, aibacore, white marlin and blue marlin; the presence of observers on board at least 10% of the leased vessels, and the use of a Satellite Vessel Monitoring System on all leased vessels.

Furthermore, the Brazilian Government established a Permanent Committee for the Management of National Tuna Fisheries, integrated by representatives of the relevant governmental sectors as well as the private sector. The establishment of this Committee will enhance the transparency of the management process of Brazilian tuna fisheries and will significantly strengthen its institutional aspects.

Before I finish I must share with the Commission my Delegation's recognition of the commendable work done by skillful Carlos Dominguez, Chairman of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Due to his remarkable capacity to guide debates on delicate issues we were all able to reach success.

We wish an excellent week to all Delegations and, as usual, please count upon our most sincere intention to cooperate.

#### **Statement by Canada to the Opening Plenary Session**

On behalf of the Canadian Delegation, I wish to express our pleasure to be here in this historic part of Southern Spain, and to thank the Government of Spain and the autonomous Government of Murcia for hosting this 17<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting of ICCAT.

These are challenging times for this Commission. Each meeting brings new and difficult issues that must be confronted, and that is especially true for this session. We need to find the will and the wisdom to address some very fundamental issues of conservation, stock rebuilding, compliance and allocation of catch. In addition, we have to find solutions to some emerging problems that are compromising the institutional capability of the Commission to discharge its responsibilities on behalf of all of us. Canada is committed to work cooperatively with all Parties to try and address the important matters that face us at this meeting.

there are many issues that we wish to address, but let me highlight key issues that will be the focus of the Canadian Delegation at this meeting:

First, we came to this meeting dedicated to finalizing the task assigned to the Allocation Working Group. With the successful conclusion of the Working Group last week, we believe that we have laid the foundation for a constructive meeting of the Commission. The issue of allocation of catch can be both difficult and divisive, and we have seen how it can compromise the ability of the Commission to meet its management objectives. Last week, we completed the arduous task of developing an agreed allocation framework. That draft text was built with hard work, compromise, goodwill and a lot of patience. It is essential from Canada's view, that the Commission adopt this text this week. By doing so, we will erase a difficult irritant within the Commission, and at the same time strengthen our capacity to address stock conservation.

It is Canada's objective is to make real and concrete progress on issues of conservation and compliance. In recent years, we believe we have made progress on some stocks, highlighted by the rebuilding programs adopted for western bluefin tuna, northern swordfish and marlins last year. At this session, similar progress needs to be made in adopting sustainable regimes for eastern bluefin, southern swordfish and bigeye tuna, particularly with respect to the capture of juvenile bigeye. We also need to do more than just adopt management measures; we must resolve to abide by them. All too often, we establish rules and then fail to comply with them, object to them, or don't provide the necessary data to measure our compliance. This not only threatens achievement of the conservation goals of ICCAT; it threatens our credibility and our future as a regional fisheries management

commission. Membership in this Commission conveys both benefits and obligations. We must resolve to do more to meet our obligations, especially more relating to provision of data.

At this meeting, Canada will table a draft resolution on the issue of objections. We are deeply concerned that the use of objections has increased in ICCAT in recent years. We accept that to object is a fundamental right of ICCAT members. However, our experience in other regional bodies is that the use of objections is a path that leads to stock collapse. We cannot allow that to occur here.

Canada will also be advancing proposals to seek support for the continuation of fundamental research on bluefin tuna. Work that has been carried out by the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom on behalf of Bermuda, and Canada, has provided important new understanding on the migration and distribution of bluefin. We will need to carefully evaluate the SCRS advice on stock boundaries and stock mixing in order to ensure that we take measures to protect the investment and the sacrifices made to rebuild western bluefin tuna.

Canada is also, increasingly, troubled by the financial state of ICCAT. A review of our financial statement shows that many members are not making their contributions, to the point that our financial circumstance is increasingly insecure. This situation compromises the effective functioning of the Commission, and must be addressed. I realize that not all members are in the same position to meet their obligations, but the Madrid Protocol provides a solution to parties. We urge members who have not done so to ratify this Protocol, so that it can enter into force.

We have a very ambitious agenda in front of us. We hope that the spirit of goodwill and compromise that was so evident in the meeting of the allocation working group will prevail and again enable us to achieve the kind of progress that so many expect from us.

#### **Statement by Côte d'Ivoire to the Opening Plenary Session**

Before going into the subject of the statement of the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, I would like to thank ICCAT, for having given my country, Côte d'Ivoire, the honor and the opportunity to take part in the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission that is being held in this beautiful city of Murcia.

Our appreciation is also extended to the Spanish Government and the Autonomous Government of Murcia who have offered their hospitality in hosting this important meeting.

The Côte d'Ivoire delegation recognizes the difficult work of the Executive Secretariat and all the organizational work involved in the preparation of the meetings to assure that they take place under good conditions, and to make our stay pleasant.

Our organization has celebrated 17 meetings, and is at a crucial point in its history and at a time for reflection.

We have noted with satisfaction the positive results obtained during the meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria. In spite of our concern with respect to this meeting, the spirit of understanding and common sense that prevailed made it possible to arrive at very encouraging results.

In our view, the results obtained we owe primarily to Mr. Carlos Domínguez, who has shown unfailing impartiality, humility, responsibility, and above all incredible competence. We congratulate him, we are thankful to him, and we encourage him to continue on this track. He deserves our recognition, since the results obtained give hope to developing countries, such as ours, to accede to quotas assigned on the basis of fair and equitable criteria.

Furthermore, taking into account recent events in swordfish fishing, we want to benefit from the subsequent quotas, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT.

Among various matters of concern to the Commission is the matter of chartering, to which we assign considerable importance, since chartering represents for us a means to develop our fisheries.

Through the negotiations on the allocation criteria, we have demonstrated that if we want, we can accomplish things. It is merely a question of willingness, mutual respect, of consideration of the different interests. We hope that the flexibility and understanding that characterized our discussions will continue to prevail. We hope that all the delegations adopt a constructive attitude. Thus, we look forward to success in all the work of this 17<sup>th</sup> session.

#### **Statement by Croatia to the Opening Plenary Session**

This is a summary of the statement of the Croatian delegation in relation to the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission (Murcia, Spain, November 12 to 19, 2001) and, in addition, the Croatian National Report to ICCAT on the catch of bluefin tuna and tuna-like fishes in 2000.

First of all, on behalf of the Croatian delegation, I would like to thank the Executive Secretary for his continuous cooperation and the Government of Murcia for hosting this 17<sup>th</sup> ICCAT meeting.

Since acceptance in October 1997, Croatia is actively contributing to the establishment of sustainable management of bluefin tuna in the Adriatic Sea. We are very pleased about your understanding of the specific Croatian situation. Our economy is still facing a number of post-war difficulties, and the unsolved problems connected to political and economic transition. All this is also in relation to the historical data and the statistical document that were taken into account when allocating a quota to Croatia. Some improvements have been realized recently and we are looking forward to an additional assessment if the Commission considers it appropriate.

The key issue for the Croatian delegation will be the allocation framework and the quota system, respectively. With an annual quota of only 876 MT, and 76 licenses being issued, one can calculate an average of slightly above 11 MT/year per purse seine vessel.

Due to the increased activities in bluefin tuna fattening in floating cages and the number of licenses issued for bluefin tuna fishing, Croatia is encountering great difficulties to meet the requirement of the tuna culturists already involved in tuna breeding. This year, for example, Croatia stopped fishing for bluefin tuna in very early October. We are forced to buy quota elsewhere in the Mediterranean and thus this year the imported quota was 1,100 MT. At the same time, we are very much concerned about the size composition of the catch, which shows an increased proportion in the number of small bluefin tuna as compared to the data for previous years. As the ICCAT recommendation for closure of the purse seine fishery in the Adriatic Sea from May 1 to 31 was introduced to protect juveniles, the fact is that in practice it has resulted just in a transfer of fishing effort from and into the Adriatic Sea (SCRS/01/091).

We suggest that the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Changes of Closed Seasons for the Purse Seine Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea* [Ref. 98-6] be changed in order to protect bluefin during the reproductive period (i.e. May 16 to June 15), and to establish the closed season during the same period over the entire Mediterranean fishing area, including the Adriatic Sea. In our opinion, the closed season as was put in operation (July 16 to August 15) is not protecting the reproductive stock of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

As I come to the end of this statement, let me ensure you and the distinguished delegates to ICCAT that Croatia is willing to encourage effort towards the joint goals of conservation and sustainable management of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic Sea, in particular.

#### **Statement by the European Community to the Opening Plenary Session**

The European Community thanks the Autonomous Government of Murcia as well as the Kingdom of Spain for having agreed to host the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission in the beautiful city of Murcia. We would also like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for their efforts in the preparation of this meeting.

Last week, thanks to the effort and to the spirit of cooperation of all the Contracting Parties, the Working Group successfully developed a list of allocation criteria that will permit finding appropriate solutions to assure the durable exploitation of the resources of the Atlantic tuna stocks. For its part, the European Community is, from this moment, willing to get to work. The Community would like to take advantage of this occasion to thank Mr.

Carlos Dominguez who, with his efficiency and constructive attitude, led the Working Group towards the success we all know.

The European Community is confident that the work this week will be marked by the same constructive spirit of all the Contracting Parties.

This year again we are again faced with a considerable challenge: to adopt the management and conservation measures for the majority of the stocks in order to preserve their future.

For the Community, several items on the Agenda have special importance:

- In the first place, I would like to congratulate Dr. Joao Pereira who has just assumed the Chairmanship of the SCRS, and to thank Dr. Powers for the excellent work he accomplished during his mandate, within a spirit of fairness and equality.
- We point out the lack of new data or new scientific advice of the SCRS with regards to the major stocks which should be taken into account in our discussions.
- As concerns bluefin tuna, the European Community would like to find appropriate solutions in order to assure the sustainable exploitation of this stock. It is absolutely essential that all the States involved in this fishery cooperate from now on to establish a stable management framework over the long-term and to assure thus the maintenance of this fishery.
- With regard to southern swordfish, the 2000 Recommendation foresaw that the Commission, at its 2001 meeting, would negotiate and adopt an agreement for the breakdown of the TAC of South Atlantic swordfish. The European Community is ready to carry out this exercise. However, the Community is confident that the management objectives for the stock will correspond to those utilized for the North Atlantic swordfish.
- Moreover, the European Community notes that the sacrifices that some Contracting Parties make to assure the good management of the tropical tuna fisheries are undermined by the non-compliance of other Parties, of the measures adopted by ICCAT. The Community fleet respects these measures, whereas other Parties ignore them completely. The European Community hopes that this matter is solved at this session.
- As regards albacore, taking into account the scientific recommendations, the European Community advocates maintaining the TAC to assure good management of this stock. The European Community has made considerable effort to manage this fishery, both at the level of the utilization of fishing techniques and the level of monitoring of the fishery.
- With regard to monitoring, the European Community hopes that the processes started in Brussels with the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures will continue and prosper. Without effective monitoring, no management measure will be effective.
- The matter of chartering, which was also touched on last week, is essential for the European Community. The Commission has to adopt appropriate regulations so as to assure good management of the fisheries. The European Community will make some proposals on this issue.
- The problem of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing is not yet resolved. The means must be found to eradicate this phenomenon on the global level. One way could be the use of statistical documents, but we should also find other methods.

The European Community, while respecting the right of objection, considers it essential that the countries that present objections adopt alternative measures to assure that the objectives of the ICCAT Convention are achieved. In effect, while it is important to assert one's rights, it is equally important to comply with one's obligations. The abuse of the recourse to the right of objection has led to a situation in which obligations are not met and in which respect for the measures has become the object of a double standard among the Parties that comply with their obligations and those that don't. This puts in question the credibility of the Organization.

At the 2000 Meeting, ICCAT adopted measures to improve the procedures to increase the efficiency of the Organization. Nevertheless, there are still some matters pending, mainly, as concerns the interpretation of the application of the ICCAT recommendations. Over the years, the *corpus juris* has become more complex and the Contracting Parties as well as the professionals point out the incoherencies that could result from such complexity. ICCAT should revise its regulations to simplify them and thus make them more effective.

The European Community hopes that the Commission responds to all these challenges and it joins forces to collaborate with all the delegations throughout this week to try and find answers to these important questions.

#### **Statement by France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) to the Opening Plenary Session**

First of all, I would like to congratulate and thank the Spanish Authorities for having organized this ICCAT meeting in Murcia.

As the new Head of the French Delegation in respect of the territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon, I would also like to greet all the participants at this meeting of ICCAT.

France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, has been and continues to be highly dependent on fishing, which is a fundamental factor of a local developing economy.

Of a total population on the order of 7,000 inhabitants, the fishing activity employs more than 250 people on board vessels and in the companies that transform the fishing products. This signifies specifically that one person in six lives directly or indirectly on this activity. Thus, the importance that France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, accords to the work of ICCAT and to the positive results of these sessions.

First of all, we support the development of monitoring at ports, as well as the measures adopted relative to States whose vessels contravene the regulations of this Organization, without, of course, ignoring the scope of other measures taken or that may be adopted. France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon has applied the ICCAT recommendations relative to bluefin tuna, and in 2000 there was no landing or transshipment of this species by vessels flying the flag of States that do not have quotas. The fight against illegal fishing and non-compliance with the management measures has the highest priority.

We are pleased that an equitable solution has been reached concerning the matter of the allocation criteria, which is a matter of major importance for all the Parties. In this regard, France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which has a very modest quota of bluefin tuna, hopes for an allocation of a swordfish quota similar to that allocated to the United Kingdom, in respect of its Overseas Territories.

With regard to the conditions for access to the resource, it seems legitimate a Contracting Party be given the authorization to exploit a national fishing quota under a third party flag, always in compliance with conditions that are well defined by the Commission and aimed at avoiding any derivation toward the sale of quotas.

Finally, with regard to the Commission budget, we hope for a prompt entry into force of the Madrid Protocol, in which France played an active role, so that the developing Contracting Parties can meet their obligations. In this respect, the economic status of the overseas territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon, should be taken into account, as it differs from that of Metropolitan France

The French Delegation is pleased to be able to collaborate with all the delegations during the course of this ICCAT session.

#### **Statement by Honduras to the Opening Plenary Session**

Since the month of October, 2000, while we were still not members of ICCAT, the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine of Honduras, which I preside, had made all the necessary efforts to comply with the obligations imposed by this Convention, and obtained the lifting of the sanctions that in the past, and justly so, had been imposed on my country. In November, 2000, I participated as an observer in the meeting held by ICCAT in



Marrakech, Morocco, to inform on the efforts that Honduras was carrying out to prevent international fishing vessels flagged to Honduras from not complying with ICCAT regulations.

At that meeting, note of my intervention was made and it was agreed that before making a definitive decision on the sanctions that were applied to my country, an opportunity would be given to prove in an irrefutable manner, during the course of this year 2001 and until the time of this meeting, our good will to comply with the obligations of ICCAT.

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to inform all of you and the ICCAT Commission that since the meeting I have referred to, the Maritime Administration of Honduras has canceled all the international fishing vessels on its registry, totaling 269, and adopted a resolution, which has been transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, whereby these vessels would not be re-registered or no new vessels would be registered unless they first sufficiently accredited their disposition to comply with the ICCAT obligations. To implement this, we have arranged with the General Directorate of Fishing of our country, the actions that we will jointly put into effect to achieve this objective.

During this year the Merchant Marine of Honduras has installed two satellite monitoring systems, the French system ARGOS and the North American system SASCO, to control the fishing vessels and currently it is an obligatory requirement for all fishing vessels that wish to be under our registry to install the corresponding buoys for satellite monitoring purposes.

In the same way, the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine has adopted the undecidable decision of sanctioning by immediate cancellation from our registry all the fishing vessels that do not fully comply with the requirements of the General Directorate of Fishing, of the Merchant Marine and, in general, with all the obligations imposed by the ICCAT Convention.

Furthermore, to demonstrate even more, if possible, our absolute resolution to comply with the resolutions of this Commission, since January 30, 2001, Honduras has adhered to the ICCAT Convention, which now makes us an integral part of ICCAT.

As of today, the status of the international fishing vessels registered to Honduras is as follows:

A) Vessels canceled definitively	255
B) Vessels re-registered for complying with the requirements	8
C) New vessels registered	10
D) Vessels suspended (not canceled since they are mortgaged)	6

The only 18 vessels that are currently included in our registry are controlled by satellite monitoring systems.

I have brought with me, to deliver to the Secretariat, all the official documents that accredit all of the above so that they are part of the ICCAT files and for their distribution to the various pertinent delegations.

Honduras is a small and poor country that needs the resources from its open registry, or what is also known as flag of convenience, but Honduras is absolutely determined to comply with all the international conventions in such matters, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), such as ICCAT, as well as others which, directly or indirectly, deal with all aspects of maritime navigation.

I sincerely thank all of you for your attention to this statement and I conclude by requesting your consent to lift the sanctions imposed on my country which, I reiterate, were justly imposed.

#### **Statement by Japan to the Opening Plenary Session**

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to say a few words. First, I would like to express our special appreciation to the Autonomous Government of Murcia and the Spanish Government for hosting this year's Commission meeting. It is our great pleasure to meet again old and new friends of this forum and to stay in this beautiful city of Murcia.

This year, I would like to make my opening statement as short and succinct as possible.

We were very pleased and relieved to conclude the work on allocation criteria last week. It was a hard and painful task, but all the participants to the Working Group worked cooperatively with utmost flexibility. We especially thank Mr. Carlos Dominguez, the Chair of the Working Group for his fair and tenacious leadership. We respect his "never-give-up" attitude. Even after establishment of the allocation criteria, it is not easy to apply them to specific stocks. I sincerely hope that the positive and productive attitude all the participants showed last week will continue in the Commission meeting this week for smooth application of the new allocation criteria.

I would, however, point out that we are here not just to share tunas in the Atlantic. The most important task of the Commission is the conservation of tuna resources. Unfortunately, many stocks in the competence of ICCAT are over-exploited. Not only the IUU fishing activities but also Contracting Parties' insufficient control or compliance is causing this plight of tuna resources. The Commission must take decisive actions this year. We have waited too long.

The following are the major issues of Japanese concern, and we would like to ask all the participants' understanding this week for amicable solutions to those issues.

### *1. IUU countermeasures*

ICCAT has taken a series of collective measures against IUU fishing operations. Those measures are based upon flag countries and have been effective to some extent, but turned out to be insufficient recently. The investigations Japan conducted for nearly two years disclosed a multinational nature of IUU fishing activities; in many cases the IUU boat owners own a number of duly licensed fishing vessels of Contracting Parties and/or Cooperative non-members. It was made clear that they not only change the flags and names of IUU fishing vessels frequently but also use the names of their licensed vessels for export of the IUU products to Japan. We would like to present a report on their recent activities and call for a further and decisive action by the Commission. Japan will propose a resolution regarding the countermeasures including request for termination of business relationship between IUU business entities and longline fishing vessels registered in ICCAT Contracting Parties.

### *2. Objections*

ICCAT has recently faced many objections lodged by Contracting Parties that were not satisfied with their national catch limits. Japan has no intention to undermine the right of objections guaranteed by the ICCAT Convention. However, abuse of this right would definitely lead to collapse of the ICCAT conservation and management scheme. Contracting Parties should consider and take every other available step to avoid an objection, particularly after establishment of the new allocation criteria. No consensus was reached last week on the Japanese proposal on the objection issue, but fortunately a clear common understanding prevailed among the participants on the need for the Commission to address this objection issue. Japan hopes that the Commission will find a solution to this important existing problem this week.

### *3. Bigeye Statistical Document Program*

Japan, as the world-largest market for bigeye tuna, would like to endorse the draft Recommendation on "Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program" prepared at the technical meeting in May, in Maryland, the US. While a minor modification should be made to this proposal, it is essential for the Commission to adopt it at this meeting. On this proposal, Japan would like to stress the need for the world-wide coverage of this Program. If the Program does not require government validation for non-Atlantic catches, importers can easily falsify Atlantic caught bigeye tuna by declaring it as caught in the other oceans. This would be an unacceptable loophole and destroy the whole system of the Program. We should also keep the consistency between the Bigeye Program and the Bluefin Program that is in effect now.

### **Statement by Korea to the Opening Plenary Session**

First of all, we, the Korean delegation, would like to congratulate the Chairman for being elected to chair this honorable meeting. Also, we extend our gratitude to Spain for hosting this meeting which is vital for the conservation and management of over-exploited tuna resources. Moreover, we sincerely appreciate the efforts of the ICCAT Secretariat for arranging this meeting.

It is recognized by most of the nations that fisheries resources are seriously over-exploited throughout the world. The depletion is causing concern among various countries. And this concern has often resulted in regional tensions instead of cooperation. We believe that the only way to solve this problem and consolidate the international community is to extract the full cooperation of the interested parties and that this could be achieved through the negotiations in various fisheries forums such as ICCAT. Therefore, ICCAT's initiative can be influential for conserving fisheries resources globally not just the tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean.

For instance, ICCAT has been long reviewed as a model of management for resources under its jurisdiction by other fisheries organizations. In this regard, we commend ICCAT's successful efforts in terminating the illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Korea has fully participated in the efforts to eradicate IUU fishing and will continue to do so in the future. We wholeheartedly believe that uncooperative attitudes can only be detrimental to everyone's well-being.

Korea has always worked hard to observe the recommendations and comply with measures made by ICCAT for conserving tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. We hope all of the participating countries will cooperate in reaching fair and equitable conclusions in terms of the objectives of ICCAT, namely the conservation and sustainable management of fishes under its jurisdiction. Korea is fully committed to fulfilling this goal.

#### **Statement by Morocco to the Opening Plenary Session**

Morocco is honored to participate in this 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of ICCAT and wishes to extend its appreciation to the Spanish Government and the Community of Murcia for hosting this meeting.

It is undeniable that ICCAT plays an extremely important role in the management of tunas and tuna-like species. Therefore, we should all work in such a way that this organization gains in legitimacy to fully carry out this role and to accomplish its noble mission in the best way possible.

We all have to try, with the means we have available to us, to preserve and carry out sustainable management of the tuna resources in order to curbing any abuse of their exploitation to achieve rebuilding of all the stocks.

It is also our obligation to contribute towards eradicating the plague of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing that jeopardizes the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT.

For our delegation, all the items included in the Agenda are important and should be given a lot of attention in order to achieve conclusive results within a constructive spirit that enables maintaining the essential cooperative relations for the success of our organization and its credibility.

In addition, we note the significant efforts made by our country to better define the tuna fishery to inscribe them within ICCAT orientations, even in spite of the economic limitations of some sectors of our national fishery.

These efforts have materialized, as we pointed out in our national report for the year 2000, in the reinforcement of existing control mechanisms. Furthermore, satellite monitoring systems and the various land-based and at-sea controls have resulted in the availability of information and in controlling the strict application of the management measures adopted by our organization.

The development and implementation of management plans for the fisheries, among them the tuna fishery, the regulation of minimum market sizes of the species caught in Moroccan waters, and the finalization of a Fishing Code are instruments that result in better management of the fisheries in general and the tuna fishery in particular.

All of this means that the recommendations of some working groups, notably the *ad hoc* Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, which held its meeting in Brussels last May, have been duly taken into account in carrying out all these efforts.

We are well aware that the work of the Commission is at a crucial point which requires considerable comprehension and transparency. Therefore, we insist that our discussions take place within an atmosphere where the principles of equity, fairness, equilibrium and respect for the rules of procedure prevail.

I would like to thank the scientific community that contributed to the work of the SCRS for their considerable, unceasing efforts towards a better understanding of the tuna fishery.

I would also like to take advantage of this occasion to congratulate Mr. Pereira for his nomination as SCRS Chairman and for the confidence that has been placed in him to continue on the directing the work started by his predecessor Dr. Powers, whom I congratulate and thank for his considerable efforts at the service of our organization, and to whom we should be thankful.

I would also like to point out the commendable efforts of the Executive Secretariat of ICCAT and to extend a welcome to the Algerian delegation that has recently adhered to this Commission.

Before closing, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Croatia for the terrible loss of its regular Representative to ICCAT.

Finally, I would like to point out that the Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco is fully ready to collaborate with ICCAT towards the principles of durable management of the tuna resources.

#### **Statement by Namibia to the Opening Plenary Session**

The Namibian delegation would like to express out utmost gratitude to the Autonomous Community of Murcia for hosting this Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Commission. We further commend the Secretariat for its outstanding preparations for the meeting.

Coming from the successful meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria last week, the Namibian delegation encourages all parties to continue to work in the same spirit towards our common goals. We would like to see the continuation of flexibility during the discussions of conservation and management measures in the respective Panels.

#### **Statement by Russia to the Opening Plenary Session**

The Russian delegation would like to thank the Spanish Government and the Community of Murcia for hosting this 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, in which it is a pleasure for us to take part. We would also like to compliment the ICCAT Secretariat and the SCRS for their hard work in preparation for this meeting.

ICCAT, with respect to world tuna fishing, is one of the leading regional fisheries organizations. The fisheries under ICCAT regulations have been a good example to conserve and manage tuna stocks, in particular for sustainable use. In this regard, Russia as a Contracting Party has made every possible effort in a cooperative manner fully compatible with ICCAT recommendations and measures.

The 2001 annual meeting will be without a doubt one of the most important in the history of ICCAT. We are faced with an important challenge and we hope that all the Parties concerned will work in a constructive spirit to maintain the climate of cooperation that is essential for the success of this organization.

As concerns Russia, there are several items of particular importance:

First, we believe that ICCAT must continue to implement measures to rebuild fish stocks that are over-fished. We must continue to demonstrate our commitment to rebuilding all over-exploited fish stocks. A number of billfish species, eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and northern albacore are over-fished. We know that while three stocks are considered to be of status consistent with the Convention objectives, eight stocks are over-fished, and for five others there is insufficient information to determine stock status.

With respect to the allocation criteria, it is the sincere desire of the Russian delegation to achieve a consensus as soon as possible, since this is the issue that will decide the future of ICCAT.

The position of our delegation is based on the following principles:

The coastal States have the right to develop their own fisheries within the waters under their national jurisdiction as well as the waters of adjoining high seas. Any conservation and management measure related to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks adopted by regional or sub-regional fisheries organizations must respect the preferential status of such coastal states, particularly in relation to developing states.

At the same time, no one can negate the existence of fishing capacity of the developed fishing countries. We need to harmonize the two interests, while the historical catch and the current fishing capacity are inevitably the starting point and the main criterion for quota allocation. In addition to the historical catch and the fishing capacity, stock conditions; capacity and record of implementation and enforcement of ICCAT conservation and management measures, through effective control mechanisms are also important for the criteria.

Finally, I will fail my duty if I do not mention once more the hospitality accorded to us by the people and the Spanish Government and the Community of Murcia. Thank you.

#### **Statement by Trinidad and Tobago to the Opening Plenary Session**

You may recall last November at the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission held in Marrakech, Morocco, Trinidad and Tobago indicated that its data collection system was not fully developed and that further improvements to the system were being undertaken. Based on the fact that our statistics were under reported in previous years to ICCAT, Trinidad and Tobago expressed the need to revise its statistics and requested the assistance of ICCAT in this regard. I wish to inform the Commission that in April, 2001, Trinidad and Tobago availed itself of this technical assistance and under the guidance and assistance of the ICCAT Secretariat, a partial revision of our statistics has been completed. To clarify, the statistics from our longline fleet of locally owned, locally flagged vessels have been revised. Data from our locally owned vessels that were foreign flagged prior to the year 2000 has to be verified by ICCAT to ensure that these catch data have not been reported by the previous flagged state.

Trinidad and Tobago would like to express its gratitude to the Secretariat for its assistance in this matter, and to request endorsement from the Commission with respect to the changes in our statistics that were accepted by the SCRS during its annual meeting in October, 2001, and which are now incorporated in the ICCAT database.

At the 2000 Meeting, Trinidad and Tobago also expressed concern for the existence of a transshipment port in Port of Spain, and the serious challenges posed in terms of being able to satisfy our port state responsibilities. Trinidad and Tobago has moved a step forward with regard to enhancing its ability to manage this transshipment operation by establishing Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with all transshipment Fishing Entities. Trinidad and Tobago is also in the process of putting the regulatory framework in place to support the MOAs to ensure compliance by these transshipment Fishing Entities. In addition, once the MOAs are implemented, Trinidad and Tobago would be better poised to become signatory to the UN Fish Stock Agreement which we expect to assiduously pursue within the coming year.

I also wish to inform the Commission that Trinidad and Tobago has plans in train to adopt the ICCAT Convention into national legislation, which would enable regulations to be enacted with the force of law to implement any measures recommended by ICCAT.

Trinidad and Tobago, as participant in this important fishery is indeed satisfied with its progress made over the last year, in terms of putting monitoring mechanisms in place, in particular, for those large pelagic migratory species for which ICCAT has management and regulatory responsibility. I wish to thank you once again for affording me this opportunity to address the Commission and I wish, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to express my appreciation to the Autonomous Government of Murcia for their generous offer to host this Meeting.

#### **Statement by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) to the Opening Plenary Session**

The United Kingdom in respect of its Overseas Territories participating in ICCAT would like to thank the Spanish Government and the Government of the Autonomous Region of Murcia for hosting this the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting of ICCAT. We would also like to extend our thanks to the ICCAT Secretariat for their hard work in preparing this meeting.

The United Kingdom is delighted to announce that there are now six overseas territories participating in ICCAT. From this meeting, the British Virgin Islands join Anguilla, Bermuda, the Falkland Islands, St Helena and its dependencies Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands. We are particularly pleased to welcome representatives from the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda to this meeting, and regret that due to the cost of travel, representatives from the other territories are not here on this occasion.

We look forward to participating in discussions over the coming week. This is an extremely important time for ICCAT – we must act responsibly to manage fisheries successfully, recognizing the interests of all parties. We welcome the positive outcome of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and look forward to working with the other parties to take forward these recommendations in a constructive manner. We very much hope that these criteria will enable ICCAT to ensure allocation of stocks in a way that is fair and equitable, and help to ensure the sustainable exploitation of ICCAT stocks.

We also continue to be concerned about the effect of IUU fishing on the stocks managed by ICCAT. It is our sincere hope that ICCAT continues to take strong measures to address this problem and to implement the recommendations of the FAO's International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing.

It is essential that we act in a responsible way to ensure the security of the stocks managed by ICCAT. We must ensure that total allocations are in accordance with the best available scientific advice, and according to the precautionary principle. Put simply, the continued success of this organization and of all of our fishing activity depends on the sustainability of the stocks, and we should all focus on this as our over-riding aim.

In order to achieve the best possible scientific advice and coherent management of the stocks we must ensure that we all meet compliance requirements. We should complement this by encouraging and co-operating with scientific research.

One important issue addressed by the Working Group on Allocation Criteria and referred to the ICCAT Commission meeting was that of chartering. This is an extremely important part of the development of the fisheries of the overseas territories and we look forward to taking part in the debate on this subject to ensure that chartering can be conducted in a manner that is fully consistent with ICCAT regulations and which meets the concerns of all parties.

We look forward to constructive discussions, and hope that all parties approach this meeting with the positive attitude and flexibility which was shown in the working group on allocation criteria, and which will be essential for the continued success of ICCAT at this crucial time.

#### **Statement by the United States to the Opening Plenary Session**

I am pleased to be here on behalf of Secretary of Commerce Don Evans. I appear before you today to discuss several issues of importance to the Secretary and the United States Senate. Last week, in anticipation of this meeting, Senator Kerry, the Chairman of the Oceans and Fisheries Committee, Senator Snowe, the ranking Republican on the Oceans and Fisheries Committee, and Senator Jesse Helms, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee introduced a bipartisan resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States for this ICCAT meeting. This resolution indicates that the United States Senate has serious reservations about the ability and will of ICCAT member nations to enforce quotas, size limits and other conservation measures. I can candidly report to you that the progress of this meeting will be carefully monitored by both the Secretary of Commerce and the United States Senate.

There are many important and challenging issues facing us at this 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of ICCAT. We note with extreme pleasure, however, that the challenge that has been before us for the last three years—that of developing allocation criteria—has been successfully addressed. Last week's meeting was not an easy one, but the United States firmly believes that the criteria resulting from the meeting adequately balance the needs of all parties. We look forward to the adoption of the new allocation criteria document during the 2001 Commission meeting.

Several significant issues were identified by the Working Group on Allocation Criteria and referred to the Commission for consideration this week. The issue of objections is one. The United States shares the concerns of many other ICCAT members about the increasing use of the Convention's objection procedure. In our view,

objections weaken the integrity and credibility of ICCAT and undermine the ability of this body to conserve and manage the species under its purview. While it is hoped that adoption of new allocation criteria will reduce the dependence of certain parties on the objection procedure, the Commission should also consider additional steps it can take at this meeting to address the issue of objections, including creating a process to improve the transparency of these actions.

Other issues highlighted last week included the continuing problem of certain ICCAT members being in arrears relative to their budget contributions. Entry into force of the Madrid protocol could certainly help this situation, and the United States would like to urge those members that have not already done so to act on this protocol as quickly as possible. A third issue that needs to be addressed expeditiously by ICCAT relates to the control of chartering activities. Finally, the Commission needs to consider the conditions under which temporary quota transfers may be allowed. The United States is committed to working constructively with other parties this week to address these issues.

There are a variety of other matters that the United States would like to see addressed at the 2001 ICCAT meeting, including establishing effective conservation and management measures for a number of stocks, such as South Atlantic swordfish, eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, and bigeye tuna. The United States has already registered its deep disappointment with the management measures adopted last year for southern swordfish and eastern bluefin tuna. The measures adopted last year do not halt stock declines of these resources and certainly do not promote stock recovery nor long-term maximum sustainable catch, which is the primary objective of the Commission. Our concern over the lack of adequate management of eastern bluefin tuna is only heightened by the most recent scientific evidence concerning stock mixing, which indicates there is much higher interchange between the eastern and western Atlantic stocks than previously thought. For the sake of the bluefin tuna and swordfish resources and those that depend on them, we simply must do better this year. We must also continue research on the stock structure of bluefin tuna in order to ensure effective and equitable management approaches.

In addition, the Commission must increase its commitment to its compliance regime and monitoring measures, including improving the functioning of the compliance evaluation process. Similarly, ICCAT members must be committed to improving implementation of ICCAT's management decisions and to the timely collection and provision of data, including data on non-target species such as marine turtles. We are open to considering approaches that are already under development concerning these matters as well as to exploring other ways to achieve these goals during this next week.

The United States remains concerned about the significant level of fishing by illegal, unregulated, and unreported fleets, which threatens ICCAT's resources. We fully support the consistent application of the tools available to ICCAT for controlling such activities, and we are open to considering additional approaches. We are particularly supportive of the efforts to develop statistical document programs for swordfish and bigeye tuna and would like to see these programs adopted at this meeting.

Finally, the United States has taken note of the SCRS advice concerning pelagic shark species. We believe ICCAT should not delay in acting on these recommendations and that ICCAT's members should do what they can to improve the conservation of these and other important resources, whether targeted species or not.

The 2001 ICCAT meeting promises to be extremely busy. After the success of last week we are confident that the spirit of cooperation and goodwill will support us through the tough negotiations ahead and allow us to find common ground.

Finally, the United States, I would like to thank the Autonomous Government of Murcia for hosting the 2001 Commission meeting and the ICCAT Secretariat for its hard work in support of this meeting.

#### **Statement by Uruguay to the Opening Plenary Session**

This year will be very interesting to guarantee the permanence and future of ICCAT. The work to adopt management criteria that are fairer for all the Parties and that above all assure the conservation of the resources will not be easy. Therefore, it is fundamental to base the administration of these criteria on scientific results. But we urge that the consequences be evaluated before adopting management recommendations, since one of them has resulted in the prosperation of IUU vessels.

**BY COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES****Statement by Chinese Taipei to the Opening Plenary Session**

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Secretariat for inviting us to participate in this meeting, as we have been attending these meetings since 1972. Like all the other delegations, I would like to thank the local government of Murcia for hosting this meeting and for the fine arrangements and hospitality.

For a long time we have been cooperating with ICCAT in good faith, and taken measures to implement the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT. In our efforts to cooperate with ICCAT, we are concerned about the recent developments in ICCAT on a number of issues, in particular, the compliance efforts of members, the new development following the meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria that took place here in Murcia three days ago, the status of participation by Cooperating Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities, and the development of our common efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing activities.

The 4<sup>th</sup> ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria reached a conclusion to its consultation a short while ago, with important achievements. The consultation established principles of criteria, among others, on qualification, allocation criteria, applicable species, and the status and conditions of application. Details for allocation will be discussed and decided in the various Panels for the relevant stocks. In view of the complexity of the allocation criteria, we hope there will be no discrimination when the criteria are applied to qualifying participants, and that a fair balance between coastal States and fishing States will be maintained.

As regards the issue of participation of Cooperating Parties, during the last annual meeting in Marrakech we had suggested to consider exempting Cooperating Parties in good standing from the annual application process, and it is hoped that at this meeting a satisfactory decision will be made.

The joint efforts of the international community in preventing IUU fishing activities has already become a major concern of ICCAT. We have been trying our utmost and cooperating with the concerned parties with a view to resolving this complex and urgent matter. There is significant development resulting from our cooperation with Japan in scrapping second-handed FOC vessels built in Japan and in encouraging those FOC vessels built in our shipyards to acquire our registration. As requested in the resolution adopted last year, details on the development will be reported in due course.

Finally, I wish you and the distinguished delegates all the best for a successful meeting.

**Statement by Mexico to the Opening Plenary Session**

On behalf of the Government of Mexico I thank the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the Autonomous Community of Murcia for hosting this 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. In addition, we recognize the work of the Secretariat of the Commission in organizing this meeting which, we are sure, will achieve the objectives expected through the compromised participation of all the delegations.

Mexico has been participating for more than 20 years in the meetings of the Commission, cooperating through the transmittal of statistical information, as well as participation in the various scientific and plenary sessions, and the implementation of conservation and management measures consistent with those adopted by the Commission. Thus, Mexico has maintained its position as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party.

Given the importance that the fisheries under Commission mandate has for the development of our country and for its fishing industry, the Federal Executive of the Government of Mexico proposed to the Honorable Senate of the Republic that our country become a Contracting Party to ICCAT.

In this sense, I am pleased to inform you that a few days ago the Mexican Senate approved the adherence of Mexico to this Commission and it still only has to carry out the necessary administrative procedures, which have already been initiated, to deposit the corresponding instrument of adherence.



For these reasons, during this meeting we respectfully ask the Contracting Parties of this organization to take due note of the observations and comments that the Mexican delegation makes, which will clearly establish the position of my country on the various subject matters.

Mexico has shown at all times its interest and commitment to carry out sustainable fishing, based on the right and obligations established in the United Convention on the Law of the Sea of December 1982 and on the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

Mexico reaffirms these commitments and will continue to work in multi-lateral fora such as this to reach agreements that permit the sustainable development of the fisheries, within the framework of the conservation and management measures that are adopted, whose application is carried in a manner that is transparent, fair and equitable, and which are based on the principles, rights and obligations of each one in accordance with international law.

As we have indicated on other occasions, the tuna fishery that Mexico has developed in the Atlantic is regulated by conservation and management measures that even more stringent than those adopted by the Commission. For example, 100% of the fishing trips are covered by observers on board the vessels, which has permitted us to evaluate the resource and establish the real possibilities of this fishery and other associated fisheries.

It is based on that knowledge that indicates that resources such as bluefin tuna and swordfish are distributed within and outside our Exclusive Economic Zone, that we have requested a fishing quota of 120 MT of bluefin tuna and 200 MT of swordfish. We reiterate this request, with the assurance that through the application of the allocation criteria, once these are adopted by the Commission, our request will be approved.

With its proximate adherence to the Commission, Mexico is demonstrating its conviction that in the case of highly migratory species, agreement and responsible commitment of the coastal States of the region and of those whose fleets fish in the same area, are required in order to assure the rational utilization and the effective conservation of the living marine resources.

It is in this sense that today, as in the past, Mexico wishes to express its decision to carry out joint actions with the Parties of the Commission to fortify our knowledge on the living marine resources under Commission mandate, to establish measures to assure the sustainable use of those resources and fishing selectivity, as well as to cooperate with other nations to consolidate scientific research capacity and fishery management.

Without a doubt the issues to be discussed during this meeting are crucial for the future of the organization. We share the concerns about illegal, unregulated and unreported fish. In this sense, it is urgent to define measures that, in the framework of that already adopted by FAO, will lead us to effectively eliminate this problem in the Atlantic, without its signifying a transfer of the problem to other seas and oceans.

The Government of Mexico, through the National Commission on Aquaculture and Fishing and the National Institute of Fishing, will work towards establishing solid bonds with the Contracting Parties and with the Secretariat of the Commission, for the purpose of assuring that Mexico's participation as a full member will contribute significantly to attaining the objectives of the Commission, to the sustainability of the fisheries, while at the same time to the integral development of our fishing communities and, in general, to the growth and well being of Mexico.

#### ***BY NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES***

##### **Statement by Belize to the Opening Plenary Session**

As the delegates for the country of Belize we are pleased to be able to attend this the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and thank the Commission for its invitation to Belize to attend as observer and for the opportunity to address this Meeting.

The people of Belize have had a long tradition with the sea and with fishing. Being blessed with the wealth of resources associated with the longest barrier reef system in the Atlantic, the Government and people of Belize

have long seen the need for prudent and sustainable management of these resources. To this end the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives has as its Mission "To provide the country and the people of Belize with the best possible management of aquatic and fisheries resources, with a view to optimize the present and future benefits through efficient and sustainable management". To ensure that this mission is achieved, Belize is committed to the rational and sustainable development and management of marine resources and this can be seen in the number of management initiatives that have been undertaken to the extent that sections of the Belize Barrier Reef System have been declared World Heritage Sites.

The advent of a high seas fleet in 1992 has added some complexity and challenge to the fulfilling of the above mission since

- a) the resources being utilized by the fleet are not entirely within the jurisdiction of Belize, and
- b) management of those resources requires multilateral cooperation between a number of states.

This has resulted in some lapses in the policies and strategies designed to properly address these unique management requirements. Some of these lapses have placed Belize in an unfavorable position as regards the management of large pelagic species, specifically those within the responsibility of ICCAT.

Belize regrets the current position in which it finds itself and has initiated steps to regularize the situation. The existence of a Vessel Registry in Belize and the policies regarding its operation and management are part of a larger macro development plan of Belize and will have to be considered at that level. However, the Government of Belize, in keeping with its goals of sustainable management of marine resources, has undertaken a review of the situation with a view to streamlining management policies and strategies for the high seas fleet.

As part of its quality program involving all registered vessels, which has already resulted in the de-registration of some 274 non-compliant vessels in the last two months, Belize has issued information sheets for completion by all fishing vessels. This information will enable us to evaluate our obligations to ICCAT. At present Belize is putting in place a reporting system in order to capture the relevant catch and effort and biological data from those fishing vessels. As soon as this work has been completed we will report to the Commission.

To ensure continuity and compliance, the Government of Belize is working towards introducing appropriate high seas legislation which will, among other things, allow for more effective statistical reporting, monitoring, control and surveillance of the fleet and has contacted sister governments in the CARICOM region to provide advice and assistance on the development of such legislation. A meeting has been held with the representatives of the Argos Vessel Monitoring System in order to evaluate the performance and cost of its implementation.

In view of the concrete steps that Belize has already taken, we kindly request that the Commission reconsider the implementation of the ICCAT recommendation as far as it applies to Belize '...regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area' until we have had the opportunity to communicate our findings by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

The Government of Belize realizes that this is the first step in this process. Given its record on conservation, Belize is well aware of the need to comply with the conservation and management measures recommended by ICCAT. It is hoped that with the guidance of the Commission we will be able to achieve full compliance in the near future.

In conclusion we would like to thank the Kingdom and Government of Spain and the Autonomous Region of Murcia for hosting this meeting and for giving us the opportunity to enjoy their hospitality.

#### **Statement by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) to the Opening Plenary Session**

I want to thank ICCAT for once again inviting Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) to attend a Commission meeting. Our authorities regard this step by ICCAT as recognition of the Faroe Islands as a pertinent co-operating partner concerning fisheries dealt with by the ICCAT.

The Faroe Islands are a small nation in the North Atlantic, totally dependent on fisheries. The fishing industry is fundamental for the economy of the Faroe Islands. Therefore, in order to uphold its economy, the Faroe Islands have to exploit all accessible living marine resources in their 200 mile Exclusive Fisheries Zone; and the sustainable management of fish stocks is of vital importance.

According to international law as expressed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) the Faroe Islands as a coastal state have the sovereign right to exploit the living marine resources that occur in the Faroese EEZ/exclusive fisheries zone, which also include the Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Since 1997 Faroese fisheries authorities have granted permits to foreign and Faroese vessels to carry out experimental fishery for Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Exclusive Fisheries Zone (EFZ) of the Faroe Islands. The fishery has been under supervision by the Fisheries Laboratory of the Faroe Islands, who have had observers onboard. In the year 2001, Atlantic bluefin tuna has been caught in the Faroese EFZ by foreign vessels licensed for this fishery under quotas allocated by ICCAT, but no Faroese vessels have fished for this species this year.

This experimental fishery has persuasively demonstrated that Atlantic bluefin tuna occurs in significant quantities in Faroese waters, and can be harvested there in a sustainable manner, in a fishery targeting large fish. Based on these findings and in harmony with legal instruments as the UNCLOS and the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks the Faroe Islands have the rights of a coastal State with regard to the Atlantic bluefin tuna.

This status entitles the Faroe Islands to an appropriate share of any TAC established for the relevant tuna stock and confers an obligation upon the Faroese authorities to take part in the efforts to secure a sustainable use of this stock, which is shared with a number of other countries, be they coastal states or high seas fishing states.

The Faroe Islands play an active role in regional fisheries organizations as well as in coastal State co-operation related to the management of migratory fish stocks of the North East Atlantic occurring in Faroese waters and in international waters adjacent to the Faroe Islands. It would therefore be fully compatible with the political priorities of the Faroese fisheries authorities to take upon themselves - as part-owners of the Atlantic blue fin tuna stock or stocks - a co-responsibility for the management of these stocks through participation in the work of ICCAT.

However, as ICCAT's current allocation criteria do not take the rights and duties as well as the interests of coastal States into account, this has so far been seen as an hindrance to membership by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) of ICCAT.

We are therefore very pleased with the achievements of the fourth meeting of ICCAT's Working Group on Allocation Criteria where the rules of international law were taken into account, and the rights of coastal States that are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources were recognized. The approved Allocation Criteria will be presented to the Commission this week for adoption.

If this Commission Meeting should succeed in introducing allocation criteria, which respect the rights of coastal States, this might lead to a quick decision by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) to become a member of ICCAT. Following a possible accession, the Faroese authorities will - as they are doing in the context of other regional fisheries management organizations - abide with such management decisions as will become binding upon Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) as members of the ICCAT.

#### **Statement by Malta to the Opening Plenary Session**

Malta wishes well to the Commission and all delegates present and augurs good work to all. Malta is committed to the conservation of fish stocks. We are preparing to ratify the UN Agreement on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the coming weeks. This will be followed by our application for Co-operating party status to ICCAT and adherence to the Compliance Agreement of FAO. Malta has already put into practice all measures arising from these agreements and therefore ratification would only involve legal formalities to establish the agreements and their jurisdiction.

Malta's fisheries depend greatly on large pelagics. Blue fin tuna and Swordfish landings make up about 55% of the total value of the catch. Malta is greatly interested in the sustainability of fisheries and urges ICCAT to continue striving to achieve the best management of these stocks. We congratulate ICCAT for the results achieved so far in the management of these stocks. However, we believe that the time has come for more direct monitoring and control measures to be adopted to enable the recommendations and resolutions to become more effective. This will also improve the identification of IUU fishing along with the improvement of compliance by all states. We are eager to participate in all activities leading to a more effective management of the stocks.

Malta has placed a proposal for a restricted area for artisanal long line fisheries for BFT, south east of the island in convention waters at the 26<sup>th</sup> session of GFCM in Ischia. This proposal has been conveyed to ICCAT and it should be studied at the forthcoming joint GFCM/ICCAT planned for the first quarter 2002, to be held in Malta. This is considered as a commitment of our efforts towards the sustainability of stocks, and the maintenance of existing fishing patterns and related fishing communities.

We urge all delegates to continue promoting sustainability of these stocks.

While wishing well and good work to all delegates present, I would like to thank the Government of the Autonomous Region of Murcia and the Kingdom of Spain for hosting this important meeting along with last week's meeting. I would also like to thank the Commission for the excellent and efficient organization of this meeting.

#### **Statement by Netherlands Antilles to the Opening Plenary Session**

On behalf of the Government of the Netherlands Antilles we wish to thank the Government of Spain, the Community of Murcia and the Directives of ICCAT in permitting our participation at this meeting.

The Department of Shipping and Maritime Affairs, as Administrative authority of the Netherlands Antilles for Maritime Affairs, has undertaken the necessary steps for our entry into the ICCAT Organization. This entry is quite near.

We have just revised and extended the policy we have for our fleet towards our fishing vessels, in which the high standards and adhesion to International rules and regulations are characteristics of our Administration and will continue to be our face. We choose not spent too much words, but to act and take measures.

#### **Statement by St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the Opening Plenary Session**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines fully subscribes to the principle of sustainable utilization of all living marine resources. We recognize the need for proper management of the world's fish resources, given the reducing abundance of some commercially important species. Our objectives for management of marine living resources are guided by the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to which we are signatory, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the 1995 United Nations Agreement on highly migratory and straddling stocks.

When our Government took office on March 31<sup>st</sup> this year, St. Vincent and the Grenadines faced a number of fundamental problems on a wide range of issues. These problems necessitated the enactment of several pieces of legislation and the implementation of procedures based on these pieces of legislation to ensure good governance. The Government is particularly concerned about the recommendation of ICCAT, which places restrictions on the trade of big-eye tuna.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes that the control of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is of paramount importance, as it undermines proper management of the world's living marine resources. Since the receipt of the letter from the ICCAT Secretariat indicating the need for St. Vincent and Grenadines to improve the regulation of its high seas fishing fleet, significant progress has been made. We have set as priority the implementation of a monitoring, control and surveillance system for all fishing vessels registered to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

In the brief period since our letter to the ICCAT Secretariat dated April 24 2001, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been able to take the following actions towards achieving full compliance with ICCAT management recommendations:

- Ceased the further registration of fishing vessels under the Merchant Shipping Act.
- Compiled a list of all high seas vessels registered to SVG, along with information on areas fished, species targeted, and average catch levels.
- Passed new legislation to address the management and regulation of our high seas fishing fleet (the High Seas Fishing Act of 2001), in keeping with accepted international agreements, and particularly ICCAT requirements.
- Informed all currently registered vessels of the new legislation as an initial step in the implementation of the High Seas Fishing Act of 2001.
- Developed standard daily log forms to all registered vessels to further improve our data collection, analysis and reporting in keeping with our commitment to fully cooperate with ICCAT and other relevant management bodies.

In addition the Government has already committed additional resources to enhance the reporting and regulation of fishing activities of its high seas fishing fleet, through the:

- Phased upgrading of the Fisheries Department
- Implementation of logbooks for all high seas fishing vessels.
- Implementation of a port inspection system.
- The issuing of licenses to Vincentian vessels fishing on the High seas in keeping with ICCAT recommendations.
- Participation in ICCAT meetings.

The implementation of an appropriate Observer Program and Vessel Monitoring System is currently being investigated in an effort to further improve monitoring and compliance of our fishing vessels. Additionally, our government is working with Chinese Taipei to ensure full compliance of Chinese Taipei owned vessels. We are also working with the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, as well as those of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to assist in coordinating regulation of all Vincentian registered fishing vessels. Our government is currently negotiating with selected fishing companies to relocate their base of operations to ports situated within St. Vincent and the Grenadines, so as to facilitate more effective monitoring of these operations. We are inviting other interested Governments to collaborate with us to ensure that compliance of fishing vessels entering our ports or harvesting marine resources under our flags, do so in a manner that is responsible and in compliance with management measures stipulated by ICCAT.

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines wishes to reiterate that it is fully committed to its obligations under international law and to ICCAT as the competent body for the management of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species. This commitment is further strengthened, given our status as a sovereign coastal state with a vested interest in the sustainable utilization of these valuable shared resources. The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is therefore seeking the support of all members of this Commission for the removal of the restriction placed on the trade of bigeye tuna.

#### **Statement by Turkey to the Opening Plenary Session**

Turkey is very glad to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission in Murcia as an observer.

Turkey is successfully complying with the management and conservation measures of ICCAT and is doing its best for the sustainability of the stocks.

We support the work of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

Turkey is conducting scientific research in the Black Sea, Sea of Marmara, the Aegean Sea and in the eastern Mediterranean Sea and is cooperating closely with other national and international institutions.

**BY OTHER OBSERVERS****Statement by CARICOM to the Opening Plenary Session**

On behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), I wish to thank ICCAT for extending an invitation to CARICOM to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission. I also take the opportunity to thank the government of Spain and the autonomous region of Murcia for hosting this year's meeting.

This year marks CARICOM's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in observer participation in ICCAT meetings. During the past 10 years, CARICOM has observed the declining health of several major tuna and billfish resources, and has noted the Commission's efforts to address the recovery of severely depleted stocks, and to arrest further declines in stock biomass in other instances of overexploitation. CARICOM fully appreciates the difficulty of these efforts in a continuing environment of overcapitalisation and excess fishing capacity of the historical fisheries.

In the past, individual country catch quotas have been allocated based on a country's historical record of catches. This practice has ignored the varying socio-economic needs of developing fisheries. The recently concluded work of the ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria hopefully will serve to rectify this problem in the very near future. This is extremely important to the 14 Member States of CARICOM, all of which are developing States, and many are small island developing States. For such States, access to fish resources usually contributes significantly to poverty alleviation, basic food security and hence social and economic stability. In the case of small island and coastal developing states, access to fish resources is therefore a natural and essential part of their culture and development. The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement makes specific provisions for addressing the special needs of developing States, including the need to accommodate socio-economic expansion and economic diversification, and so ensure comparable initial development opportunities. CARICOM Member States therefore anxiously await the adoption of the final report of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria and the practical application of the revised catch allocation criteria.

Additionally, CARICOM Fisheries staff are continuing to work closely with those CARICOM States that have been the subject of ICCAT management queries, and trade restrictive measures, in order to reach acceptable solutions. CARICOM trusts that the Commission will respond positively and encouragingly to these ongoing efforts, in the interest of obtaining full cooperation of the States involved. Regarding Grenada's response to the Commission's 2001 query on swordfish catches, CARICOM urges the Commission to give favorable consideration to Grenada's explanation of the current economic and fishery situation on that island. Grenada has indicated its intention to limit as far as possible any further increases in swordfish catches, despite the anticipated adverse effect that this limitation will have on Grenada's overall harvest of large pelagic species.

Finally, CARICOM wishes the Commission a very successful meeting.

**Statement by the Ocean Wildlife Campaign (OWC) to the Opening Plenary Session**

The Ocean Wildlife Campaign would like to thank the Commission for opening its meeting to observers and we would also like to thank the local authorities for hosting the Commission this year.

We would like to commend the Commission and its members for reaching an agreement on allocation criteria, an issue which had the potential to disrupt the conservation and management activities of this body. It is our sincere hope that this agreement will facilitate the Commission's efforts to establish sustainable catch levels for South Atlantic swordfish, albacore, East Atlantic bluefin tuna, and bigeye tuna. As some indicated in their opening statements, establishing sustainable catch levels is essential to the long-term existence of fishing fleets and the survival of the species under the Commission's purview. We compliment the Commission on its past efforts, but there is much more to be done to stop over-fishing, halt declines of various species, and rebuild depleted populations of tunas, swordfish and other billfishes.

The Commission must make a vigorous effort to adopt recommendations establishing sustainable catch levels, bring into compliance those nations fishing in a manner that undermines the effectiveness of ICCAT regulations and address IUU fishing activities. We view with growing concern the increasing number of objections to recommendations adopted by the Commission, as these objections have the potential to render management measures ineffective. Further, considering that the U.N. Treaty on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Species

is on the verge of entering into force, we believe it is time for the Commission to begin the process of evaluating specific actions that will need to be taken to comply with the treaty's provisions, with particular emphasis given to the application of the precautionary approach.

Finally, we urge the Commission to undertake an assessment of pelagic sharks as soon as possible and to adopt at this year's meeting a resolution addressing the wasteful and destructive practice of shark finning.

#### ***OTHER STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS***

##### **Statement by Japan on Sea Turtles**

First of all, Japan would like to emphasize that ICCAT has not competence over sea turtles. However, Japan would like to present a draft resolution to deal with the issue. As described in the draft resolution which has been jointly prepared with Delegations of China and Korea, Japan's position for the sea turtle issue consists of two elements:

- one element is enhanced collection of the relevant data by all fisheries that have interactions with sea turtles in the Convention Area, including longline fisheries for tuna and/or tuna-like species, tuna purse seine fishery, etc, and;
- the other element is the support of ICCAT for FAO's initiatives for this issue including possible establishment of new international plan of action, as Japan proposed at the 24th session of FAO/COFI held in March this year, in the light of the fact that various aspects of interactions with sea turtle populations exist and the sea turtle issue is not covered by the competence of ICCAT.

The underlying points for advantage in pursuing FAO's initiatives are as follows:

- a Although it is unfortunate that longline fisheries tend to be highlighted in this respect, other fisheries are also well known to contribute to mortality of sea turtles. In particular, it is important to review the fisheries which have developed in recent years in areas of sea turtle's migratory routes and area with higher densities;
- b Destruction or degradation of nesting areas of sea turtles are observed in many places as a result of human activities such as local development for promotion of tourism, and which affects adversely reproduction of sea turtle populations;
- c Capture of sea turtles in the vicinity of nesting areas and taking eggs therein are also major problems;
- d For sea turtle populations, artificial enhancements are considered promising, such as keeping eggs under favorable conditions till they hatch and rearing baby turtles until they grow to the size considered big enough to be released into the sea, taking into account survival ability after the release.

It is obvious that these factors are too diversified to be covered by a single regional fishery management body.

Japan's proposal put forward at the last COFI/FAO session, as a matter of course includes the elements such as collection of necessary data including incidental take from fisheries, consideration on technology development and implementation for reduction of mortality of sea turtles associated with incidental take in commercial fisheries, etc.

Japan's proposal received support from a number of countries at the COFI session. However, it was unfortunate that many did not support it for the following reasons: we had already too many international plans of actions, and some regional arrangements were about to start and therefore they did not welcome FAO's initiatives. Japan's proposal did not obtain consensus support.

However, Japan still believes that if any state sincerely hopes appropriate conservation and, where appropriate, management of sea turtle populations should be in place in global sense including the Atlantic, it should support FAO's initiatives.

In order to avoid misunderstanding of Japan's position, I would like to mention that it is not Japan's intention to do nothing because sea turtle issue stays outside the competence of ICCAT or we do not have outcome from FAO's initiative in place at the moment. Such efforts have been commenced for Japanese tuna longline vessels, as data collection of incidental take, and release live sea turtles taken incidentally into the sea with minimum damages as possible. Nonetheless, taking into due account the fact that this issue requires a holistic approach, it is considered that FAO's initiatives are the most effective and efficient.

I would like conclude my statement to reiterate to request all the members in this room, those are major members of FAO, to support for this approach.

#### **Statement by the United States on Sea Turtles**

There have been a few discussions at this year's meeting about by-catch in ICCAT fisheries. I would like to raise an issue that is of critical concern to the United States right now: the conservation of marine turtles. We are seeking the help of other Parties in this effort.

This is a serious conservation issue as all sea turtle species are listed by the IUCN on the 2000 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. In order to achieve the recovery of sea turtle populations, international efforts are needed on multiple fronts. There are many causes of sea turtle mortality, including the destruction of habitat, marine pollution, harvesting for meat, shell, and eggs, and by-catch in many types of fishing gear. While recognizing that ICCAT fisheries are only one component of this complex problem, we should cooperate within this body in the search for solutions.

One important component for addressing this issue is the collection of scientific data. We are pleased, therefore, to sponsor jointly with Japan, Korea, and China a proposal that encourages ICCAT members as well as non-members with cooperating status to provide voluntarily to SCRS all information available on the incidental catch of sea turtles by all fisheries operating and having interactions with sea turtles in the Convention area. In the United States, pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act, substantial areas of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans have been temporarily closed to pelagic longlining for a cooperative turtle research program between the National Marine Fisheries Service and commercial longliners. Scientific experiments are underway to evaluate the effects of different gear characteristics (such as hook type and type of bait used) and gear deployment on sea turtle by-catch rates. So far, these efforts appear promising. We look forward to sharing the results of our scientific research and hope that others will share the results of their own conservation efforts as well.

Another equally important component of turtle conservation is cooperation between fisheries management organizations or arrangements and other relevant bodies. In this regard, data collected under the joint resolution discussed above could be very useful in the implementation of the 1996 Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. This Convention entered into force in May 2001 and four ICCAT members are currently party to it (Brazil, Venezuela, Honduras, and the United States). The United States believes that future cooperation between ICCAT and Parties to the Inter-American Convention, such as through the sharing of data on sea turtle interactions and incidental catches of sea turtles by fisheries operating in the ICCAT Convention Area, could serve to advance efforts to conserve sea turtles. We would encourage ICCAT to consider such future cooperation with the Parties to the Inter-American Convention in addition to other appropriate bodies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

#### **Statement by the Ocean Wildlife Campaign (OWC) to the Final Plenary Session**

The Commission was confronted at this year's meeting with important issues of conservation, stock rebuilding, and compliance. While we sincerely commend the Commission for taking proactive steps to begin the process of addressing the conservation needs of Atlantic pelagic sharks and seabirds, as a whole the Commission did not make meaningful progress on critical conservation issues. The lack of precaution in many of the



Commission's actions was disappointing, and the continued lack of attention to the fundamental issues of halting overfishing and rebuilding depleted populations to levels that can support maximum sustainable catch is irresponsible and continues to erode the Commission's credibility.

Most discouraging is the Commission's continued adoption of unsustainable catch levels, while consistently ignoring SCRS advice. Catch levels proposed and in some cases adopted at this meeting threaten the sustainability of bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and South Atlantic swordfish. In particular, the proposal to continue overfishing Eastern bluefin tuna demonstrates a callous disregard for responsible management practices. Since 1996, the catch of Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna has been consistently and significantly above the scientific advice provided by the SCRS regarding a TAC. The incautious Eastern bluefin tuna proposal made during the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting would have codified allowable catch at levels approximately 130 percent of those recommended by SCRS. We are buoyed by the refusal of the United States and Canada to accept such a reckless proposal based upon negative resource implications.

The Commission's adoption of the North Atlantic swordfish rebuilding plan in 1999, as well as agreement at last year's meeting to substantially reduce blue and white marlin mortality provided hope that the Commission was prepared to make difficult choices in order to protect the long-term survival of the fish and the individuals that depend upon them. Based upon the results of this meeting, it appears those hopes were premature. If the Commission's current practices continue and population declines of certain species are not reversed, it may become appropriate to involve other international bodies, such as CITES, to ensure the long-term survival of Atlantic highly migratory species.

We were encouraged that the Commission maintained sanctions on most countries that have been identified as having vessels fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures, as well as having identified additional states. While we fully appreciate the procedural difficulties faced by the Commission on this issue, we are nevertheless concerned that trade restrictive measures may be being lifted prematurely for some countries. We look forward to the development of transparent processes and specific criteria for the identification of countries and the imposition of trade restrictive measures.

While the Commission continues to address compliance issues, including improving the compliance evaluation process, the compliance regime and the reporting of data remains woefully inadequate. We remain concerned whether all contracting parties are truly committed to establishing effective measures to conserve Atlantic tunas and tuna like species and to abide by them once they are established. Without such a commitment it will be impossible to reverse the overfishing and population declines that have occurred in the Atlantic.

We were dismayed at the lack of discussion regarding implementation of the U.N. Agreement on Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and Straddling Fish Stocks considering that it will enter into force in less than thirty days. The agreement's implementation has significant implications for the Commission, and it is past time that these implications are specified and discussed by this body. We strongly encourage the Commission to begin immediate consideration of how it will implement the three primary principles contained within the Fish Stocks Agreement: the precautionary approach, protection of biodiversity, and the sustainable use of fisheries resources. Given the Commission's historical performance in these three areas, there is substantial work to be done.

While far from confident, it is our hope that at next year's meeting the Commission can fully embrace ICCAT charter mandates as well as the aforementioned principles contained within the Fish Stocks Agreement and begin a new era of responsible and effective fisheries management.

**REPORT OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE ICCAT WORKING GROUP  
TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES**  
*(Brussels, Belgium - May 17 & 18, 2001)*

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The ICCAT Executive Secretary opened the meeting and invited the delegations to proceed to the election of the Chairman of the Working Group.

**2. Election of Chairperson**

Mr. Ernesto Penas (European Community) was elected Chairman of the Working Group.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

3.1 The Chairman asked the delegations for comments on the Tentative Agenda. First it was suggested that a Rapporteur be designated.

3.2 Mr. Laurent Ducamin (European Community) was nominated rapporteur. The revised Agenda was adopted and distributed at the session (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 5**).

**4. Organization of the sessions**

4.1 The Chairman proposed the following alternatives:

- Dedicate Thursday's session to an in-depth discussion to be able to draft the report on Friday morning for discussion and adoption on Friday afternoon;
- Dedicate both days to discussions, draft the report later, and adopt it by correspondence.

4.2 After some debate, the Chairman indicated that the option decided will depend on the progress of the discussions. In any case, the report will be drafted under the responsibility of the Chairman and will be a summary of the discussions, without a point by point account of the interventions of the Contracting Parties.

4.3 The Chairman then invited the delegations of the Contracting Parties and the observers to introduce themselves (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 5, List of Participants**) and present opening statements, if they so wished. He asked that these interventions be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, to be attached to the report (see **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 5**).

**5. Elements for integrated monitoring measures**

5.1 General outline of possible monitoring measures applicable to ICCAT. The Chairman suggested that the document presented by the European Community serve as a basis for the discussions and that the delegations indicate if other principles relative to the monitoring measures should be added.

5.2 The European Community presented its document and pointed out that, taking into account the ICCAT area and the diversity of the species, the following should be considered:

- Common measures applicable to all the fisheries.
- Specific elements of each fishery

5.3 As regards to the method, the EC does not propose a complete and detailed monitoring scheme in the form of a draft resolution, but a statement of the principal elements that it should contain, in order to reach agreement among the Contracting Parties and to assign priorities.

5.4 The discussions of the Working Group resulted in a document entitled "General Outline of Monitoring Measures Proposed by the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures" (attached as Appendix 4 to ANNEX 5).

5.5 However, the paragraphs or phrases in brackets [ ] reflect the opinion of some delegations, that some of these provisions go beyond the mandate of the Working Group.

5.6 Furthermore, the Working Group agreed that the list of monitoring measures included in section 3 of the document represents the instruments that could apply generally, or even on a case by case basis, in terms of the decisions adopted by the Commission.

5.7 In addition, it was agreed that, at a minimum, at-sea inspection (3) refers to:

- Monitoring carried out by the flag State on its vessels
- Monitoring carried out by a State, delegated by the flag State, according to *ad hoc* agreements.

However, some delegations considered that all types of monitoring carried out by a non-flag State should be considered.

5.8 Lastly, the Working Group noted that the International Plan of Action (IPOA) against IUU fishing (illegal, unregulated and unreported) is applicable to ICCAT Contracting Parties as well as to non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. The reference in section 4 of the document should not be interpreted as an impediment for its application to the members of ICCAT.

## 6. Implementation

6.1 The discussion on the Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishery, the draft text of which is attached to the *Resolution Concerning Preparation of a Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Fishery*, adopted at the 2000 Commission meeting, was made in relation to the elimination of IUU tuna longline fishing vessels. The Working Group agreed that the proposed Management Standard is an issue of particular urgency and should be discussed at the next Commission meeting as a matter of priority even before completion of development of integrated monitoring measures as a whole.

6.2 It was considered that this point did not require any further discussion, since it had already been discussed under item 5.

## 7. Future work program

7.1 The idea that a limited and information working group continue the work was rejected since this Working Group cannot make such a decision.

7.2 At the Commission plenary in November 2001, consideration of the draft outline, continuation and possible refinement of the mandate of this Working Group, and the establishment as needed of a an informal drafting group, will be requested.

## 8. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

**9. Date and place of the next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be decided at the Commission plenary in November 2001.

**10. Adoption of the report**

10.1 The document and the key elements of the report were discussed and adopted at the time of the meeting (see item 5).

10.2 The report was adopted by correspondence.

10.3 The end of the meeting was conducted in English, with no simultaneous translation in the other ICCAT working languages, and some delegations requested the final document in their own language for adoption.

**11. Adjournment**

The First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures adjourned on Friday, May 18, 2001.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 5**

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 3.1 Election of the Rapporteur
4. Organization of the sessions
5. Elements for integrated monitoring measures
6. Implementation
7. Future work program
8. Any other business
9. Date and place of the next meeting
10. Adoption of the report
11. Adjournment

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## Appendix 3 to ANNEX 5

### Opening Statements

#### **BY CONTRACTING PARTIES**

##### **Statement by Brazil**

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of ICCAT in Marrakech, Brazil joined the consensus regarding the establishment of this *Ad Hoc* Working Group. We are convinced that the monitoring of compliance with conservation measures is an essential element for the success of these measures.

According to its mandate, the main task of this *Ad Hoc* Working Group is to develop monitoring measures, in accordance with applicable international law. These relevant international instruments contain already specific language that will certainly provide answers to questions that will be raised in the course of our work. In our view, the provisions of these instruments referring to monitoring measures must be taken into account since they constitute the consensual outcome of negotiations among most of the countries represented here. The need to reach fruitful results without delay urges us all to avoid double efforts.

Once more, Brazil firmly trusts in this Group's capacity to find mutually satisfactory solutions through constructive, creative and flexible proposals, always on complementary and not opposing bases. The Brazilian Delegation, as usual, is ready to collaborate in the search for a way out to cooperation and partnership in order to reach every goal at which we are all aiming.

##### **Statement by Côte d'Ivoire**

We would like to congratulate the Chairman for his nomination to preside over this Working Group, and we would also like to thank the European Community for their hospitality in hosting this meeting.

The Côte d'Ivoire delegation is comprised of three people: Dr. Djobo Anvra Jeanson, Technical Advisor of MINAGRA and Head of the Delegation; Dr. Bombo Blaguet Noel, the Director of Fishery Production; and Mr. Malan Kouadio, Counsellor of the Côte d'Ivoire Embassy.

Briefly, I would like to say that my country is seriously committed to the principle of conservation, but above all, with the concept of durable conservation of the fishery resources. As such, we adhere to the principle of

establishing monitoring measures in order to oblige the Contracting Parties to abide by the rules of good management. However, no measure, regardless of how good it is, will have any success unless it is well applied. Therefore, I would hope that during the development and application of these measures, the needs and interests of developing countries are taken into account.

#### **Statement by the European Community**

The European Community is pleased to welcome you to this first meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on an integrated monitoring and inspection scheme, and wishes you a pleasant stay in Brussels.

Within the framework of regional fishery organization, the European Community considers that matters regarding inspection and monitoring are very important. The EC actively participates in the work on integrated monitoring schemes of other regional fishery organizations, such as NEAFC and NAFO.

In the case of ICCAT, it is true that there are some inspection and monitoring measures, but these do not, in our opinion, constitute a complete and coherent set of measures. Therefore, it is essential that these measures be revised and completed so that ICCAT will have a monitoring scheme that can respond to the increasing needs of the management of Atlantic tunas.

The development of international law and, in particular, the New York Agreement on highly migratory species that will soon enter into force, should motivate ICCAT to achieve an effective and appropriate monitoring scheme for the fisheries under its purview.

In this sense, such a scheme should include a set of measures that are permanently applicable to all the fisheries, which would constitute the basis of the scheme, and some measures that would be applicable on a case by case basis relative to cost/effect and the characteristics of the fisheries considered. In this respect, the European Community considers it would be desirable to resort, in particular, to new technologies.

It is important to recall that the success of such a scheme depends on its uniform implementation by all the Contracting Parties. It would be advisable to consider the needs of the developing countries, by means of active cooperation with such countries, so that they too might implement this scheme.

It is essential to develop the instruments to fight illegal fishing, especially in light of the Action Plan adopted by FAO to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU) and thus guarantee the future of the stocks and their sharing among the Parties that respect the rules of the game.

The Community hopes that this meeting is constructive. In effect, respect for the conservation measures and the adherence of all the Contracting Parties to an effective monitoring scheme is one of the crucial elements to assure that the management of the tuna stocks achieve results over the long term.

The success of our work in this group truly constitutes an essential condition for the development of the work next week concerning allocation criteria.

#### **Statement by Ghana**

It is the wish of the Ghanaian delegation that an effective and practical management and monitoring scheme that would be obeyed by all and sound be enacted.

This delegation would listen to commitments by all, which would not be lip service to the measurements that would be proposed, but would honestly comply with these measures in the face of all economic pressures.

The needs of the development industries of the coastal nations, it is hoped, would not be trampled upon, but, no doubt, be taken into serious consideration in the formulation and application of these measures.

Finally, it must be admitted that the ICCAT Secretariat does not have any tools with which to enforce the regulations which have so far been approved in the past. It is our hope that these new regulations would correct this anomaly.

#### **Statement by Japan**

I would like to thank the EC for hosting this meeting. I also thank the Secretariat staff for their preparation for the meeting. On this occasion, Japan would like to stress some major points on monitoring and control of fisheries.

One concerns the duty of flag States. The benefits of fishing need to be accompanied by duties of management, such as registering, licensing and monitoring of vessels. Without these measures, the flag States cannot manage their vessels and this can be used as a "loophole" in international fisheries management. It is necessary to establish a fair and equitable system by which all the Contracting Parties fully implement ICCAT management measures. Technically speaking, the following elements can be established: at-sea inspection, a licensing system, an observer program, a vessel monitoring system for large-scale vessels, and cooperative arrangements for the exchange of landing data.

Japan fully commits itself to work with developing member nations so that they can fulfill their obligations towards ICCAT conservation and management measures. The activities of large-scale longline vessels are the main part of IUU fishing in the Atlantic Ocean. ICCAT must act quickly. Otherwise our fish resources will be ruined. Many ex-IUU vessels try to obtain registrations from ICCAT member nations for their survival. Japan is willing to work with the coastal developing nations to eliminate IUU vessels.

Regarding the management standard of large-scale tuna longline vessels which was proposed at the last annual meeting, Japan has initiated bilateral talks with Brazil, China and the Philippines. These talks made some progress. We will present reports of those bilateral talks during this meeting. At a later stage, we will also introduce our proposal for a management standard.

Japan is keenly interested in the outcome of this meeting, which is being held prior to the meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. We need progress in the control and monitoring aspect before entering into discussions on the allocation criteria issue.

#### **Statement by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)**

The United Kingdom, in respect of its Overseas Territories (Anguilla, Bermuda, Falkland Islands, Turks and Caicos; and St. Helena) fully recognized the need for a mechanism that will help bring about a high degree of compliance with the ICCAT measures designed to conserve the Atlantic stocks of tuna and tuna-like fishes.

We are particularly cognizant of the role that an effective observation and inspection program can play in ensuring that ICCAT conservation measures are met in an equitable and transparent manner.

The United Kingdom, in respect of its Overseas Territories, looks forward to working with all other Contracting Parties in the development of an acceptable, reliable and effective program of integrated monitoring measures.

#### **Statement by the United States**

I cannot stress enough how deeply frustrated and disappointed the United States is regarding the lack of implementation by many Commission members of their monitoring, reporting, and control obligations. There seems to be a serious breakdown in the translation of Commission decisions into member actions. We sincerely hope the result of this first monitoring working group meeting will be a renewed commitment by ICCAT members to implement agreements already in place. We also fully support improving ICCAT's approaches to monitoring and control, where possible, and to making a coherent package out of the various ICCAT measures that relate to this issue. In doing these things, however, we must be very careful not to undermine current ICCAT agreements or any of the relevant provisions of recent international instruments in this field, including the Compliance

Agreement, the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing.

Finally, I would note that there is a linkage between this meeting and the Allocation Criteria Working Group meeting next week. Until we can sufficiently monitor and control our fisheries, including addressing the loss of ICCAT species to illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing and losses due to compliance problems, we will never fully recover and maintain stocks at levels consistent with the Convention. Without this ability, we will not be able to fulfill our obligations to our fishing communities, and it will be difficult to make room for fishing by future ICCAT members.

The United States looks forward to working with its ICCAT partners to clarify and strengthen the Commission's monitoring and control regime. We do not expect this to be an easy task, but it is one that must be done. The future of our stocks, of our fishermen, and of our organization depend upon it.

#### Appendix 4 to ANNEX 5

### General Outline of the Monitoring Measures Proposed by the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures

#### *NEEDS AND PRINCIPLES*

The monitoring measures should respond to the peculiarities of the different ICCAT areas and fisheries.

These measures should be applied by the Contracting Parties and by Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities.

Effective monitoring measures should embody a number of principles, namely:

- i* be consistent with the ICCAT Convention and existing relevant instruments of international law.
- ii* Evaluation of the current ICCAT measures and would complement them with possible new measures.
- iii* The general obligation to co-operate and a commitment to implement the following measures with transparency, taking into account national requirements for confidentiality.
- iv* Two types of measures should be applied:
  - Measures applicable to all fisheries. Measures concerning vessels would apply only to vessels beyond a certain size.
  - Measures applicable on a case-by-case basis to certain fisheries, taking cost/effectiveness into account.
- v* The measures should contribute to the improvement of the collection and timely transmission of statistics, for scientific as well as monitoring purposes.
- vi* The measures should provide a means to ensure compliance by both Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties, and to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the area under the mandate of ICCAT.
- vii* The special requirements of developing States should be fully recognized and that active co-operation should be established to facilitate the implementation of the measures by them.

Under these circumstances, the ICCAT monitoring measures could consist of the following basic components:

**1 Flag State duties**

The following monitoring measures should be taken by the Flag States in regard to vessels entitled to fly their flags in the ICCAT Convention area:

- i* Control of their vessels by:
  - a adopting measures so that their vessels comply with ICCAT measures and do not undermine these measures;
  - b authorizing their vessels to fish in the ICCAT area by means of fishing licenses, authorizations, or permits;
  - c ensuring they do not authorize vessels to fish in the ICCAT area unless they are able to effectively exercise their responsibilities to such vessels, including monitoring and controlling their fishing activities;
  - d ensuring that their vessels do not conduct unauthorized fishing within areas under the national jurisdiction of other States, through appropriate cooperation with coastal States concerned[, and other relevant means].
  - e requiring their vessels fishing on the high seas to carry the license, authorization or permit on board at all times and to produce it on demand for inspection by a duly authorized person.
- ii* Establishment of a record of national fishing vessels entitled to fly their flags and authorized to fish in the Convention Area and the vessels of third countries authorized under charter agreements, and transmission of this information to ICCAT.
- iii* Regulation of transshipment.
- iv* Measures regarding the operation and control of chartering.
- v* Requirements for recording and timely reporting of vessel position, catch of target and non target species, fishing effort and other relevant fisheries data including an estimate of discards, unless ICCAT stipulates otherwise. These data should be verified for certain fisheries by observer programs, where these programs have been adopted by the Commission.
- vi* Implementation of a vessel monitoring system (VMS)
- vii* [Measures to ensure that a flag State investigates and reports on actions taken in response to an alleged violation by a vessel.]<sup>1</sup>

**2 Obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities**

The obligations of the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities should include:

- i* Provide ICCAT, in the manner and at such regular intervals as may be required by ICCAT, compliance reports and information concerning its fishing activities, including fishing area and fishing vessels, in order to facilitate the compilation of reliable fishing statistics (catch, effort, size samples, etc.), and the effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation measures.

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1. No agreement reached.



- ii* Comply with all conservation and management measures.

(Points iii, iv, v, vi, and vii have been eliminated.)

### [3 Compliance and enforcement ]<sup>2</sup>

The Contracting Parties, through the Commission, shall establish an observation and inspection program to ensure compliance with the conservation and management measures in the ICCAT area.

The program may *inter alia* comprise the following elements:

- i* High seas inspection.
- ii* [Provisions for appropriate action to be taken in case where inspections reveal serious violations as well as expedient and transparent follow-up of such actions in order to uphold the Flag State's responsibility within the intended scheme.]<sup>2</sup>
- iii* [Provisions for violations procedures.]<sup>2</sup> Each Contracting Party ensures an effective follow-up to the investigation of the violation enquiry, including the appointment of relevant authorities to receive the evidence of violations.
- iv* Port inspections.
- v* Monitoring of landing and catches.
- vi* [Implementation of a system to monitor the usage of the quotas assigned and halting fishing activities in case of exhausting all fishing possibilities] <sup>1</sup>
- vii* Specific monitoring programs determined by ICCAT, including boarding and inspection procedures.
- viii* Observer programs.

#### **4 A program to promote compliance by vessels of non-cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities**

Further to the measures already taken by ICCAT, examine measures consistent with international law to deter activities of such vessels which undermine the effectiveness of ICCAT recommendations.

- Implementation of all the relevant elements of the FAO's IPOA on IUU fishing.
- [Prohibition of landings by vessels of non-cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities that do not comply with the ICCAT recommendations.]<sup>2</sup>

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2. Some delegations considered this went beyond the mandate of the Working Group.

**REPORT OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ICCAT AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA**  
(Brussels, Belgium – May 21 to 23, 2001)

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

1.1 The Third Meeting of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria was held at the Albert Borschette Conference Center, from May 21 to May 23, 2001, at the invitation of the European Community. The Acting Commission Chairman, Mr. Srour, opened the meeting. Delegations from the following Contracting Parties: Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, France (on behalf of St-Pierre et Miquelon), Gabon, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Russian Federation, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, and Uruguay, as well as the following observers: Argentina, Chinese Taipei, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Faroe Islands (Denmark), Iceland, Malta, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, FAO, CARICOM, Forum Fisheries Agency, IATTC, OLDEPESCA, GREENPEACE, and ITSAS GEROA, attended the meeting. The Acting Commission Chairman expressed appreciation to the European Community on behalf of ICCAT for hosting this meeting, and welcomed the Contracting Parties.

1.2 The Acting Commission Chairman noted that the question of allocation criteria is delicate and complex. Nonetheless, he expressed his desire that the goodwill and initiative of all would allow the Working Group to achieve its goal of agreeing on allocation criteria, so that ICCAT can fulfill its mandate as to the management of tuna and tuna-like species.

## **2. Election of Chairman**

2.1 Following a meeting of Head Delegates of all Contracting Parties, the meeting reconvened at 16:00. Moved by South Africa and seconded by the United States, Japan and Morocco, Mr. Carlos Dominguez of the European Community was elected Chairman.

2.2 The Chairman noted that Parties had agreed that a Drafting Panel be formed to help him draft a document outlining the allocation criteria, based on the outcome of discussions at the Working Group meeting. The Panel (or "Friends of the Chair") consisted of: Mr. Fabio Vieira Hazin of Brazil, Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa of Japan, Mr. Abdeslam Fahfouhi of Morocco, and Mr. David Balton of the United States.

2.3 The Chairman expressed his thanks for the confidence Parties had shown in electing him and highlighted the difficulty of the task ahead, given the number of sensitive issues. He noted that in order to succeed he would need the help and collaboration of all Contracting Parties.

## **3. Selection of Rapporteur**

Ms. Sylvie Lapointe of Canada was nominated Rapporteur.

## **4. Adoption of the Agenda**

4.1 The Chairman referred the Working Group to the tentative agenda proposed by Morocco. Morocco requested that the Working Group first examine the Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria (item #6) and then review any new documents pertaining to that Report (item #7). Morocco further suggested that an item #9 "Schemes for weighting the allocation criteria" be added to the agenda.

4.2 South Africa noted that some minor wording changes would clarify the purposes of this meeting. The Delegate from South Africa proposed that items #6 and #7 be combined into one single item which would focus on the consideration of any developments since last year's meeting – "New documents relating to work of the group". Further, item #8 should read "Discussion of allocation criteria proposals" and as the four sub-items should not be afforded any implied priority, they should be labeled with bullets, instead of numbering. Lastly, item #9 should be deleted since this would in fact be subsumed in item #8.

4.3 With the above noted changes suggested by South Africa, the agenda was adopted (**Appendix I to ANNEX 6**).

## **5. Opening statements**

5.1 Given the need to focus on key agenda topics, Parties agreed to forego presenting their opening statements, and instead to give them to the Secretariat for circulation in the original language. The Opening Statements are attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6** to the Report.

5.2 The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6**.

## **6. New documents relating to the work of the Group**

6.1 The Chairman drew the Working Group's attention to the following documents submitted prior to the meeting: "Draft U.S.-Canada Text to serve as basis for discussion at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria" (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 6**); "Japanese Proposal on Allocation Criteria" (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6**); Trinidad and Tobago Position Document (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 6**); and a letter addressed by Canada and the U.S. to Heads of Delegations concerning ICCAT Recommendations on Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna and South Atlantic Swordfish (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 6**).

6.2 The European Community stated that in the spirit of compromise they would be willing to accept the U.S.-Canada text as the basis of discussions, despite the existence of last year's Chairman's paper.

6.3 Both Morocco and Japan agreed that the U.S.-Canada text was a useful document for moving forward since it accurately reflected all points of view expressed at the previous two Working Group meetings. It was further noted that the Japanese proposal could be discussed under the appropriate item in the U.S.-Canada text.

6.4 The United States provided some background with respect to the U.S.-Canada text. The delegate from the United States explained that the document was not intended to advance the particular views of either delegation, but simply to facilitate discussions, by grouping some criteria in order to come to an agreement more easily, and providing footnotes to explain some of the criteria, and square brackets to denote areas where consensus had not been reached. It was further noted that the Canada-U.S. letter (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 6**) regarding eastern bluefin and southern swordfish was not intended to be discussed at this meeting.

6.5 Brazil expressed its satisfaction with the U.S.-Canada text as it reflected progress and noted that it did not agree with the Chairman's paper from last year. Brazil also noted its sympathy for Trinidad and Tobago position paper.

6.6 Delegations agreed to work on the basis of the U.S.-Canada text, and per the Chair's suggestion, agreed to postpone discussion of the document's structure until arriving at a better idea of the elements.

## 7. Discussion on allocation criteria proposals

### I. Qualifying Criteria

#### 1. Be a Contracting Party [in good standing] [or a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity].

7.1 Discussion proceeded on the concept of "in good standing".

7.2 Several delegations, notably Brazil, Morocco, Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, stated that they were not in favor of the concept as a necessary condition to qualifying for quotas. The term "good standing" was understood to mean not being in arrears in the payment of dues. Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago and Namibia stated that this concept was inherently unfair in its approach, as developing States would probably be more likely to be in arrears than developed States. Furthermore, Brazil and Morocco felt that this should not be included in qualifying criteria since there already exist other legal instruments, the ICCAT Convention and other venues (the Commission), to deal with Parties not in good standing.

7.3 Other delegations, such as the European Community, Japan, the United States and Canada strongly supported the concept of "in good standing". While understanding the needs of developing States, the European Community expressed the notion that Parties have both rights and obligations, and that those obligations must be met before Parties can be entitled to harvesting rights. The European Community noted that other instruments (the Madrid Protocol) existed to deal with these difficulties and stated that the Working Group was not the venue to deal with developing state difficulties. The European Community further noted that there was a precedent for the concept of "good standing" in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, where harvest quotas for two States in arrears were redistributed.

7.4 The United States viewed the phrase "in good standing" as ambiguous and noted that it was reasonable to link timely payment of dues to access to resource; however, it proposed that this concept could be moved and included in Section III, paragraph D of the U.S.-Canada text. Canada agreed with the United States. The European Community stated that the concept of being "in good standing" fits best under qualifying criteria.

7.5 The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) suggested that "good standing" should not just be about money, and that it should include many more obligations, for example compliance with ICCAT management measures. Namibia echoed the idea that "good standing" should include a number of things beyond finances. The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) also suggested using "eligibility" rather than "qualifying" to refer to the need to be a Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party/Entity/Fishing Entity to receive quota.

7.6 Morocco intervened to note that "being a Contracting Party in accordance with Articles IX and X of the ICCAT Convention" would address all issues raised with respect to "good standing", since being a Contracting Party to ICCAT means complying with all ICCAT Convention measures. Brazil agreed that being a Contracting Party means respecting all articles of the Convention and for that reason did not see a need to refer to certain articles or being "in good standing".

7.7 South Africa questioned why a Contracting Party in bad standing would be treated differently than a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. South Africa suggested that on the one hand, there is a Contracting Party (in good standing or bad standing), and on the other hand that sub-paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 be taken into consideration in weighing allocation to Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. Canada indicated that subparagraphs 2, 3 and 4 should apply to Contracting Parties as well; the European Community agreed.

7.8 There was general agreement among delegations to delete the square brackets around "Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity". However, Japan stated that there should be a difference between "Contracting Party" and "Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity" in order to provide an incentive for the latter to become full members of ICCAT. Canada agreed that the criteria should apply to all; but, as Japan noted, some differentiation should be made. The United States recalled that there is one fishing entity not eligible to become a Contracting Party and noted that needed to be addressed.

7.9 The United States indicated that this is a threshold concept to determine eligibility for possible quota allocations. The delegate from the United States suggested that panels would decide on a case by case basis who should receive quota allocations. The panels may decide that Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties be treated differently.

7.10 In summarizing the discussions, the Chairman outlined the two positions with respect to the concept of "good standing", noting that a possible solution would be to include "good standing" as one of the obligations of Contracting Parties in accordance with the Convention. He further noted that while the view had been expressed that Non-Contracting Parties not be excluded per se, that some difference should be made between Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties.

- 2. Be committed to apply the conservation and management measures of ICCAT [as demonstrated by past application and enforcement of those measures].**

7.11 A number of delegations noted that by virtue of being a Contracting Party, states are committed to apply ICCAT's conservation and management measures. The United States noted that criteria 2, 3 and 4 are subjective and suggested they were best merged with allocation criteria and evaluated by the panels. The United States noted that it believed that those who had not complied in the past did not have a strong claim to quota. South Africa responded that it had viewed decisions as to these criteria as implied collective decisions and believed that the criteria were best placed in Section I.

7.12 Brazil suggested merging criteria 2 and 3 into one criterion and expressed its wish that this criterion remain under Qualifying Criteria.

7.13 The European Community intervened to state that this criterion was an important filter, to ensure that those countries seeking quotas know that merely joining ICCAT is not sufficient to qualify for access to quotas. Japan agreed and noted that attendance at the Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures (May 17-18) was weak and that Parties must have the ability to apply or implement management and conservation measures before being eligible to receive quota. South Africa also supported having this criterion remain under Qualifying Criteria and not be included later in Allocation Criteria, as suggested by Morocco.

7.14 Delegations agreed to merge criteria 2 and 3 and decided to remove the word "demonstrated". Brazil and the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) viewed "demonstrated" as a difficult test for new members to meet. South Africa, however, had suggested that "committed to apply" was very different from actual application. Canada remarked that by deleting "demonstrated", the burden of proof becomes the Commission's responsibility, instead of the State's.

- 3. Have a demonstrated ability to collect and report data for the relevant resources and, taking into account their respective capacities, to conduct scientific research on those resources.**

7.15 This was merged with paragraph 2, as noted above.

- 4. Have [a real interest in the fishery. This would include the existence of] a domestic fishing fleet capable of fishing for the stocks to be allocated or a fully-fledged plan [submitted to ICCAT] to develop such a fleet.**

7.16 Brazil proposed that this paragraph be deleted since the term "real interest" is ambiguous, difficult to define and confusing. The delegate from Brazil pointed out that to link allocation to a domestic fishing fleet capable of fishing was discriminatory against developing States who have no quota. He questioned how a country could have a plan to develop a fishing fleet if they have no quota.

7.17 The European Community, while recognizing the rights of coastal States, indicated that this paragraph was crucial as quotas should only go to States which are able to or have presented a plan to develop a fleet to fish the stocks themselves.

7.18 South Africa stated it had a number of difficulties with this paragraph and also proposed that it be deleted. The delegate from South Africa expressed particular concern with the meaning of the phrase "domestic fishing fleet", wondering whether this meant big, small or medium sized vessels and indicated that this was crucial given the rights linked to subsistence fishery of these resources. South Africa suggested that "real interest" was self-defined and that no State would be participating in the Working Group unless it had a real interest.

7.19 Trinidad and Tobago, Angola, the United States, Tunisia and Morocco all supported the deletion of this paragraph.

7.20 Japan proposed that this paragraph remain in square brackets, and that if concerns regarding the trading and selling of quotas were addressed satisfactorily in Section IV of the U.S.-Canada text, it could be deleted at that time.

7.21 The European Community strongly expressed concern regarding the trading of quotas and the need to eliminate this practice. The delegate from the European Community stated that this paragraph is not intended to suppress the rights of developing States, but rather to enhance them.

7.22 Canada noted that it also had some difficulties with this criterion and the definition of "real interest". Canada suggested that the seeking of quota for purposes of sale and trading is an issue which could be fully addressed under Section IV, and that by deleting this paragraph we could avoid placing constraints on the legitimate interests of developing coastal States. The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) concurred.

7.23 The observers from Mexico, Norway and Iceland intervened to note that the concept of "real interest" did not belong in Qualifying Criteria since a Party that has the resource in its exclusive economic zone must have a right to the resource.

7.24 In response, the United States pointed out that ICCAT should not have the responsibility to distribute resources to non-members, merely because the State is a coastal State. The onus is on the Non-Contracting Party to become a Contracting Party if they wish to obtain an ICCAT quota. The delegate from the United States questioned the point of having ICCAT at all, if coastal States could simply fish the stock. Japan and France (on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon) agreed.

7.25 Trinidad and Tobago stated that further to Article 64 of UNCLOS and Article 8 of UNFA, the rights of coastal States are an important consideration in establishing allocation criteria. Trinidad and Tobago further suggested that status as a coastal State in the Convention Area should be a qualifying criterion.

7.26 South Africa noted that a coastal State has the duty to cooperate with an international organization. The delegate from South Africa expressed concern that if coastal States, which are Non-Contracting Parties are excluded, the Commission cannot engage with them nor cooperate with them.

7.27 In summarizing the discussions, the Chairman noted parties generally agreed that reference to the concept of "real interest" should be deleted. He noted that many delegations accepted that the intention of this paragraph could be moved to Section IV of the U.S.-Canada text. He proposed, however, that this paragraph remain as a reminder that the problem needs to be resolved either in this section or somewhere else.

7.28 The Chairman also addressed the idea of making coastal State status a qualifying factor. He suggested that the problem of including such a factor would mean that even if a State is not a Contracting Party or a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, it should be entitled to quotas. He proposed that no specific reference be made to coastal States in qualifying criteria.

7.29 South Africa proposed that "including coastal States, which cooperate with ICCAT" be inserted after the wording in paragraph 1 of qualifying criteria, since ICCAT cannot manage the stocks it is responsible for unless it has the cooperation of States who have the stocks migrating through their waters, be they Contracting Parties or Non-Contracting Parties.

7.30 The European Community, the United States and France (on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon) disagreed with the position put forward by the delegate from South Africa, and stated that ICCAT has already defined the terms of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties.

7.31 South Africa expressed its concern that, because of procedure, it takes some time for a coastal State to be assigned a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status (despite the best of intentions), and that a coastal State, for whatever reason, may not wish to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, and will work outside the ICCAT system. South Africa stated that it wished to avoid a situation where there is no incentive for a coastal State to work within the system.

## **II. Stocks to which the new criteria would be applied**

7.32 South Africa stated that the criteria should be applied to all stocks when TACs are negotiated. The delegate from South Africa noted that certain allocations are in existence at the moment, and that it was inappropriate to change these mid-course. South Africa proposed the following text: "These criteria shall apply to all stocks allocated by ICCAT, as and when sharing arrangements for such stocks are negotiated or reviewed".

7.33 The European Community noted that even though this was a very sensitive issue for them, they were prepared to make a substantial change to their previous position as expressed at last year's Working Group meeting. The delegate from the European Community stated that the European Community could accept wording that "These criteria shall apply to *in general* to all stocks allocated by ICCAT". The delegate also noted that the criteria should be applied in a gradual manner so as to avoid the provocation of any problems.

7.34 Brazil, Morocco, Namibia, and the United States welcomed the European Community's flexibility but they indicated that inclusion of the term "in general" was not acceptable.

7.35 Canada proposed that the allocation criteria should immediately apply to stocks that are unallocated. It suggested that where sharing arrangements exist, once that sharing arrangement expires or is renegotiated, the new criteria would apply. It further noted that where stocks are at a low level of abundance and rebuilding programs are in place, there should be no immediate adjustment of sharing arrangements. Once stocks rebuild, the new criteria would apply to allocate increased catches, thereby suggesting a phased approach. Canada agreed with the United States proposal that concerns regarding the status of the stocks and any rebuilding plans in place could be dealt with in Section III of the U.S.-Canada text.

7.36 Japan welcomed the European Community's change of position and agreed that the new criteria should apply to all ICCAT species. The delegate from Japan stressed the fact that sacrifices must be made by those who already have quota to allow opportunities for newcomers. However, due consideration should be given to current allocation keys and to any rebuilding programs in place for certain species. Japan suggested that there should be gradual application of new criteria to stocks already allocated.

7.37 Morocco disagreed with Canada and Japan, and stated that no distinction should be made when applying the new criteria.

7.38 The European Community insisted that the inclusion of the term "in general" did not exclude any stock, but rather allowed for the criteria to be correctly applied as Canada and Japan stated by the panels, on a case by case basis.

7.39 The Chairman intervened to note that some comments made by delegations addressed other sections of the U.S.-Canada text, and that the following should be kept in mind during our discussions: (1) stocks to which criteria apply; (2) which criteria apply; and (3) how the criteria will be applied.

7.40 The observer from Mexico stated that the criteria should apply to all stocks. The observer from Iceland further noted that this should be done as soon as possible, since certain States currently feel there is no incentive to become Contracting Parties to ICCAT.

7.41 The Chairman further noted that there appeared to be agreement that the criteria should apply to all stocks, and that this application would take place when existing sharing arrangements are revised or applied to unallocated stocks. The request to consider gradual application (easing of transition between old and new keys) and the consideration of the status of the stocks (rebuilding plans, in particular) remain unresolved. However, he noted these issues will be discussed in Sections III and IV of the U.S.-Canada text.

7.42 Brazil noted that the application of this new criteria should take place not only upon a change in sharing arrangement but also upon a change in TAC.

7.43 The delegate from the United States expressed concern with one observers' comments that the difficulty the organization has faced in grappling with criteria justifies their staying out of ICCAT. He asserted that it is incumbent on coastal States to cooperate and not make demands on the organization. The United States suggested there are rights and obligations in both directions.

### **III. Allocation Criteria**

#### **A. Criteria Relating to Past/Present Fishing Activity of Qualifying Participants**

##### **1. Historical catches of qualifying participants**

7.44 Namibia expressed difficulty in accepting this criterion since those that can claim catch history have brought the stock to extinction. Notwithstanding, the delegate from Namibia suggested that this criterion could now be acceptable, as long as it was not assigned preferential weight.

7.45 Trinidad and Tobago indicated that this criterion should be excluded since this would avoid rewarding those countries with historical catches that have over-fished and overcapitalized.

7.46 The European Community stressed that this criterion is of paramount importance. The delegate from the European Community acknowledged that it is one criterion among many, but asserted the view that this was the predominant criterion to be taken into consideration.

7.47 Brazil noted that in the spirit of compromise it could accept this criterion, provided that it was not viewed as having a greater weight than any other criteria.

7.48 Canada agreed that historical catch was a legitimate criterion to be included but that it was not appropriate to deal with weighting here. It was noted that discussions will occur in each panel about the importance of this criterion and the appropriate time frame for historical catch, on a species by species basis. Japan and the United States agreed that a prolonged debate on weighting would be unconstructive at this time.

7.49 The European Community reiterated its view that historical catch is the primary allocation criteria, while other delegations (Brazil, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Uruguay) stated that it should not have any higher consideration than other criteria. Morocco suggested that those States with historical catches have contributed to the over-exploitation of stocks, and should instead be penalized in a new allocation criteria scheme. The European Community indicated that it was unacceptable to judge States with historical catches since their catches were in accordance with the rules established by ICCAT. Furthermore, the delegate from the European Community stated that it was unreasonable to expect States to disrupt fisheries with large, abrupt changes.

7.50 In summary, the Chairman indicated that there was agreement among delegations that historical catches must be maintained as a criterion and that one delegation insisted that this criterion is paramount over others. However, debate with respect to weighting should be considered in Section IV of the U.S.-Canada text, as well as questions relating to the gradual implementation of measures, which were referred to in the course of this discussion on this agenda item.



**2. The fishing [methods] [patterns] [practices] [traditions] of the qualifying participants.**

7.51 Brazil proposed that this criterion should follow the wording in Article 11(b) of the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFA): "Interests, fishing patterns, and fishing practices of qualifying participants".

7.52 Several delegations, including the United States, Canada and South Africa suggested that this criterion be deleted since its intent is vague and unclear. Other delegations, including the European Community and Japan, argued that it had merit and should remain.

7.53 The Chairman noted that since there was no complete agreement to delete this criterion, the paragraph would remain as revised Brazilian wording, pending further review. However, as there was no opposition to doing so, text from Article 11(b) of UNFA would be used.

**B. Criteria relating to the Status of the Stock(s) to be Allocated and the Fisheries**

**3. Status of the stock(s) to be allocated [in relation to maximum sustainable catch] and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery [with respect to new Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities].**

7.54 The United States proposed removing the brackets around the phrase "in relation to maximum sustainable catch" since this is consistent with the ICCAT Convention. The United States stated that it is imperative that rebuilding stocks are protected (i.e. western Atlantic bluefin tuna and north Atlantic swordfish). For over-fished stocks, the delegate from the United States indicated that allocation to new members should not occur until catch quotas are increasing. Therefore, he suggested that the following be inserted after "fishery": "taking into account any rebuilding plan that may be in effect". Canada, Japan, and South Africa all supported the amendment proposed by the United States.

7.55 South Africa indicated that it had some difficulty with the term "maximum sustainable catch", despite its use in the preamble of the ICCAT Convention, since it could cause some confusion with respect to interpretation and proposed instead that the following alternative be considered: "in relation to an agreed reference point".

7.56 The United States suggested using maximum sustainable yield or in its absence an agreed alternative biological reference point.

7.57 The European Community preferred that the term "maximum sustainable catch" be adopted, since this is a concept used in ICCAT Recommendations and it is the defined management objective in the Preamble to the ICCAT Convention. Furthermore, this term is defined and easy to implement. The delegate from the European Community also opposed the reference to rebuilding plans, noting that there may be stressed stocks subject to limited catches which are not subject to rebuilding plans.

7.58 South Africa pointed out that reference points exist which are not MSY concepts. By using the word "agreed", it would be left open that better methods may exist. The objective of the Convention is not being reinvented. The delegate from South Africa noted we are simply improving it, as science becomes better and additional knowledge is gained. Brazil indicated its preference was to delete the reference to maximum sustainable catch because it is subsumed in consideration of the status of the stock.

7.59 As proposed by Japan, delegations agreed to delete the last part of the paragraph in brackets referring to Contracting Parties/Cooperating Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities since this was implicit.

7.60 The delegate from Brazil, supported by the observer from Mexico, requested that the report reflect its view that the criterion's reference to taking into account rebuilding plans does not mean that new members cannot share in fisheries subject to rebuilding plans.

4. [If, appropriate to the fishery in question,] [the biological characteristics of the stocks(s), and] [the relationships between the distribution of the stock(s), the fisheries, and the geographical [particularities] [characteristics] of the region concerned] [, including the extent to which the stock(s) occur or are fished in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas].

7.61 Japan proposed that this entire paragraph be deleted noting that occurrence of stocks in waters under national jurisdiction is already taken account of in criterion #8.

7.62 Brazil noted emphatically that this paragraph was most important as it deals with the compatibility of conservation and management measures. Coastal States and distant water fishing States must cooperate and this is exactly what this paragraph requires. The delegate from Brazil proposed the following wording, in accordance with Article 7(2)(d) of UNFA: "The biological characteristics of the stocks and the relationships between the distribution of the stocks, the fisheries, and the geographical particularities of the region concerned, including the extent to which the stocks occur or are fished in areas under national jurisdiction".

7.63 Both the United States and the European Community indicated that Article 7(2)(d) of UNFA was drafted not in the context of allocation, but rather to deal with compatibility of measures inside the 200-mile zone and on the high seas. The delegate from the European Community further noted that this criterion has enormous practical difficulties with respect to implementation since tuna stocks are extremely variable in their migration and distribution.

7.64 Brazil stated that the technical aspects of all the criteria would need to be examined carefully later. The delegate from Brazil noted his reluctance to change agreed texts (e.g. UNFA). Nevertheless, he expressed his flexibility on the wording of the text, as long as the meaning was the same, since this is a crucial paragraph for Brazil.

7.65 South Africa proposed the following wording: "distribution and biological characteristics of the stocks, including the extent to which the stocks occur in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas".

7.66 The delegate from Canada agreed with South Africa's proposal and noted that there needs to be some recognition of the fact that stocks occur in the zone of a Contracting Party. However, he did recognize that this would be difficult to implement, as highly migratory stocks have a variable distribution from one year to the next and science does not have a great deal of information in this regard. He suggested that this criterion should not be based on a proportional biomass distribution, but rather on whether or not the stocks occur in the zone of a Contracting Party.

7.67 The United States agreed with both South Africa and Canada but it suggested that the term "extent" not be used since this was a quantifying term, and instead proposed that the criterion state "whether or not the stocks occur".

7.68 Japan intervened to state general agreement with South Africa's proposal but that the record should explain that this criterion did not indicate that there would be a proportional division of the TAC between EEZs and the high seas.

7.69 The European Community stated that the paragraph should be deleted since its application would entail practical and substantive difficulties.

7.70 South Africa proposed that "extent" be replaced by the phrase "occurrence of stocks" and suggested that this would address the difficulty of quantifiable division, as highlighted by Canada.

7.71 While Brazil, Morocco and South Africa supported the South Africa's original proposal, Japan, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago agreed with South Africa's second proposal. The European Community indicated it could not accept South Africa's first proposal but that it would examine the second proposal with great care. The Chair indicated that both alternatives would be kept for the time being.

*C. Criteria Relating to the Status of the Qualifying Participants*

**5. The interests of artisanal [, subsistence] [small-scale] fishers.**

7.72 Several delegations, including Japan, the United States and Canada, indicated that the term "small-scale" should be removed since there was no clear definition of this term. By way of illustration, Canada noted that under a common definition of small-scale vessels being those less than 24 m in length, the vast majority of the Canadian fleet would be considered small-scale. The European Community wished to retain the reference to "small-scale" but delete the reference to "artisanal".

7.73 While South Africa proposed that this criterion and criterion #7 could be subsumed in a slightly revised criterion #6, other delegations, such as Morocco, Brazil, the observer from Mexico, the observer from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago stated that all three terms – "artisanal", "subsistence" and "small-scale" – should be retained in an independent criterion, since they each refer to a separate category of fishers.

**6. The needs of coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks.**

7.74 The Chairman noted that this criterion did not include any brackets and therefore had been agreed to at the last Working Group meeting. There was no change to this criterion from the U.S.-Canada text.

**7. The needs of the coastal States whose economies [largely depend] [are overwhelmingly dependent] on the exploitation of the living marine resources regulated by ICCAT.**

7.75 Japan proposed that criteria 6, 7 and 8 should be merged as 6a), b) and c) and apply only to new participants, consistent with language in UNFA Article 11. However, the European Community, Canada, Gabon, Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago indicated that they should be kept separate, as each referred to different concepts.

7.76 Namibia indicated that it did not agree with terms "regulated by ICCAT" and the observer from Iceland asserted that the phrase had been included in error. The United States indicated that the wording was correct and should remain, since the dependence of States on resources not managed by ICCAT is irrelevant. The delegate from the United States further noted that its overall preference was to reduce the number of criteria and thereby simplify the process. He concluded that the current criteria tend to tilt toward those that had not had allocation in the past and that there needed to be a better balance. Japan agreed with this latter point, and reserved its right to propose new paragraphs to balance between the interests of coastal and fishing States.

7.77 Some delegations, including Morocco and the observer from Mexico, expressed their preference for the wording "largely depend" and others, such as Canada and Japan, suggested that "overwhelmingly dependent" be retained, since it was consistent with language in UNFA. The Moroccan delegate noted that as it was the only Contracting Party questioning the use of "overwhelming", he would withdraw his objection. The Chairman noted that the phrase "overwhelmingly dependent" would be retained and that the phrase "regulated by ICCAT" would be placed in square brackets.

**8. The interests of the developing States from the region or sub-region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur.**

7.78 It was agreed that the word "also" be deleted.

7.79 The European Community vigorously supported this criterion.

7.80 Japan indicated that it could agree with the criteria in 6, 7, and 8 provided its proposal to balance the interests of fishing States and non-fishing States was accepted. The delegate from Japan proposed the following, as per Article 116 of UNCLOS: "The rights and needs of the qualified participants to engage in fishing on the high seas for the stocks to be allocated". The delegate from Brazil stated that it would need time to analyze this proposal. The Chairman indicated the Working Group would return to it.

**9. The respective dependence on the stock(s) of the coastal States and of the States that fish species regulated by ICCAT.**

7.81 It was noted that there was a mistake in the U.S.-Canada text and that the word "other" should be included before the phrase "States that fish species regulated by ICCAT".

7.82 Japan presented its proposal that the following be added at the end of the paragraph: "...and cooperation and contribution of the latter States for the sustainable fishery development of the former States". The delegate from Japan noted that Japan has been working for the conservation of tuna stocks, and that the current state of stocks is the responsibility of ICCAT as a whole. He concluded by indicating that Japan is willing to contribute to the development of coastal States.

7.83 China (P.R.), Brazil, South Africa, and Morocco noted their appreciation for the intent of Japan's proposal. South Africa further indicated that it has the effect of rewarding States with the financial ability to provide funds with additional quota, and this was unacceptable. China (P.R.) viewed the proposal as unacceptable for similar reasons.

7.84 The United States observed that it had been able to agree to criteria 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the understanding that criterion 9 would be agreed to in order to achieve a more balanced set of criteria. Brazil indicated that it felt criterion 9 should be deleted since it was not useful. However, the delegate from Brazil agreed to maintain the original criterion #9 for balance. Canada, the European Community, Angola, and France (on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon) all agreed that this criterion as it appeared in the U.S.-Canada text should remain as it provided a useful balance to this section.

7.85 Japan suggested that some consideration should be given to the concept of cooperation in allocation criteria, but not as a reward. The delegate from Japan withdrew its earlier proposal and noted that it would be reworded to express its intent more clearly. Brazil expressed appreciation for Japan's cooperation efforts, indicating that they should be promoted and pursued.

7.86 The Chairman noted there was agreement in keeping criterion 9 as it is, with the addition of the word "other".

**10. The economic importance of the fishery for qualifying participants and the need to minimize the economic disruptions in those States, whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention Area.**

7.87 Brazil pointed out that the second part of this paragraph was taken out of context from UNCLOS Article 62(3), the text of which refers to "exclusive economic zones", not "Convention Area". The delegate from Brazil further noted that this paragraph refers to the gradual, phased implementation of the criteria, and that parties had agreed to discuss this later on in Section IV.

7.88 Trinidad and Tobago expressed the view that this paragraph be deleted since economic interests had already been dealt with in criterion 7, and this was an attempt to reward countries that had historically over-fished the stocks and overcapitalized harvest capacity.

7.89 The United States expressed its concern that parties had expressed opposition to this paragraph. The delegate from the United States noted that the paragraph did not have any square brackets and that it had been previously discussed at length. He reiterated the need for balance in the allocation criteria, and urged the adoption of this criterion.

7.90 Morocco, South Africa, Brazil and Japan indicated that this paragraph was addressing two different ideas: gradualism and the economic importance of the fishery. It was suggested that the former should be moved to Section IV and that the first part of the paragraph be retained here.

7.91 Parties agreed to square bracket the second part of the paragraph and to the proposal by Morocco that the words "and/or social" be inserted after "economic".

**11. [The dependence on the fishery for direct consumption.] [The need to supply domestic markets.]**

7.92 South Africa suggested that this paragraph included two separate ideas – food security and economic stability. The delegate from South Africa endorsed the first idea but expressed reservations regarding the second, since it was not convinced it was WTO consistent. South Africa stated that this paragraph did not belong in the document. Brazil and Morocco agreed and Brazil further noted that the right to fish should not be related to the size of a participant's domestic market.

7.93 The European Community stated that this was a very important criterion, which reflected the traditions of certain States. The delegate from the European Community expressed his wish to keep the first sentence since it already existed in other regional fisheries management organizations, and to delete the second. Japan and the United States agreed.

7.94 Several delegations, including Tunisia, Uruguay, Morocco and South Africa, intervened to state that this paragraph was not acceptable as it penalized those States that do not have the capacity for domestic consumption. Japan and the European Community noted that not all of the criteria benefit all members but that this could not be used as a basis to reject criteria.

7.95 The United States indicated that this criterion dealt with a food security issue and should be retained and suggested it be reworded as follows: "The importance of the fishery to direct domestic consumption." Brazil agreed with the concept and proposed instead the following wording: "Importance of the fishery for food security."

7.96 Morocco, supported by France (on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon) and Japan, proposed adding "and employment" after "domestic consumption".

7.97 Canada intervened to note that paragraph 11 needs to maintain a focus on the issue of domestic consumption. Adding any notion of economic or social characteristics would be inappropriate, as these issues have been covered elsewhere. The delegate from Canada further indicated that the reference to "importance of the fishery" was unclear, since the fishery could mean any stock of fish. He proposed the following: "Importance of catches of ICCAT managed stocks to direct domestic consumption."

7.98 The Chairman indicated he had assumed that "fishery" is more specific than the Canadian proposal since it refers to the stock currently being allocated. The Chair inquired if other delegates shared the Chair's understanding and noted that several delegates were nodding assent.

7.99 Canada stressed the importance of clarity and noted that the wording of paragraph 11, as it currently stands, could have different interpretations. The delegate from Canada stated that the more precise we are, the more lasting and practical the criteria will be. Canada suggested inserting "being allocated" after fishery. Tunisia and the European Community agreed. South Africa disagreed and suggested "Dependence on the fishery of the stock concerned..."

7.100 The Chairman summarized the discussions. He noted that Parties agreed to delete the second sentence, and at Morocco's suggestion, to change "dependence" to "contribution". He also observed that three possible alternatives had been proposed: "the fishery", "catches of ICCAT managed stocks" and "fishery for stock concerned". Finally, he noted there had been no consensus on whether the terms "direct consumption", "food security", and/or "and to employment" should be used.

**12. [(Potential) socio-economic contribution of the fisheries to the developing coastal States, especially small island developing States.]**

7.101 The delegate from the United States indicated that he had difficulties with the use of the word "potential". He further noted that "developing" and "coastal" are different concepts and that the socio-economic aspects had been dealt with in previous criteria. The element from paragraph 12, which perhaps had not been included elsewhere was that of small island developing States. The United States delegate suggested moving that concept to paragraph 8 and deleting criterion 12. The European Community and Canada concurred.

7.102 South Africa questioned whether "socio-economic contribution" was included in "interests" in paragraph 8, noting that many different interests exist.

7.103 Discussion ensued regarding the inclusion of "socio-economic contribution" in paragraph 8, as well as adding "coastal" after "developing" in paragraph 8, as proposed by Namibia. The delegate from the United States noted that if stocks occur in a State's exclusive economic zone, the State is by definition a coastal State.

7.104 Based on a number of interventions, the Chairman summarized his understanding of the wording of paragraph 12: "The socio-economic contribution of the fisheries to developing States, especially small island developing States, from the region or sub-region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks occur."

7.105 The observer from Mexico, supported by Brazil, intervened to express concern that this wording meant that the socio-economic contribution of high seas fisheries would not be included and suggested the deletion of the phrase "in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks occur." They further noted that a coastal State's right to fish on the high seas exists in UNCLOS. South Africa noted that the right of States to fish on the high seas is a fundamental point of international law, and that it was unnecessary to include it in allocation criteria; if included, it should be as a preamble.

7.106 The observer from CARICOM intervened to note that the omission of the word "potential" dismissed an important idea as developing States may be looking at estimated socio-economic contributions.

7.107 The European Community, the United States, Canada and South Africa agreed with the deletion of paragraph 12 and adoption of new paragraph 8, since it provided clarity and an opportunity to move forward. The delegate from Canada strongly recommended that delegations find the will to accept the new paragraph 8, since it provided an elegant solution to a difficult problem.

7.108 While supporting the new paragraph, the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) asked that "territories" be included after "small island developing States". Canada and the United States stated indicated that they would not wish to adopt this at this time and requested more time to consider this proposal. The delegate from the United States observed that he assumed Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands would then qualify under this criterion and wondered if this was what the Working Group intended.

7.109 In summary, the Chairman stated that paragraph 12 would be deleted and that paragraph 8 would be as follows: "The socio-economic contributions of the fisheries to the developing States, especially small island developing States [and territories], [from the region or sub-region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur.]

#### **Proposal by Japan**

**The right and need of qualified participants to engage in fishing on the high seas for the stocks to be allocated.**

7.110 In presenting its proposal, Japan stated its preference to adopt counter-balancing criteria, which relate to the interests/needs of high seas fishing States as provided for by international law. Japan noted it accepted many criteria relating to developing States or coastal States even though it believed there were differences of interpretation with UNFA. Japan noted it is also preparing to ratify UNFA and does not like to go too far from that Agreement. The delegate of China (P.R.), and the observer from Chinese Taipei supported the Japanese proposal.

7.111 South Africa indicated it had no problem with the general concept proposed by Japan but it did not believe that Japan's proposal could be represented as being consistent with international law, particularly UNCLOS. The delegate from South Africa stated that the word "need" is not used in article 116 of UNCLOS and that article 116 has a number of subjective clauses, which relate inter alia to coastal States. A number of delegations, including Brazil, Morocco, Namibia, Uruguay, and Trinidad and Tobago agreed that the word "need" should be deleted.

7.112 Japan intervened to State that it would delete the word "need" from its proposal.

7.113 Canada noted its appreciation for Japan's flexibility and to more completely reflect the context of Article 116 of UNCLOS, it suggested inserting "duties and interests" after "right". The delegate from Canada indicated that the intent of Article 116 is to provide for the right to fish on the high seas by qualifying it with duties and obligations of coastal States. South Africa supported the Canadian proposal.

7.114 Brazil stressed the danger in using altered language from UNCLOS. The delegate from Brazil noted that the concept in article 116 addresses the interests of coastal States, not qualified participants. South Africa questioned the need for repeating the provisions of article 116 since these are not criteria, they are fundamental principles of international law.

7.115 The delegate from the European Community added that this proposed criterion restores the balance among the range of criteria. The United States concurred.

7.116 Brazil indicated that it could not agree to this criterion unless it followed the wording of article 116 and referred to the "interests of coastal States" or unless it referred only to the rights and duties of qualified participants. The European Community stated its preference to refer only to the "rights of qualified participants". Japan and Russia agreed and, as there was general agreement, Canada indicated it could also accept this formula.

*D. Criteria Relating to Compliance/Data Submission/Scientific Research by Qualifying Participants*

13. **[Record of compliance and cooperation by qualifying participants with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, recognizing that compliance problems that have been duly addressed pursuant to ICCAT's measures to ensure compliance should not be a negative factor.]**

**[Capacity of qualifying participants to apply and enforce ICCAT's conservation and management measures through effective control measures.]**

**[Genuine ability of qualifying participants to control and manage large-scale vessels and the extent of their [implementation and enforcement of] [compliance with] ICCAT's conservation and management measures through effective control mechanisms.]**

7.117 The Chairman asked that the United States explain the three alternative texts and their origin.

7.118 The United States explained that a number of different proposals had been circulated on related subjects, and since the United States and Canada were providing a drafting service in preparing this text, they could not resolve many of the differences of opinion within each proposal.

7.119 The Chairman asked that delegations begin by expressing their preference for one of the alternatives so that this could form a basis from which the Working Group could work on agreed language. He asked that delegations refrain from detailed drafting suggestions in this first round.

7.120 The United States indicated a preference for the first alternative because it speaks to a record of compliance. The delegate from the United States noted that the original drafting of this paragraph caused double jeopardy. However, this difficulty has been resolved by the addition of the last part of the paragraph. The European Community agreed.

7.121 Namibia indicated that there was no need for such provisions in this section as compliance issues had already been discussed as part of the Qualifying Criteria in Section I and questioned if small developing States are supposed to demonstrate the same capacity for compliance as others. Morocco felt that compliance issues should be dealt with by the Compliance Committee, and not as part of allocation criteria.

7.122 Japan reminded delegations of its proposal (Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6) dealing with large-scale tuna vessels, which attempted to consolidate the three alternatives.

7.123 Canada suggested that these alternatives contain two thoughts: the record of compliance of a Contracting Party, and capacity concerns, including capacity to collect and report data, and capacity to control and

manage vessels. The delegate from Canada noted that the capacity concerns had been dealt with in Section I Qualifying Criteria, which requires that Parties eligible for quota have the capacity to collect and report data. However, he indicated that the record of compliance has not been addressed, and that this is an important and legitimate factor to include in allocation criteria.

7.124 The Chairman agreed with Canada's summary of the issues, noting that capacity has already been addressed in Section 1, Paragraph 2. Recognizing that some delegations support deletion of all three alternatives outlined in paragraph 13, he suggested working on the first alternative and that Japan's proposal could be incorporated.

7.125 Brazil proposed the following wording: "Record of compliance and cooperation by qualifying participants with ICCAT's conservation and management measures except for those cases where compliance sanctions established in relevant recommendations have already been addressed". The United States indicated that it could agree with the suggested text. Japan concurred, adding the wording "in particular for large-scale tuna vessels" between "management measures" and "except". South Africa concurred suggesting that "applied" be used instead of "addressed" and that "established by ICCAT" be added after "relevant recommendations".

7.126 Delegations agreed to use the wording "or cooperation" to ensure that this criterion also applies to Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, and to use "including" instead of "in particular".

7.127 In response to a question from Namibia regarding whether the Compliance Committee or the relevant panels would have the mandate to punish, the Chairman noted that this was one criterion to be taken into account in allocation of the stock. He stated that a good record would be a positive factor and a poor record would be a negative factor, noting that the Compliance Committee would provide the input for the different panels when they discuss allocation. The Chairman further indicated that if a Contracting Party had already been sanctioned because they had not complied with ICCAT conservation and management measures, their actions would already have been addressed and they would not be sanctioned again through the process of allocation.

7.128 The European Community intervened to point out that prior to 2001, sanctions had been applied that were not agreed to in any Recommendation and therefore warned that, with the current language in the paragraph, some sanctions may not be included in this criterion. The Chairman responded that it was his understanding and the Working Group's that all sanctions had indeed been based on a Recommendation. For example, the sanctions applied at the time of the European Community overages of quota arose from an overall Recommendation with respect to swordfish and bluefin tuna.

7.129 Both South Africa and Canada noted that a "record of compliance" does not address the issue of a flag State's duty to control its vessels on the high seas, and that this latter point also needed to be reflected explicitly. Canada proposed that the paragraph begin with: "The effective exercise of responsibility concerning their vessels under their jurisdiction". While Japan agreed with the proposed wording, the European Community indicated that this was an issue of control, not compliance, and should not be included. Both France (on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon) and Morocco stated that it was not under ICCAT's purview to deal with such matters.

7.130 Before the meeting was adjourned to prepare the draft document on allocation criteria, Canada indicated that a draft text had been tabled and circulated proposing a new paragraph in Section IV (Appendix 11 to ANNEX 6). The delegate from Canada, following on an earlier intervention, noted that it was a joint Canada-U.S. text, outlining how the criteria would apply to three general areas. He stated the expectation that it would provide direction to panels who will desperately need guidance, and welcomed all comments.

7.131 The Chairman adjourned and indicated that the Working Group would reconvene once the document was complete. He stated that because of time constraints, only one copy would be handed out per delegation. The Chairman indicated that the final document of the Working Group would consist of one document, including paragraphs 1-18 (using new numbering), as well as all other paragraphs in the U.S.-Canada text that have not been examined, which will be left unmodified with the footnotes. The revised working document is attached to the meeting report as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 6**.



7.132 The Working Group did not discuss paragraphs 19-25 of **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 6** during its third meeting. The text and footnotes of those provisions reflect discussions that took place during the first and second meetings of the working group. **Appendices 5, 9, 10 and 11 to ANNEX 6**, which are attached to the text, include proposals that were distributed but not discussed during the third meeting of the Working Group.

7.133 Since the Working Group has not completed the document, the Chairman noted that another meeting would be held before the regular Commission meeting in November, in Murcia. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank all delegations for their work this week.

## **8. Other matters**

8.1 Japan informed the Working Group that the delegate from Croatia had recently passed away. A moment of silence was observed and condolences on behalf of ICCAT were conveyed to his family. The new delegate from Croatia acknowledged the statements of respect and stated she would pass these on to the colleagues and family of her predecessor.

8.2 The United States expressed its thanks to the Chairman and indicated that all parties agreed that the success of this meeting was due in great part to the Chairman's technical skills and leadership. For consistency, the delegate from the United States asked that the Chairman remain the same for the next Working Group meeting. Brazil, South Africa, Morocco, Japan and Canada joined in commending the Chairman on the significant progress achieved at the Working Group meeting.

8.3 The Chairman thanked the European Community, Canada and the United States for their financial and logistical contributions to the meeting.

## **9. Adoption of Report**

The Report of the 3<sup>RD</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria was adopted by correspondence.

## **10. Adjournment**

10.1 The Acting Commission Chairman congratulated the delegations for their hard work, and noted the excellent work of the Chairman, all of which resulted in tangible results and significant progress. He also thanked the "Friends of the Chair" for their considerable contributions.

10.2 The meeting was adjourned.

### Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairman
3. Selection of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Opening statements
6. New documents relating to the work of the Group
7. Discussion of allocation criteria proposals
  - Qualification criteria
  - Stocks to which the new criteria apply
  - Allocation criteria
  - Conditions to apply the criteria
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report
10. Adjournment

### Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6

#### Opening Statements - Allocation Criteria - Brussels 2001

##### *BY CONTRACTING PARTIES*

##### **Statement by Algeria**

It is with great satisfaction that Algeria has become a Contracting Party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and hopes to contribute to the considerable efforts by all the Contracting Parties of this noble Commission to improve knowledge on the high seas resources, especially tunas and to implement a lasting policy of management and rational exploitation of these natural resources.

It goes without saying that this policy has as an objective, as a last resort, the participation in the noble fight that all the specialized international and regional organizations have subscribed to in their programs to fight against hunger and malnutrition in the world.

For various reasons that I am not going to mention here, our country joined late, but only as concerns the formal act of adherence. In effect, even without being a member, our country has diligently and rigorously applied various measures and recommendations adopted by the Commission because we were convinced of their positive effect on a resource already weakened by illegal fishing practices that always have a negative impact on the various stocks.

Thus, since 1995, my country has, through legislative means, adopted all the Commission recommendations relative to the implementation of a procedure to monitor fishing effort, taking into account evidently the means we have available, aimed at, in particular, the adoption of a statistical document modeled after the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document, the monitoring of fishing gears, the sizes of the species authorized to be fished, the areas and seasons for fishing, at-sea inspections, monitoring of sanitary conditions and salubrity of the fishing products, etc.

I hope this serves to illustrate, if necessary, Algeria's concern for all constructive means aimed at exploitation of our fishery resources that is durable and rational, scientific, professional, economic, intelligent and integrated.

Algeria, which is proud of having an ancestral fishing tradition, has not been able, for conjectural reasons, to develop its fishing sector to the required level. However, we are willing to put forth all the necessary efforts to increase the contribution of this sector to our national economic development.

Taking into account multi-dimensional elements that characterize this activity, particularly the economic and social aspects, the newly-created Ministry of Fisheries and High Seas Resources is carrying out a policy of evaluating all the high seas fishery resources, which are the livelihood for more than 100,000 families of a major part of Algeria. These people aspire to stabilize and to encourage the creation of the necessary means to improve their own socio-economic-professional situation.

This, among other things, obliges us to consider a program of stable development of the fishing sector based on an optimal, but rational exploitation of all our natural resources, counting mainly of our own means.

Our adherence to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas was carried out within this framework, with the hope of benefiting from the experience and the considerable accumulated knowledge of this important organization.

Also being aware of its geo-strategic position in the Mediterranean Sea, Algeria expresses its willingness for open and sincere collaboration with ICCAT, and on a bi-lateral level, with all the member countries of this Commission.

We also hope the Commission establishes the principles set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, in the Agreement to promote compliance of international management and conservation measures for fishing vessels that fish on the high seas, as well as other agreements, that will result in equitable sharing of the resources to permit all people to have access in their respective countries to the minimum requirements for a decent life style.

Once again we would like to express our satisfaction at being a full member of this Commission, and we look forward to an exchange of ideas and information that is beneficial to all.

#### **Statement by Brazil**

For the third time this Ad Hoc Working Group meets aiming at fulfilling its mandate. Despite the sensitive nature of the issues involved, in view of the Brazilian Delegation this Group has been making progress. Although it is still early to affirm, we feel that consensus is being shaped. If you recall, in 1999 this Group started its work based on three different proposals. Since then, constructive contributions have been made. Two years later, here in Brussels, this Group is ready to embark on an exercise based on a single text. There is no doubt that today we are all standing on much more solid ground.

As we are well aware, the broad range of criteria to be examined in this meeting comprehends concepts that are not necessarily convergent. Some, on the contrary, are very much apart from others. To combine, for instance rights related to historical catches with special and differentiated treatment of coastal developing countries may seem an impossible task. Nevertheless, the Brazilian Delegation is eager to face this challenge and therefore pledges itself to work cooperatively to find mutually satisfactory solutions to the allocation issue. This effort cannot be an isolated one though. The will to move ahead has to be shared by the Group as a whole. Every decision has to be taken in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Convention as well as of the related instruments. Within this context, Brazil believes that the acknowledgment of fundamental rights and obligations must stress the compromise for the sustainability of renewable resources. Moreover, it must take into account the need to ensure that the application of conservation and management measures do not deprive coastal states, in particular the developing ones, of their legitimate rights to develop fisheries in the high seas.

Brazil has stated in several opportunities that ICCAT needs to change in order to adapt itself to an undeniable new reality. In our understanding, this change implies not only modifications of the criteria currently applied to the allocation of catch quotas but also a revision of the Commission's practices as far as the coordination of its work is concerned. All interested Contracting Parties must have the opportunity to indicate representatives to chair

meetings of the Commission as well as of its subsidiary bodies. This attitude is healthy, democratic and beneficial to the credibility of ICCAT.

My delegation is certain that the most important step ICCAT can take to set the stage for a fair and equitable allocation of quotas is to finalize the work of this Group in an expeditious way. The success of the Commission and its credibility depend upon our collective ability to show meaningful progress.

Brazil is certain that the Group is in the right track and we sincerely hope that we will not be disappointed.

#### **Statement by Canada**

Canada is pleased to participate at this 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. We would like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for undertaking the usual excellent logistics for the meeting and to express our appreciation to the EU for hosting this meeting.

Canada approaches this meeting with a strong commitment to achieve a constructive outcome. We believe that ICCAT is at an important crossroads. We know that we are exceeding sustainable limits for many stocks, and that catches must be limited. At the same time, many countries are seeking new access, or to expand their access to resources that are fully subscribed. As we all know, adjusting the allocation of these valuable but limited resources is difficult and divisive. However, as difficult as it may be to find a solution, the alternative of continued impasse will create difficulties of even greater impact. If we fail to find common ground, the consequences will be expressed in terms of stocks declines, lost opportunity for fishing communities, and the loss of this organization's authority to carry out its responsibilities.

As we enter these discussions, we must remind ourselves that conservation and sustainable management of the tuna resources is ICCAT's paramount objective. Canada is committed to find equitable solutions and to finalize the work of this Working Group, so that the foundation can be built for improved resource conservation. By attempting to reflect all points of view expressed in the Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group, including those in the closing statements, we hope that the Canada-U.S. joint paper will help to facilitate our discussions in this regard.

In consultations with other interested Parties since the last ICCAT meeting, we know that substantial differences still exist with respect to some matters. However, we are also pleased to note that there are areas in which consensus is forming about the direction of ICCAT and positions on possible allocation criteria. It is our hope that all Parties will show the necessary flexibility and a willingness to cooperate so that a consensus on a set of allocation criteria can be reached.

Canada looks forward to participating in discussions over the next few days.

#### **Statement by the European Community**

The European Community is pleased that you came to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and hopes you have a pleasant stay in Brussels.

The European Community, as all the ICCAT Contracting Parties, attaches great importance to this meeting. ICCAT is a model organization in the management of tunas and it is our common responsibility to find solutions that will serve to ensure adequate management of the resources and safeguard cooperation in this organization.

For the Community, this Working Group must have two fundamental objectives:

- Ensure the protection and management of the tuna resources and their responsible and sustainable exploitation; and
- Preserve the legitimate rights and interests of the fishers who have historical catches, while permitting development of the fishing industries of developing countries, by a fair distribution of the quotas.

The Community considers that the criteria adopted by this Group should be applied, in general, to all the stocks. These criteria should be applied in a gradual manner and on a case by case basis to each individual stock, in order to attain a long-term stabilization of the allocation keys and also to ensure efficient management of the stocks.

The criterion of historical catches should be the main criterion, mainly in the case of the stocks that are already allocated. Other criteria to consider are those under Article 11 of the Agreement (UNIA) as well as others such as compliance with ICCAT measures, subsistence of the artisanal fisheries and the dependence on the utilization by the national markets.

The Community wishes to stress, in this context, the vital importance of the tuna fishery for some of the coastal communities highly dependent on this traditional activity.

The Community believes that a distinction should be made between qualification criteria and distribution criteria *per se*.

The Community would like to note that the application of the criteria should take into account the growing interests of the coastal developing States.

For the stocks that already have allocated catch limits, the new quotas of the developing coastal States should aim at improvement of the state of these stocks. When there is no improvement in the state of the stocks, the implementation of the new allocation keys should be gradual.

The increases in quota in view of their utilization through chartering are not acceptable. In effect, the usage of chartering does not guarantee the full exercise of the responsibilities of the flag State *vis a vis* the management of these quotas. The requests for quotas should be subjected to a double condition: their utilization by the national fleets of the developing countries and compliance with the ICCAT regulatory measures.

While the Community defends the principle of the right to object, it is opposed to any abusive exercise of this right that jeopardizes an equitable solution in matters of criteria allocation.

The Community would like to reiterate that, in accordance with international law, the exercise of rights is also accompanied by compliance with some obligations. In this sense, any right to a quota entails some obligations, notably the compliance with conservation measures, the implementation of monitoring measures, the collection of scientific data and obviously the payment of financial contributions to ICCAT.

Also worth reiterating are ICCAT's efforts to fight against illegal fishing, which were set forth by the Working Group last week, at the initiative of the Community. The fight against illegal fishing will open new fishing possibilities that could be distributed among the Contracting Parties and conserve the future of the stocks.

#### **Statement by Côte d'Ivoire**

Côte d'Ivoire attaches great importance to the preservation, conservation and especially the rational and durable management of fisheries resources. Our country hopes that everything possible is done to guarantee a permanent supply for future generations. We do not have the right to waste what our forefathers left us as a legacy.

We should, in turn, transmit this legacy to our descendants in the best possible condition.

To do so, we all have to agree to make sacrifices in order to achieve the application of instruments and measures that contribute to good management of the fishery resources.

Yesterday we discussed integrated monitoring measures that would oblige the Contracting Parties to follow the management measures. Today, we are at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria. I hope that it is clear that this is an *ad hoc* and not permanent working group, that was established especially to resolve the problem of the equitable sharing of the resources under ICCAT competence.

In this meeting we should, therefore, make every effort and find a definitive solution to the problem of allocation.

Above all, we should avoid that the Contracting Parties who feel frustrated for the bad sharing of the quotas, decide for themselves to assign quotas unilaterally.

The development of equitable new criteria will help us reach the objective of durable management of the fisheries resources and will give more credibility to our organization.

#### **Statement by Japan**

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to say a few words at the beginning of this important meeting. First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the EC Delegation and the ICCAT Secretariat for hosting and preparing this meeting.

ICCAT has already had two working group meetings to discuss this important issue of allocation criteria. At the last meeting, we worked hard to produce the criteria. We all know that ICCAT is at a critical stage to demonstrate its real ability for conservation and management of tuna stocks in the Atlantic, many of which are in an over-exploited state. Nevertheless, ICCAT recently faced a number of objections lodged by the Contracting Parties that are not satisfied with their national quota allocations. The Commission has also been experiencing tremendous difficulties in setting stable and effective conservation and management measures for important tuna stocks such as swordfish, bluefin and bigeye tunas. Almost all of the catch limits set under the ICCAT jurisdiction are applicable for only one year, namely the year 2001. The Commission has to reconsider and make decisions on those catch limits at the next annual meeting in November of this year. Unless we soon reach an agreement on the new allocation criteria, the Commission would be immobilized in its work; the Commission's long-standing remarkable record for resource conservation will be hurt; its integrity will be damaged severely; and above all, the tuna resources in the Atlantic will be in serious trouble. Japan came here with the strong wish to work out conclusive results on this issue and is ready to show the utmost flexibility to this end. Taking this opportunity, I would like to call for the same attitude of all the participants here in this meeting room.

Japan would like to thank the United States and Canada for their initiative in producing a negotiation text for this meeting. Japan feels that this paper will serve as a good starting basis for our discussion. Japan also presented a proposal of its own for the criteria, which was circulated by the Secretariat well in advance according to the rule established in Marrakech. We would like to introduce it later at an appropriate time.

I would also like to explain our basic position on the criteria. Japan has always been and will be supporting sound fishery development of the developing countries. At the same time, no one can negate the existence of fishing capacity of the developed fishing countries. We need to harmonize the two interests, while the historical catch and the current fishing capacity are inevitably the starting point and the main criterion for quota allocation. Having said so, I would point out one exception of the historical catches. That is the catches made under objections. These catches should be treated differently from the normal catches of other Contracting Parties that complied with the national allocations decided by the Commission. Otherwise, objections would be abused to evade the catch limitations established after painful and laborious negotiations at the Commission.

In addition to the historical catch and the fishing capacity, and the sound fishery development of the coastal developing countries, the following elements are also important for the criteria:

- Stock conditions
- Capacity and record of implementation and enforcement of ICCAT conservation and management measures, through effective control mechanisms, in particular for large-scale tuna fishing vessels
- Data submission and scientific research required by ICCAT

As the Japanese Delegation has stressed on various occasions, the management and control of large-scale tuna longline vessels are difficult due to their highly mobile nature. Almost all of the current IUU fishing activities in the Convention area are conducted by those longline fleets. The Contracting Parties, which claim the right of catch by large-scale tuna longline vessels, must fulfill an obligation of managing and controlling their fleet. Without the

proper control and monitoring of the fishing fleets, fishing operations by such large-scale longliners would be no different from those by the IUU or FOC vessels. To deal with this problem, Japan is willing to assist the developing countries to increase their control and management abilities. This kind of cooperation is an indispensable element to allocation criteria.

The world tuna stocks have been utilized fully or even excessively. FAO called for concerted worldwide fleet reduction rather than expansion of fleet size unilaterally by the individual nations. In the recent years, the Commission experienced sudden and explosive expansion of large-scale tuna longline fleets by some countries. This expansion was realized by accepting unlimitedly the IUU or FOC vessels to their registry. The IUU fishing vessels are the ones that should be eliminated with the highest priority under the current circumstances where the overall fishery capacity has to be reduced. ICCAT should not permit such fleet expansion.

Lastly, Japan would like to repeat its hope that, during the coming three days, the different positions will be integrated into one set of criteria with the spirit of mutual understanding, compromise and cooperation. Thank you.

### Statement by Libya

First of all, allow me to introduce my self and members of our Libyan delegation. My name is Dr. Ali Giunaa, Head of the General Authority for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. The other Libyan delegates are Dr. Atig Huni, Director of the Marine Biology Research Center, Ing. Nuri Essarbout, Libyan representative to ICCAT, Ing. Jamal Said, and Ing Ala El-wefati from the fishing sector. As you may notice, Mr. Chairman, the participation of representatives of the Fisheries Authority as well as of the scientific and fishing domains reflects the importance Libya attaches to this 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of ICCAT Ad Hoc working group on allocation criteria.

The Libyan delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the European Community and the Government of Belgium for hosting this meeting of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group in which the Libyan delegation look forward to work with all delegations on the many challenging issues listed in its agenda.

As a starting point I would like to emphasize that the position of the Libyan delegation is in conformity with the ICCAT resolution that established the Working Group on allocation Criteria itself that states the definition of quota allocation criteria should take into account the applicable rules of the International law and the principles of the relevant International agreements measures. Therefore, the position of our delegation is based on the following principles:-

1. The coastal states have the right to develop their own fisheries within the waters under their national jurisdiction as well as the waters of adjoining high seas. Any conservation and management measure related to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks adopted by regional or sub-regional fisheries organizations must respect the preferential status of such coastal states, particularly in relation to developing states.

This principle is granted to coastal states by the following instruments:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and
- The United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
- The International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity.

2. The interests of the fishing communities, including those engaged in subsistence, small scale and artisanal fisheries, must be taken into account

This principle is assured in the following instruments:

- Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and
- United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The Libyan delegation firmly believes that the problem of over-fishing of some fisheries resources, especially those of bluefin tuna, was not caused by developing coastal states, which only recently begun to develop their high seas fisheries, but was the result of an intensive fishing activities by developed industrial nations using highly industrialized and long distance fishing fleets. Yet it is those fishing fleets of nations more heavily fishing tuna stocks that are most benefitted by the allocation of quotas. Those nations that fished very little, instead, are the ones that could face major impediment to the development of their fisheries. Therefore, the Libyan delegation would like to further recommend a principle of a common but differentiated responsibility be taken into account when criteria for quota allocation are being considered.

The Libyan delegation would like to emphasize certain points as with regard to its quota allocation:

1. Libya being a coastal Mediterranean country with a coastline of some 2000 km long, has long tradition of catching bluefin tuna using fixed tuna traps (Tonnara), however, as a developing country Libya has fairly recently started to adopt and develop other fishing methods for those tuna species. In this context, it is worth noting that these tuna species which can make it to the Libyan coastal waters during the summer season were being illegally fished in the past by foreign unauthorized fleets that intrude Libyan territorial waters.
2. As a contribution to ICCAT conservation and management measures the Libyan authority has taken a number of precautionary measures that include - among others - the prohibition of fishing for tuna without a pre-authorizing license, the deployment of observers on-board the vessels, and the conduct of inspection at the home landing ports.
3. Still in the context of ICCAT conservation measures, we would like to mention that in spite of its scarce expertise in the domain of research and data compilation related to the species of tuna, Libya through its Marine Biology Research Center, has had, for the third year running, an active participation in the regional FAO-COPEMED tuna project, the results of which so far being obtained are, as I believe, being transmitted to both The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM) and ICCAT.

Finally, I would like to inform the working group that the purpose of the Libyan objection to the recommendation by ICCAT regarding the limitation of catches of bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic and the Mediterranean was not to jeopardize ICCAT efforts to implement effective management measures for bluefin tuna but rather to insure that such measures are fair and equitable and does not become a major impediment to the development of its tuna fishery and, in the same way, could jeopardize jobs associated with this activity. Thank you very much.

#### Statement by Morocco

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Chairman for the confidence placed in him to direct the work of this Group.

It is a real pleasure for the Moroccan delegation to participate in the work of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

On this occasion, I would like to express, on behalf of the Moroccan delegation, my most sincere appreciation to the European Community for hosting his Working Group in this very beautiful and delightful city of Brussels.

Also, I would like to congratulate the ICCAT Secretariat for the organization of the work of this meeting.

Morocco has a special interest in the management and conservation of tunas and hopes, in this regard, that the debates will be carried out in a spirit of responsibility and conciliation.

The discussions should take into consideration the rights of the coastal developing countries to develop their tuna fisheries, within a spirit of adherence and respect for the management and conservation measures adopted



by ICCAT on the tuna and fisheries resources, in order to actively contribute to the socio-economic development of their countries.

#### **Statement by Namibia**

Namibia is a young nation that only became independent 11 years ago. We are blessed with productive fishing grounds and our economy depends heavily on a vibrant fishing industry. We are a responsible fishing nation and, even if a young nation, we have taken difficult decisions that were hard and painful in the short-term. We took these decisions because we knew they would benefit us in the long-term. Being a responsible fishing nation, it was our duty to join ICCAT, even if Namibia does not approve the allocation methods used by this Commission. However, Namibia has signed international agreements which oblige us to join the relevant fisheries organizations. We also felt that the best way for Namibia to contribute positively to the Conservation and management of the tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic was to join ICCAT.

At the first meeting of this Working Group in 1999, Namibia attended as an Observer. We were happy with that meeting because we felt that considerable progress was made, even if an agreement could not be reached. It seems to us at the time, that even the nations that have most to lose from changing the allocation criteria were recognizing that a change was inevitable. - the question was simply how to implement that change.

When the second meeting of the Working Group was held in the year 2000, Namibia had become a full member of ICCAT and actively participated in that meeting. We did come to that meeting with high hopes. However, it must be said that we were disappointed by the outcome of that meeting. In our view, no progress was made; if anything, we moved backwards.

This development concerns Namibia deeply. We come to this meeting with mixed feelings. On one hand we believe it is of the utmost importance for ICCAT to reach a decision on the matter. On the other hand we are afraid that this will not be achieved in the near future if everyone's position is the same as last year. The situation is already adversely affecting the work of this Commission as was abundantly clear at last year's special Commission meeting in Marrakech. Virtually all important decisions were postponed until this Working Group has finished its work. If this continues, it may lead to a decline in some of the tuna stocks. Severely affecting the credibility of this Commission. We must not let that happen.

Turning to the matter facing this meeting, the Namibian delegation cannot as a principle accept the current state of affairs regarding allocation. It is our collective challenge during the next three days here in Brussels. Therefore, we must all rise to this challenge and enter the negotiations with an open mind and flexibility. I am once again optimistic that this Working Group will succeed in its endeavors to arrive at an acceptable and fair allocation of the tuna and tuna-like species under ICCAT jurisdiction.

#### **Statement by Russia**

The Russian delegation did not attend the previous two meetings of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Nevertheless, we looked through the Meeting proceedings kindly provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. They present a kind of summary of the Working Group's previous activities.

The proceedings evidence that the Working Group has undertaken considerable efforts and achieved progress in solving the issues. Actually all criteria recommended to be considered in quotas allocation are specified. The most comprehensive description of these criteria is provided in the three proposals submitted by the EU, USA and Brasilia. These proposals have much in common, however, there are some differences.

The task is how to determine each criterion (or a group of criteria) role.

As proposed by several delegations it is reasonable to elaborate criteria for each stock (species) individually taking into account is exploitation level, distribution area including open sea, exclusive economic zones of coastal countries across which this species (stock) migrates, time of fish staying in each of the above said areas. For example, in the Baltic Sea the principle role in quotas allocation plays the area of exclusive economic zones and territorial waters of the coastal countries. This method accounting for historical factors has been applied for a long

time and gives no rise to doubts. Certainly the situation with tunas is much more complicated, however, "the Baltic method" may be applied to some extent.

The historical catches taken by the countries of distant-water fishery are not figures only. Capital investments into fleet and coastal infrastructure construction, fishermen employment, markets, etc. stand behind them.

On the other hand, the coastal developing countries reasonably wish to obtain their rights and privileges in compliance with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the UN Agreement for Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNIA). These international regulations could not be ignored.

The only way out is to find a compromise solution.

The Russian delegation proposal is to solve this problem step by step.

At first the current situation, which does not suit everybody, should be fixed. This is the reality of today.

Afterwards as the demands of the developing countries relevant to their national tuna fishery development increase, it is reasonable to apply annual reducing coefficient to the quotas allocated to the countries of distant-water fishery. These coefficients will be valid during the transition period the duration of which should be agreed by all member countries.

It is advisable that developed states render assistance to the developing countries to develop their tuna fisheries based on joint ventures, etc.

The level of equal opportunities for distant-water fishery and developing countries being achieved, the transition period will finish. By that time those countries will become simply coastal ones.

Following the transition period the quotas allocation should be made using methods elaborated by species taking into account distribution areas and time of retention in each area as was said before.

I would like to note that the delay of quotas allocation problem solution may result in uncontrollable process if the interests of some member countries will be ignored further.

The intense discussion on the quotas allocation appeared at the last ICCAT session (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2000) evidences that this problem should become the priority one in the Commission activities.

In this situation it is reasonable to create a Standing Technical Committee which will be able to provide required calculations (probably several scenarios) according to the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The Technical Committee's proposals can be considered at the next ICCAT session of the year.

#### **Statement by South Africa**

In 1998 ICCAT recognized the urgent need to revise the allocation criteria used in developing sharing arrangements for Atlantic tuna stocks. Implicit in the establishment of this Working Group on Allocation Criteria, therefore, was the need for change; the need to move away from past performance as a sole basis for sharing resources, and to adopt a broader set of criteria that balances the aspirations of developed, high-seas fisheries and developing coastal states. This will clearly require a substantial degree of compromise on the part of all participants.

At the close of the last meeting of this Working Group, South Africa noted her disappointment at the apparent lack of willingness to compromise reflected in many of the statements made at that meeting. Unfortunately, this lack of compromise was carried forward to the sharing arrangement negotiations at the 2000 Commission Meeting. The result is that ICCAT has now been plunged into the crisis which we cautioned may occur, should equitable sharing arrangements not be developed for the principal stocks under ICCAT management. Without such

arrangements in place, TACs will be exceeded, stocks will be further over-exploited, and ICCAT will have failed in its responsibility as the regional management body for Atlantic tunas.

However, at last year's meeting we also noted that substantial progress had been made towards combining alternate allocation criteria proposals into a single starting point from which to work. Further progress has been made inter-sessionally, and we believe that we now have before us a firm foundation on which to build an agreed set of Allocation Criteria that are fair to all members. We can delay no longer. We must now work towards resolving our remaining differences, and complete our work, before the ability of ICCAT to manage Atlantic tuna resources within sustainable TACs is compromised any further. Now, more than ever, the future of ICCAT depends on providing the species management Panels with the mandate, and a clear set of allocation criteria, with which to develop equitable sharing arrangements which are broadly acceptable to all members.

#### **Statement by Trinidad and Tobago**

It is indeed a pleasure for Trinidad and Tobago to participate in this Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria convened here in Brussels. Regrettably, Trinidad and Tobago could not attend the two previous meetings of the Working Group and therefore did not have an opportunity to make an input into the discussions held thus far. We have, however, reviewed the Reports of these Meetings and have closely followed the arguments that have been put forward by the respective Parties to the Commission.

Trinidad and Tobago has submitted a position paper for the consideration of the Working Group which has been circulated. It should be noted that this position is supported by seven other countries of the CARICOM Community. This position has been carefully prepared to incorporate the reasonable interests of all Parties and Entities concerned - Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities. Our position also gives cognisance to the vulnerability of developing states which are dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources including consideration of nutritional requirements and ensuring access to these fisheries by developing states, in particular, small island developing states.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to reiterate the concerns expressed by a number of delegates, namely, that it is crucial to the future of ICCAT that agreement be reached on a list of criteria at this meeting. Trinidad and Tobago is prepared to support a list of criteria that is precise but easily tractable for negotiating purposes that addresses all issues, while representing the reasonable interests of all parties.

Trinidad and Tobago sincerely hopes that its position would be received in a favorable light and that the spirit of fairness and good sense would prevail at this meeting.

Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to a fruitful meeting and an outcome that would be mutually beneficial to all parties concerned.

#### **Statement by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)**

The United Kingdom in respect of its Overseas Territories participating in ICCAT fully recognizes the importance of this, the Third Working Group on Allocation Criteria, and the implications of this important work on a global scale.

There are now five United Kingdom Overseas Territories which participate in ICCAT: Bermuda, Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Helena and its dependencies of Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, and the Falkland Islands. These different territories have among them interests in both existing ICCAT allocations and in appropriate provision to enable future entrants to ICCAT fisheries to develop such fisheries in a manner fully compatible with ICCAT recommendations.

It is clear that the work of ICCAT has become an object of focus for other fisheries fora and it is fair to say that the outcome of these deliberations will carry far-reaching implications both for fisheries conservation and for the future of regional management organizations. It is therefore imperative that our work be carried out in a transparent manner. There can be no surer way to undermine the role of ICCAT than to provide the impression

that this is an inflexible organization, committed to trying to retain the standards of the past and merely playing lip-service to the established rights of coastal states.

Of particular concern to the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories is the issue of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. This unquantified fishing effort can only have a negative effect on fish stocks and serves to cloud the issues between parties seeking to establish equitable and genuine fisheries management measures. It is impossible to assign fair shares of fish stocks when the stocks themselves are being subjected to illicit harvest. Thus, this illegal fishing contributes in no small measure to the difficulties facing this Working Group. Criteria such as historical catches, the role of charter agreements and rights of access as guaranteed by the Law of the Sea are all affected by this illegal activity which precludes constructive dialogue and reduces the flexibility of all parties.

It is for this reason that ICCAT in general but most particularly this Working Group must focus on innovative mechanisms for ensuring an equitable approach to the sharing of the Atlantic Ocean's tunas and tuna-like species. There can be no doubt that the future, not only of ICCAT, but of similar organizations depends upon a successful outcome of these deliberations and we look forward to active participation.

It is our very sincere hope that the next few days will give rise to productive discussions of the issues before this Working Group. With a willingness to address the concerns both of the established fishing nations and those of new entrants, there is every possibility that the outcome of this Working Group will set a new standard to which similar organizations can aspire in the future.

#### **Statement by the United States**

On behalf of the U.S. delegation, I would like to express our gratitude to the European Commission for hosting this pivotal meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Let me also commend Dr. Lima and other members of the Secretariat for their hard work and excellent preparations for this meeting. Finally, let me thank you for your willingness to serve. You have the full support of the United States.

I am reminded of a story that captures the situation in which this Working Group finds itself. One time, the president of a major corporation appeared before his Board of Directors. "Ladies and Gentlemen," he said. "I told you at our meeting last year that this corporation stood at the very edge of a large cliff. This year, I have come to report that we have taken a great step forward."

In all seriousness, it is no exaggeration to say that ICCAT is standing at the very edge of a cliff. Most of the fisheries under the purview of the organization are in decline. Contracting Parties to ICCAT are having great difficulty in reaching agreement on necessary conservation measures to reverse these declines. Even when measures are agreed, some Contracting Parties are failing to comply with those measures, or even to report their fisheries data in a timely way. Meanwhile, IUU fishing for ICCAT species continues to threaten the ability of the Organization to establish and maintain an effective regulatory regime.

As we see it, this Working Group must make significant progress toward the adoption of agreed allocation criteria if ICCAT as a whole is to make progress in dealing with its many other problems. All of us recall the highly troubling outcome of several key debates at the last annual meeting. As a group, we failed to reach agreement on responsible measures for a number of stocks, including eastern Atlantic bluefin and southern Atlantic swordfish, or to address in an adequate way certain other fundamental problems, including compliance. Several delegations involved in those debates basically seemed unwilling to make the compromises that would be necessary to reach agreement on responsible measures until significant progress was made in establishing new allocation criteria.

During the next three days, we have the chance to make such progress and we remain optimistic.

Toward that end, the United States has joined with Canada to produce a new draft text, which we hope can serve as the basis of our discussions this week. We produced this text for the sole purpose of facilitating such discussions. The U.S.-Canada text does not reflect the particular views of either of our delegations on the ways that

the many brackets in the text should be resolved. For our part, we will be offering our suggestions on several points over the next three days.

In doing so, however, we will try hard to find ways to achieve satisfactory compromises between the most extreme views that are held on the various points. As a group, we need to come toward a middle ground. We understand that some delegations have indicated a willingness to make significant progress in seeking this middle ground by offering changes from their previously stated positions. We applaud those efforts and hope that they will lead others to make corresponding compromises too. I urge all delegations not merely to repeat arguments they made in the past two sessions of this Working Group, but to look hard for ways to compromise toward a middle ground.

I have one practical suggestion that I would like to offer at the outset for reaching this middle ground. In our view, there are simply too many criteria on the table. We should not attempt to define success by the number of allocation criteria, but by their quality. I ask each delegation to put itself in the position of an ICCAT panel that will, in all likelihood, have the responsibility to give effect to these allocation criteria in the future. As things stand now, there are 16 separate allocation criteria, not to mention several qualifying criteria and other "conditions" relating to the application of these criteria. We need to ask ourselves – Could a panel really apply such a long and complex set of provisions in allocating a stock?

I think we need to shorten and simplify the draft text, if we hope to give the panels something to apply that is really workable. For each provision in the text, we should ask ourselves, "Do you really need this? Can it be simplified, or combined with another provision, or deleted outright?" I note, for example, that some of the qualifying criteria overlap, or even duplicate, some of the allocation criteria. Some of the allocation criteria can also be combined.

To do this, of course, will require real flexibility on the part of all of us. But that flexibility is precisely what we need if we are to take a step back from the cliff that ICCAT is now facing, to turn the organization around and to head together in a more positive direction. The U.S. delegation looks forward to working with all others at this meeting as we try, in good faith, to take these steps.

#### **Statement by Uruguay**

Uruguay expresses its appreciation to the delegations that have worked in this group to reach an agreement on the criteria to be used in the future. We hope to contribute, at this time, to deciding fair criteria that take into account the rights of coastal States and, above all, the objectives of the Commission as a guarantee for its continuance.

We urge all the delegations to carry out an objective analysis that permits the application of current international agreements, on recognition of the commitments acquired by each country within the framework of responsible fishing. We hope that some Parties will reconsider and try to define bases that include the joint interests of the fishing community rather than particular interests. We appeal to the memory of each one of you, not to forget the causes of the present deterioration of these resources and to avoid allow those who caused such a situation to continue deciding the future of our fisheries. On the other hand, we solicit a realistic view of the application of the criteria to use.

#### **BY OBSERVERS**

##### **Statement by Chinese Taipei**

On behalf of my delegation, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to European Community for hosting the meeting, and my thanks also go to the Secretariat for its effort. I appreciate the effort made by U.S. and Canada delegations for developing a draft to facilitate the progress of the meeting, and hopefully it will be helpful for this group to reach a constructive conclusion.

As we look at the draft text jointly made by U.S. and Canada, the related arguments during the last two allocation criteria meetings have been grouped into three major categories, namely, qualifying criteria, stocks to which the new criteria would be applied, and allocation criteria. As for qualifying criteria, we believe those who have committed to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures and have regularly been granted the cooperating status should be included in qualifying criteria. This is in line with the principles as set forth in 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, which call upon cooperation among coastal and fishing States in order to ensure the conservation of highly migratory fish stocks, and providing those states or fishing entities with vessels fish on the high seas benefits from participation in the fishery commensurate with their commitment to comply with conservation and management measures.

As we look into stocks to which the new criteria would apply, it would be reasonable and feasible to consider the allocation criteria on a species-by-species basis. In other words, variances in biological characters, population structure, fishery patterns, fishing grounds and others in relation to the species in question are all influencing factors to quota allocation. Therefore, the application of uniform criteria would not be practical. Instead, each species should have its own specific criteria so that a conservation and management mechanism can be maintained.

For the category of allocation criteria, I'd like to reiterate that historical catches is one of the most substantial factor in quota allocation not only because it is a factor easiest to be quantified, but also because it has been applied by many international organizations. Furthermore, historical catch records are accumulated by hard work and dedication of the industry, thus making the research for stock assessment possible. We do respect for the needs of traditional coastal communities whose livelihood heavily depends on fishing. We understand the importance of social and economic contribution of the fisheries to some developing coastal states. Furthermore, it is also necessary to give careful consideration of the interests of the Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities currently engaging in fishing tuna or tuna-like species in this region. Any measure should not generate economic displacement to the Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities whose fishing vessels have been traditionally fishing on the high seas within the Convention Area.

I am pleased to participate in this meeting to share our experience in fisheries management with all delegations here. Last but not the least, thanks again to our EC colleagues for their hospitality.

#### **Statement by Denmark (Faroe Islands)**

I would like to thank the ICCAT for the invitation to Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) to participate in this 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) has participated in the work of ICCAT since 1996 as an observer. We welcome the fact that ICCAT apparently has realized that the current allocation key has to be revised so that it could enable newcomers such as the Faroe Islands to seriously consider membership in ICCAT.

The economy of the Faroe Islands is totally dependent on living marine resources. Therefore, the Faroe Islands have to exploit all accessible living marine resources in their Exclusive Economic Zone; and the sustainable management of the living marine resources is of vital importance for the Faroe Islands.

The Faroe Islands has the sovereign right to exploit the living marine resources that occur in its Exclusive Economic Zone and this also applied to the ICCAT species occurring in the Faroese EEZ. The rights of coastal states have to be duly recognized by ICCAT and the allocation criteria made consistent with international law.

At the meetings of this Working Group we have supported proposals for allocation criteria, which take into account the rights and duties as well as the interests of coastal states, in whose waters ICCAT species occur, but which have until recently not had the opportunity to develop a harvesting capacity of their own. Likewise we have supported proposals which take into account the interests of economies which are overwhelmingly dependent on exploitation of living marine resources.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) will continue to emphasize these criteria at this meeting.

### **Statement by Iceland**

I would like to congratulate you on being elected as the Chairman of the Working Group and wish you well in your work.

Iceland is pleased to take part in the work of this ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria as an observer.

Iceland's economy is overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources. All the species that occur within our national jurisdiction, including tuna, are therefore very important to us.

Iceland would not be allowed to catch any tuna if it was bound by ICCAT's current regulatory measures. This is despite the fact that tuna occur in Icelandic waters in substantial quantities. The regulatory measures are not consistent with the relevant rules of international law, as they do not take account of the rights and interests of coastal states. As a result, it has not been considered possible for Iceland to become a member of ICCAT at this time.

To prevent ICCAT from losing all credibility this Working Group will have to conclude its work soon, recognizing the rights and duties as well as the interests of coastal states. Disregarding international law is an intolerable practice, which will eventually turn ICCAT into an irrelevant organization if it is allowed to continue. Conserving and managing tuna fisheries in the Atlantic is too important for us to let that happen.

In light of the importance of the Working Group's work for the future of ICCAT, Iceland is hopeful that we will be able to work efficiently and have a fruitful meeting.

### **Statement by Norway**

I would like to thank ICCAT for inviting Norway to participate as an observer at this 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Norway has been represented by observers at the two previous meetings of this Working Group, and my government is following the development closely.

As a coastal state to the tuna resource, Norway has conducted a strictly managed fishery by small scale vessels, allowing limited catches by using traditional gear and fishing methods. Norway has also allowed one of the Contracting Parties of ICCAT to take part of its quota allocated by ICCAT in Norwegian waters, subject to close monitoring and control.

At the moment Norway is considering joining ICCAT as a full member. The outcome of this consideration will to a large extent depend on the result of the work of this Working Group and on the subsequent decisions to be made by ICCAT. In order for Norway to join, the rights of the coastal states must be fully recognized by the organization.

Norway agrees with those parties that hold that the use of historical catches as the only criterion for quota allocation is not in accordance with the UNIA.

The way forward could be to make appropriate allowance for the coastal states to the resource, and thereafter the remaining quotas in international waters could be allocated in accordance with some agreed upon criteria, of which historical catches is an important one. Other criteria to be included could be: contribution to research, proximity to the resource and dependency. The key for sharing, that is the weighting of the different criteria for sharing of the different resources, should be stock specific.

Again, important questions of principle are on the table, and it is my hope that the work of this Working Group will result in mutually acceptable solutions.

#### **Statement by St. Vincent and The Grenadines**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to regional and international collaboration on the management of all living marine resources and subscribes to the principle of sustainable utilization of these resources. In this regard, our country is fully on board embracing the objectives of ICCAT.

However, St. Vincent and The Grenadines believes that any allocation criteria agreed upon must be fair and equitable. For this to occur, any agreement:

1. Must not favor the powerful over the weak,
2. Must use a reference period consistent with the view that all states have a right to share these international fish resources.
3. Must recognize the vulnerability of developing states and the special rights of coastal states.
4. Must make an allocation for new entrants into this economic activity.

#### **Statement by CARICOM**

On behalf of CARICOM Member States, I wish to thank ICCAT for extending an invitation to CARICOM to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

There is an urgent need for the Working Group to establish a list of criteria, that would accommodate the reasonable interests of all Parties concerned, whether ICCAT Contracting Parties or Non-Contracting Co-operating Parties or Entities. Achieving such a solution will demonstrate ICCAT's ability to respond to the needs and interests of all tuna-harvesting countries of the Atlantic, and ICCAT's intention to put into effect, the important principles of major world fisheries agreements. In this regard, the Working Group should not ignore the provisions of these agreements in support of the special needs of developing countries and the sovereign rights of coastal states.

CARICOM States have followed closely the progress of the discussions held during the first and second meetings of the Working Group. After careful review of the proposals, amendments and additions put forward by the different ICCAT Contracting Parties, several CARICOM Member States support the position submitted by Trinidad and Tobago for consideration at this meeting. In the opinion of the supporting CARICOM States, the Trinidad and Tobago position provides a workable and balanced approach for fulfilling the needs of Contracting Parties and those of Non-Contracting Co-operating Parties, the needs of developed fisheries and those of developing fisheries, and the needs of coastal states and those states with distant water fisheries.

CARICOM hopes that the Working Group will approach the present negotiations with a spirit of good will, compromise and co-operation, in the interest of conserving Atlantic tuna fisheries for the present and future benefit of all Parties concerned.



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**Draft US-Canada Text**  
**To serve as Basis for Discussion at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**  
**of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria**

### **I. Qualifying Criteria**

Participants will qualify to receive possible quota allocations within the framework of ICCAT in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Be a Contracting Party [in good standing] [or a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity].<sup>1</sup>
2. Be committed to apply the conservation and management measures of ICCAT [as demonstrated by past application and enforcement of those measures].<sup>2</sup>
3. Have a demonstrated ability to collect and report data for the relevant resources and, taking into account their respective capacities, to conduct scientific research on those resources.
4. Have [a real interest in the fishery. This would include the existence of] a domestic fishing fleet capable of fishing for the stocks to be allocated or a fully-fledged plan [submitted to ICCAT] to develop such a fleet.<sup>3</sup>

### **II. Stocks to Which the New Criteria Would be Applied**

These criteria shall apply [to all stocks allocated by ICCAT.] [only to stocks that ICCAT has not already allocated. For stocks that ICCAT has already allocated, the current allocation key would be maintained. In addition, depending on the status of stocks in question and taking into account any rebuilding plan that may be in effect, a cooperation quota could be created for new qualifying participants in the fisheries.]<sup>4</sup>

### **III. Allocation Criteria**

#### **A. Criteria Relating to Past/Present Fishing Activity of Qualifying Participants**

1. Historical catches of qualifying participants.<sup>5</sup>
2. The fishing [methods][patterns][practices][traditions] of the qualifying participants.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> One delegation proposed the concept of "good standing," which might include being no more than 2 years in arrears in the payment of dues. Some other delegations supported the concept. Others expressed concern about it or sought to have the concept clarified. There were differences of view on whether those with "cooperating" status should qualify to receive any quota allocation and on whether to treat those with cooperating status that are not eligible to become a Contracting Party differently from others with cooperating status.

<sup>2</sup> Some delegations expressed support for this criterion. Others expressed concerns about the difficulty of assessing a participant's commitment to apply ICCAT measures. Some delegations sought to address this concern by reference to the participant's past actions in this regard. It should also be noted that Qualifying Criteria 2 and 3 duplicate Allocation Criteria 13 and 16 to a considerable extent.

<sup>3</sup> There were differences of view on whether to include the term "real interest" or whether a plan to develop a fleet must be submitted to ICCAT.

<sup>4</sup> Some delegations stated that it was unacceptable to have different Allocation Criteria for different stocks. Some delegations stated that, while a single set of criteria should apply to all stocks, existing sharing arrangements should receive some consideration, particularly where the stock is subject to a rebuilding plan. Some delegations argued that existing sharing arrangements should not be subject to the new criteria at all. Some delegations questioned how a cooperation quota would be applied to a stock subject to a rebuilding plan.

<sup>5</sup> Some delegations consider that this criterion is the basis for quota allocations and should prevail over all the other criteria. Other delegations consider this position unacceptable, while admitting that historical catch is one criterion that should be given appropriate weight in each case. Some delegations raised questions about how historical catches would be determined; e.g., what time frame would be used.

<sup>6</sup> One delegation proposed that the language of this criterion should follow that of Article 11(b) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement: ("... the respective interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of new and existing members or participants.") Another delegation stated that Article 11 deals with the situation of new members and is not appropriate to use in developing Allocation Criteria applicable to all participants. One delegation questioned the need to include this criterion at all.

**B. Criteria Relating the Status of the Stock(s) to be Allocated and the Fisheries**

3. Status of the stock(s) to be allocated [in relation to maximum sustainable catch] and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery [with respect to new Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities].<sup>7</sup>
4. [If appropriate to the fishery in question,] [the biological characteristics of the stock(s), and] [the relationships between the distribution of the stock(s), the fisheries, and the geographical [particularities][characteristics] of the region concerned] [, including the extent to which the stock(s) occur or are fished in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas].<sup>8</sup>

**C. Criteria Relating the Status of the Qualifying Participants**

5. The interests of artisanal [, subsistence] [small-scale] fishers.<sup>9</sup>
6. The needs of the coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks.
7. The needs of the coastal States whose economies [largely depend] [are overwhelmingly dependent] on the exploitation of the living marine resources regulated by ICCAT.<sup>10</sup>
8. The interests of the developing States from the region or sub-region in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks also occur.<sup>11</sup>
9. The respective dependence on the stock(s) of the coastal States and of the States that fish species regulated by ICCAT.
10. The economic importance of the fishery for qualifying participants and the need to minimize the economic disruptions in those States whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention Area.
11. [The dependence on the fishery for direct domestic consumption.] [The need to supply domestic markets.]<sup>12</sup>

<sup>7</sup> One delegation urged inclusion of language relating to maximum sustainable catches to give effect to a primary goal of the ICCAT Convention. Another delegation felt that, while maintaining maximum sustainable catch is an important goal, it is a separate issue from allocating stocks. One delegation proposed that the language of this criterion should follow that of Article 11(a) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement more closely: ("... the status of the highly migratory fish stocks and the existing level of fishing effort in the industry.") Another delegation reiterated that Article 11 deals with the situation of new members and is not appropriate to use.

Some delegations argued that TACs should not increase solely to accommodate new participants. They stated that sacrifices of current participants should be taken into account, particularly where rebuilding is underway, and that new participants should be eligible to receive quota allocations only if such stocks are increasing. Other delegations argued that, if current stocks are fully fished, current participants should sacrifice some of their allocation to developing States. One delegation pointed out that the imposition of ICCAT rules concerning quota overages could make some fish available for redistribution.

<sup>8</sup> Several delegations supported inclusion of a criterion relating to the location of stocks, although there were differences of view on how such a criterion should be worded. Others proposed to delete this criterion, due to the impossibility of knowing precisely where stocks are at any time, to the negative impact that the criterion could have on ICCAT's scientific work and to the view that coastal States do not have any preferential right to fish for highly migratory species solely because such species migrate through waters under their jurisdiction. One delegation suggested that the criterion could be applied on an "absence/presence" basis.

<sup>9</sup> Differences of view arose concerning the inclusion of small-scale fishing or on such catches. Some delegations noted that many people in developing countries depend on artisanal fisheries, that developing coastal States often move from artisanal fisheries to larger fisheries and that Article 24 of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement recognizes the rights of small-scale fishers. Other delegations expressed concern about unregulated growth of a large number of small-scale fleets.

<sup>10</sup> One delegation proposed that the language of this criterion should follow that of Article 11(e) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement: ("... the needs of coastal States whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources.") Another delegation reiterated that Article 11 deals with the situation of new members and is not appropriate. Some delegations urged that there should be separate criteria to address the needs of coastal States on one hand, and developing States on the other.

<sup>11</sup> Some delegations supported this criterion. Some delegations stated that Criterion 9 covered this idea in a more balanced manner and that Criteria 6-8 should be deleted in favor of Criterion 9 instead. In support of this approach, they stated that Criteria 6-8, which are drawn from Article 11 of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement dealing with new members, should not be used in allocating quotas to existing members and, moreover, are biased in favor of coastal States.

<sup>12</sup> Some delegations favored a criterion relating to domestic consumption or domestic markets. Others opposed such a criterion, in part because it discriminates against newcomers.

12. [(Potential) socio-economic contribution of the fisheries to the developing coastal States, especially small island developing States.]<sup>13</sup>

**D. Criteria Relating to Compliance/Data Submission/Scientific Research by Qualifying Participants**

13. [Record of compliance and cooperation by qualifying participants with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, recognizing that compliance problems that have been duly addressed pursuant to ICCAT's measures to ensure compliance should not be a negative factor.]  
 [Capacity of qualifying participants to apply and enforce ICCAT's conservation and management measures through effective control measures.]  
 [Genuine ability of qualifying participants to control and manage large-scale vessels and the extent of their [implementation and enforcement of] [compliance with] ICCAT's conservation and management measures through effective control mechanisms.]<sup>14</sup>
14. [The extent of measures taken by a qualifying participant to prevent or eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the stock(s).]<sup>15</sup>
15. The contribution of qualifying participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.<sup>16</sup>
16. Extent to which qualifying participants have contributed to the over-exploitation of the fish stocks in the Convention Area [due to failure to abide by ICCAT measures].<sup>17</sup>

**IV. Conditions for Applying Allocation Criteria**

1. The Allocation Criteria should be applied with the goal of ensuring equitable opportunities for all qualifying participants.<sup>18</sup>
2. The Allocation Criteria should be [prioritized or weighted][applied flexibly by the relevant Panels on a case-by-case (or stock-by-stock) basis].<sup>19</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Some delegations proposed deleting this criterion because it duplicated other criteria. Questions were raised about the term "potential" because of its imprecision. Some delegations proposed to retain the content of this criterion, but to merge it with other related criteria.

<sup>14</sup> There was debate about whether to include anything related to compliance and enforcement as an Allocation Criterion. Some delegations, preferring the second bracketed text, stated that it should be a Qualifying Criterion rather than an Allocation Criterion. Other delegations believed that some version of the final proposal could substitute for the first two and for Allocation Criterion 17.

<sup>15</sup> One delegation proposed a criterion relating to this subject.

<sup>16</sup> One delegation proposed that the language of this criterion should follow that of Article 11(c) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement more closely: ("... the respective contributions of new and existing members or participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data and to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.") Another delegation reiterated that Article 11 deals with the situation of new members and is not appropriate. Some delegations sought to distinguish between reporting of scientific data, which is a basic obligation, and the conduct of scientific research, which is dependent on resources.

<sup>17</sup> Several delegations supported this criterion. One delegation found it unacceptable because it would penalize Contracting Parties that have complied with ICCAT measures. Another delegation shared this concern and stated that ICCAT as a whole is responsible for any overfishing, not individual Contracting Parties. One delegation proposed to include the phrase "due to failure to abide by ICCAT measures" to address this concern. Another delegation agreed with this approach in principle, but stated that this criterion should be merged with Allocation Criterion 13.

<sup>18</sup> Some delegations stated that this concept should be called as an Allocation Criterion, or should appear in a preamble to this paper. The term "equitable" was considered to reflect the need for fairness in the allocation process.

<sup>19</sup> There was not much discussion on whether to prioritize or weight the allocation criteria or, if so, on what basis. Similarly, there was not much discussion on possible reference periods or periods of duration during which particular allocation decisions would apply.



3. The application of the Allocation Criteria [must take into account the negative effect of illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels, and the need to curb these practices effectively.] [should take into account catches by non-members.]<sup>20</sup>
4. [Chartering, other than bare-boat chartering, should not be authorized except under conditions agreed by ICCAT.]

[The application of the Allocation Criteria should exclude practices leading to non-utilization of quotas by the Contracting Parties to which the quota has been assigned, such as, quota trading.]

[No party will receive a quota allocation solely for the purpose of trading that quota to another party. However, ICCAT may allocate quota to be harvested through chartering arrangements that are consistent with ICCAT rules.]<sup>21</sup>

## Appendix 5 to ANNEX 6

### Proposal by Japan on Allocation Criteria

#### 1. Criteria in relation to Control and Enforcement Measures

There are three proposed criteria in this field. Japan would like to consolidate those into one criterion that follows.

“Capacity and record of implementation and enforcement of ICCAT conservation and management measures through effective control mechanisms, in particular for large-scale tuna fishing vessels.”

#### 2. Cooperation between the fishing and the coastal States

Under the circumstances where almost all the Atlantic tuna stocks are fully or excessively being utilized, cooperation from the fishing nations is essential to the sustainable fishery development of coastal developing nations. ICCAT should encourage such cooperation in allocation process. Thus Japan would like to propose the following underlined phrase to be added to the existing proposed criterion.

“The respective dependence of the coastal States and the States that fish species regulated by ICCAT, and cooperation and contribution of the latter States for the sustainable fishery development of the former States.”

#### 3. Applicable Criteria

##### a) *IUU Fishing Activities*

In relation to the IUU fishing activities, Japan would like to propose the following criterion.

“The Allocation Criteria should be applied to ensure the effectiveness of the action programs to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly fishing by flag-of-convenience vessels.”

##### b) *Objections*

The catch under the objection to the ICCAT conservation measures should be treated differently from the normal historical catches in allocation process. Otherwise, the contracting Party that lodged an objection could

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<sup>20</sup> One delegation proposed to include this concept in the first set of brackets. Another delegation proposed the concept in the second set. In each case, the idea is not to legitimize IUU catches or inappropriate catches by non-members, but rather to take such catches into account in stock assessments and in establishing TACs for allocation.

<sup>21</sup> The issues of chartering, quota selling and quota swaps are related to some extent. The three ideas represented in these brackets were discussed without resolution.

increase its historical catch as much as it wants irrespective of the ICCAT catch limits, which are applicable to other Parties. Thus Japan would like to propose the following criterion for application of Allocation Criteria.

"The catches made under the objections shall not be treated as the historical catches. The Commission will decide treatment of those catches at the time of the next allocation on a case by case basis, taking into account all the relevant factors such as the reasons for the objections, the autonomous management by the Parties that lodged objections, the stock conditions, and the effects of the objections to other Parties which are bound to the catch limits in question."

#### Appendix 6 to ANNEX 6

**Position of Trinidad and Tobago\* on the list of catch allocation criteria currently being considered by ICCAT Contracting Parties, and which were addressed by the Chairman in his Summary Note prepared during the Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria.**

**Qualifying criteria:** The right to catch quotas should be respected equally for all Parties: Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Cooperating Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities. The exclusion of Non-Cooperating Parties and prohibition of quota trading are reasonable. This position ensures a fairer and more broadly balanced approach to the concept of "real interest". The EU proposed definition of "real interest" could introduce unfair bias in favor of criteria such as historical catches and current level of fishing effort, and the "qualifying criteria" should not be directly associated with any catch allocation criteria.

**Stocks affected by new criteria:** The newly agreed list of catch allocation criteria should be applied to all stocks on a case by case basis, whenever country specific catch quotas are negotiated for the first time or are being revised. This would ensure equitable fishing opportunities.

#### *Allocation criteria*

**Historical catches:** Trinidad and Tobago considers the criterion of "historical catches" to be directly linked to the criteria "the status of the fish stocks and existing level of fishing effort" and "economic dislocation", in the manner in which it is currently applied for quota allocation, and is therefore redundant. Exclusion of this criterion would prevent an undesirable move to reward those countries with high historical catches, which in most cases, have over-capitalized their fisheries and fished irresponsibly. Instances of imposed TACs imply that the stocks are over-fished, and that there is a direct correlation between high historical catches and overcapitalisation. Having noted this we recognize current investments in the fishery. Trinidad and Tobago questions the application of this criterion, mainly because we believe that the criterion "the status of the fish stocks and existing level of fishing effort" provides a more realistic approach for determining catch quotas that are acceptable to all Parties which have an investment in the fishery.

**Status of the fish stocks and existing level of fishing effort:** We support the inclusion of this criterion, which is intimately linked to the concepts of responsible fishing and resource conservation. Notwithstanding, we stand firm on the principles of equity and access by developing states. Article 25 of the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement states that developing states should be assisted to gain access to high seas fisheries. If we agree that the objectives of conservation and management are best achieved by limiting fishing effort, then catch quotas should be redistributed to facilitate access by developing states. Without an adequate quota, developing states will, in effect, bear a disproportionate burden of the agreed conservation measures. Penalties of non-compliance should not be the sole source for providing such access.

**Equitable fishing opportunities:** Equitable fishing opportunities should be applied as a principle and not a criterion. The principle should apply to all cases of catch allocation negotiations, whether new or revised, and to all Parties concerned (i.e. Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Cooperating Parties, Entities, Fishing

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\* Position supported by the following States: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Saint Lucia.

Entities). ICCAT has a responsibility to manage Atlantic tuna resources globally, and so equitable fishing opportunities for "Contracting Parties" only is unacceptable. Many developing countries cannot afford membership in ICCAT, but their need to access these fisheries are clearly recognized by the relevant international agreements.

**Interests of subsistence, artisanal and small-scale fisheries:** We support the inclusion of this criterion that is given recognition by Articles 5 and 24 of the 1995 U.N. Fish Stock Agreement, with Article 24 emphasizing these needs for small island developing states. Article 2 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries argues for promotion of food security and food quality. Article 7.2.2 of the FAO Code of Conduct notes that management objectives need to take into account the needs of these fisheries. These fisheries may have different dimensions for developing and developed states, and so must be clearly defined. These fisheries make a significant contribution to food security, as well as social and economic stability in the countries concerned. This criterion is essential for Trinidad and Tobago and other countries within the Caribbean, where these fisheries involve significant numbers of their populations.

**Needs of coastal communities:** Trinidad and Tobago supports the inclusion of this criterion. Fishing conducted by coastal communities contributes significantly to the basic nutritional needs of these communities. The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries acknowledges these participants in Article 7.6.6, noting that decisions on the "use, conservation and management of fisheries resources need to give 'due recognition' to the traditional practices, needs and interests of indigenous people and local fishing communities which are highly dependent on fishery resources for their livelihood". Article 24 of the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement highlights indigenous folk needs, in order to avoid adverse impacts and ensure access to fisheries.

**Needs of coastal states:** Trinidad and Tobago supports the inclusion of this criterion. The 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), clearly recognizes the sovereign rights of coastal states for the purpose of exploring and exploiting all the natural resources found in their exclusive economic zones (Part V, Article 56). The 1982 Convention (Part VII, Section 2, Article 116) also notes that the right to fish on the high seas is subject to, *inter alia*, the rights, duties and interests of coastal states. This is provided for by several other Articles of the Convention (Part V, Article 63 and 64 are of relevance here). Coastal States rights and needs are further elaborated in the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement, particularly the issues of co-operation and shared access. The criterion should be defined according to the language of the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement, which considers access by "new" members relative to existing members and so provides an unbiased approach in addressing the needs of both types of members. We reject the idea that new member quotas should be considered as only "co-operation quotas". The criterion should be applied for both new and revised allocation keys.

**Interests of developing states:** Trinidad and Tobago supports inclusion of this criterion. We note though that the current definition is incomplete, and the Chairman's summary did not adequately reflect the views of all delegations. The definition should include language from Article 24 of the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement, which speaks of "the vulnerability of developing states which are dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources, including consideration of nutritional requirements". The same Article also notes the need for avoidance of adverse impacts on, and ensuring access to fisheries by developing states, particularly small island developing states. The 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement contains several Articles covering the special requirements of developing states, ranging from provision of financial and technical assistance to ensuring access and providing assistance with settlement of disputes, MCS, compliance and enforcement. Developing states have fewer funds and other resources than developed states. Access to fish resources by developing states therefore contributes significantly to poverty alleviation, basic food security and hence social economic stability. In the cases of small island developing states and coastal developing states, access to fishing resources is therefore a natural and essential part of their development.

**Respective contribution and co-operation:** This criterion appropriately rewards those Parties complying with agreed stock conservation and management measures and which contribute accurate statistics and research. Trinidad and Tobago will support inclusion of this criterion, if the final wording includes the clause "taking into account the relative capacities of countries in this respect", as described in the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement which gives recognition to the differences in available resources between developed and developing states.

**Respective interests, fishing patterns and practices:** Trinidad and Tobago believes that this criterion is unclear in its meaning, making it easier to abuse and subject to misinterpretation. We seek clarifications on the

interpretation and application of this criterion, for the purpose of catch quota allocations. Trinidad and Tobago questions the usefulness of including this criterion.

**Economic dislocation:** Trinidad and Tobago proposes deletion of this criterion, mainly because economic interests are already dealt with implicitly under other criteria. Will the criterion be defined in absolute terms or in relative terms? Trinidad and Tobago is concerned that, like the criterion "historical catches", this criterion seems to reward the same countries which may have been responsible for overfishing the stocks and overcapitalisation. To be acceptable to Trinidad and Tobago, the criterion should not apply to ICCAT members only, and should not be restricted to states fishing on the high seas.

**Establishment of control mechanisms:** This criterion is directly linked to the criterion "respective contributions and cooperation" which contains wording from international agreements, and is more balanced than this criterion which does not take into account the differences in available resources between developing and developed countries. If Trinidad and Tobago is to accept this criterion, a clause needs to be included to recognize that different capacities exist. Furthermore, control mechanisms should be more stringent for larger/higher investment fisheries, and Trinidad and Tobago proposes that an additional clause be included in the final wording of the criterion to reflect this.

**Domestic consumption:** This criterion should be deleted. It is closely linked to other criteria: "respective interests, fishing patterns and practices", "status of the resource and existing level of fishing effort" and "subsistence, artisanal, and small-scale fisheries". As a separate criterion, it should be considered only in terms of fulfilling basic nutritional needs.

**Social and economic contribution:** If the wording of the Brazilian proposal is captured in those criteria pertaining to the "needs of coastal states" and "needs of developing states", then this criterion should be deleted.

**Supplementary clauses:** Trinidad and Tobago supports a modified version of the first supplementary clause proposed by the United States and Brazil. This modified version should read as follows:

"Catch allocation should fully take into account biological characteristics of the stocks, and the relationships between stock distribution, the fisheries and the geographical characteristics of the region concerned, including the extent to which the stocks occur or are fished in areas of national jurisdiction on the high seas."

We also support inclusion of the second and third clauses proposed by Brazil.

**Additional criteria proposed in 2000:** The additional criteria and/or wording modifications proposed for "control mechanisms" are not acceptable to Trinidad and Tobago. The issues are already dealt with by the "respective contributions and cooperation" criterion, the language of which is in keeping with the language of the 1995 Fish Stock Agreement. We also reject the proposal not to give quotas to those ICCAT members that are more than two years in arrears of payments. This modification of the qualifying criterion is prejudiced and openly defies the principle of equitable fishing opportunities.

#### Appendix 7 to ANNEX 6

##### **Letter from the Head Delegates of Canada and the United States to the Executive Secretary Regarding the ICCAT Recommendation Concerning Bluefin Tuna Catch Limits in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean and the ICCAT Recommendation on South Atlantic Swordfish**

Canada and the United States wish to register deep concern regarding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Bluefin Tuna Catch Limits in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish*, adopted by the Commission at its Annual Meeting November 13 to 20, 2000. Both of these recommendations authorize fishing to occur at unacceptable levels, in contradiction of our obligations under the Convention, and both are likely to have adverse effects on fishing interests in our two countries.

For eastern Atlantic bluefin, a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2001 has been set at 29,500 MT. Once objections and disputed overages are taken into consideration, harvest levels are likely to total 50% higher than those required to halt further stock declines. Canada and the United States have a strong interest in the health of the eastern stock, particularly since recent tagging studies indicate that mixing between the eastern and western stocks may be much greater than previously believed. Canada and the United States are also very concerned that the SCRS was unable to undertake the necessary assessment of this stock in 2000 owing to the failure of some Contracting Parties that fish this stock to provide data on catch. The provision of such data is one of the most fundamental obligations that Contracting Parties have accepted under the Convention. It is not acceptable that fishing interests in our two countries are put at risk by Parties who ignore their obligations to report and are unwilling to adopt the necessary conservation measures, in line with the previous scientific advice, to ensure rebuilding of the stock.

As Canada and the United States noted during the November 2000 meeting, adopting this recommendation ignored the scientific advice and represented a "stock depletion plan" for the eastern stock. Our views expressed at that time were that a TAC and catches closer to 25,000 MT, as recommended by the SCRS, would have been the responsible step for the Commission to take. To continue to fish in an unsustainable manner jeopardizes not only the eastern Atlantic stock but also compromises the considerable conservation sacrifices being made to rebuild western bluefin. This is not acceptable to Canada and the United States, and neither should it be acceptable to the Commission.

We have an equally distressing situation with respect to South Atlantic swordfish. The Recommendation adopted in Marrakech allowed each Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity fishing for South Atlantic swordfish to unilaterally establish a precautionary catch limit for 2001. This process has resulted in parties setting unilateral quotas, which now total 21,981 MT, exceeding the scientific advice by over 50%.

We all realized that reaching agreement on a conservation-based TAC reflecting responsible fisheries management for the South Atlantic stock would be a challenging task. Sadly, the lack of ability of at least one major Contracting Party to show a small amount of flexibility is resulting in substantial over-harvesting which will, if continued, lead inevitably to stock decline and eventual collapse.

In addition to the above, the progress that Canada and the United States thought the Commission was making relative to bigeye tuna when it adopted first ever catch limits for this fishery last year, has not been called into question by the recent objection filed by the People's Republic of China. Canada and the United States recognize the right of Contracting Parties to object to ICCAT conservation and management measures pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention. We are, however, disturbed at the increasing trend by member to exercise objections, particularly when the objecting country was fully engaged in discussions and when good faith efforts were made to accommodate their needs. As a general matter, we believe that objections weaken the integrity and credibility of ICCAT as a regional fisheries management organization. Such actions not only call into question the decision-making process of the organization, but they undermine its ability to manage ICCAT species effectively.

Canadian and American positions at ICCAT have been governed by the basic principles of respect for the scientific advice, application of the precautionary approach consistent with the UN Fish Agreement, and rebuilding stocks to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels, which is the management reference point required under the ICCAT Convention.

Despite clear advice on the status of these stocks, the Commission continues to set TACs too high. Canada and the United States recognize the difficulty in reducing harvest levels and are only too familiar with the human hardship that accompanies the introduction of restrictions. However significant these difficulties are, they are far less significant than the costs associated with total stock collapse – an outcome that is likely to be realized if the Commission fails to amend its current approach.

Perhaps the most important step the Commission can take to set the stage for improved resource conservation is to finalize the work of the Allocation Criteria Working Group. Without meaningful progress on the allocation criteria in Brussels this May, ICCAT will face circumstances at its 2001 meeting similar to those faced in 2000. Given this situation, it would be highly unlikely that the results of discussions this November would be any better than last. For the sake of the resources ICCAT is obligated to conserve, Canada and the United States pledge themselves to work cooperatively to find solutions to the allocation issue this May. We ask that all other parties make a similar commitment.

At the next meeting of the Commission, we will be emphasizing the need to implement a more consistent standard for conservation. All Parties, rather than just some, must be committed to reversal of stock declines, and fishing in a sustainable manner. The success of the Commission and its credibility depend upon our collective ability to meet this challenge. We would ask that you circulate this letter to other Contracting Parties.

(Signed by Mr. P. S. Chamut and Mr. R. Schnitten)

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 6

**Draft Text**  
**of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria**  
*(Brussels - May 21 to 23, 2001)*

**I. Qualifying Criteria**

Participants will qualify to receive possible quota allocations within the framework of ICCAT in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Be a Contracting [in good standing] or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.
2. Have the ability to apply the conservation and management measures of ICCAT, to collect and to provide accurate data for the relevant resources and, taking into account their respective capacities, to conduct scientific research on those resources.
3. [Have a domestic fishing fleet capable of fishing for the stocks to be allocated or a fully-fledged plan submitted to ICCAT to develop such a fleet.]

**II. Stocks to Which the New Criteria Would be Applied**

4. These criteria shall apply [in general] to all stocks allocated by ICCAT [as or when sharing arrangements or TACs for such stocks are negotiated or revised.]

**III. Allocation Criteria**

*A. Criteria Relating to Past/Present Fishing Activity of Qualifying Participants*

5. Historical catches of qualifying participants.
6. The interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of qualifying participants.

*B. Criteria Relating the Status of the Stock(s) to be Allocated and the Fisheries*

7. Status of the stock(s) to be allocated in relation to maximum sustainable yield, or in the absence of maximum sustainable yield an agreed biological reference point, and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery [, taking into account any rebuilding plan that may be in effect].
8. The distribution and biological characteristics of the stock(s), including the [extent to which the stock(s) occur] [the occurrence of the stock(s)] in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas.

*C. Criteria Relating the Status of the Qualifying Participants*

9. The interests of artisanal, subsistence [and small-scale] fishers.
10. The needs of the coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks.
11. The needs of the coastal States whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of the living marine resources [regulated by ICCAT].

12. The socio-economic contribution of the fishery to the developing States, especially small island developing States [and territories], from the region or sub-region [in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks occur].
13. The respective dependence on the stock(s) of the coastal States, and of the other States that fish species regulated by ICCAT.
14. The economic and/or social importance of the fishery for qualifying participants [and the need to minimize the economic disruptions in those States whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention Area].
15. The contribution of the [fishery/catches of ICCAT-managed stocks/fishery for the stock concerned] to [direct domestic consumption/food security] [and to employment].
16. The right of qualified participants to engage in fishing on the high seas for the stocks to be allocated.

***D Criteria Relating to Compliance/Data Submission/Scientific Research by Qualifying Participants***

17. The record of compliance or cooperation by qualifying participants with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including for large-scale tuna fishing vessels, except for those cases where the compliance sanctions established by relevant ICCAT recommendations have already been applied.
18. [The effective exercise of responsibilities concerning the vessels under their jurisdiction.]
19. [The extent of measures taken by a qualifying participant to prevent or eliminate over fishing and excess fishing capacity to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the stock(s).]<sup>1</sup>
20. The contribution of qualifying participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.<sup>2</sup>
21. Extent to which qualifying participants have contributed to the over-exploitation of the fish stocks in the Convention Area [due to failure to abide by ICCAT measures].<sup>3</sup>

**IV. Conditions for Applying Allocation Criteria**

22. The allocation criteria should be applied with the goal of ensuring equitable opportunities for all qualifying participants.<sup>4</sup>
23. The allocation criteria should be [prioritized or weighted] [applied flexibly by the relevant Panels on a case-by-case (or stock-by-stock) basis].<sup>5</sup>

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1. One delegation proposed a criterion relating to this subject.
2. One delegation proposed that the language of this criterion should follow that of Article II(c) of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement more closely: ("...the respective contributions of new and existing members or participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data and to the conduct of scientific research on the stock.") Another delegation reiterated that Article 11 deals with the situation of new members and is not appropriate. Some delegations sought to distinguish between reporting of scientific data, which is a basic obligation, and the conduct of scientific research, which is dependent on resources.
3. Several delegations supported this criterion. One delegation found it unacceptable because it would penalize Contracting Parties that have complied with ICCAT measures. Another delegation shared this concern and stated that ICCAT as a whole is responsible for any over fishing, not individual Contracting Parties. One delegation proposed to include the phrase "due to failure to abide by ICCAT measures" to address this concern. Another delegation agreed with this approach in principle, but stated that this criterion should be merged with Allocation Criterion 17.
4. Some delegations stated that this concept should be crafted as an allocation criterion, or should appear in a preamble to this paper. The term "equitable" was considered to reflect the need for fairness in the allocation process.
5. There was not much discussion on whether to prioritize or weight the allocation criteria of, if so, on what basis. Similarly, there was not much discussion on possible reference periods or periods of duration during which particular allocation decisions would apply.

24. The application of the allocation criteria [must take into account the negative effect of illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels, and the need to curb these practices effectively.] [should take into account catches by non-members.]<sup>6</sup>

25. [Chartering, other than bare-boat chartering, should not be authorized except under conditions agreed by ICCAT.]

[The application of the allocation criteria should exclude practices leading to non-utilization of quotas by the Contracting Parties to which the quota has been assigned, such as quota trading.]

[No party will receive a quota allocation solely for the purpose of trading that quota to another party. However, ICCAT may allocate quota to be harvested through chartering arrangements that are consistent with ICCAT rules.]<sup>7</sup>

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6. One delegation proposed to include this concept in the first set of brackets. Another delegation proposed the concept in the second set. In each case, the idea is not to legitimize IUU catches or inappropriate catches by non-members, but rather to take such catches into account in stock assessments and in establishing TACs for allocation.

7.0 The issues of chartering, quota selling and quota swaps are related to some extent. The three ideas represented in these brackets were discussed without resolution.



**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 6**

**Proposal by Japan and the United States for an Additional Provision in Section IV**

(Conditions for applying allocation criteria)

The allocation criteria should be applied in a manner that creates an incentive for Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to become Contracting Parties, where they are eligible to do so.

**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 6**

**Proposal by Japan for a Provision in Section IV**

(Conditions for applying allocation criteria)

- 2 (new) The allocation criteria should be applied to encourage cooperation between the Coastal Developing States and the Fishing States for the sound fishery development of the former States.

**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 6**

**Proposal by Canada and the United States for New Paragraph 5, Section IV**

(For phased application of allocation criteria)

For insertion in Section IV of the Allocation Criteria Paper, as new paragraph 5:

The allocation criteria shall be implemented in a phased manner as follows:

- a) the allocation criteria shall apply immediately for ICCAT stocks that are currently not subject to a sharing arrangement;
- b) subject to paragraph c), where sharing arrangements exist for ICCAT stocks, the allocation criteria will apply once the sharing arrangement expires or is renegotiated or when the Total Allowable Catch increases;
- c) where ICCAT stocks are at low levels of abundance and are covered by rebuilding programs adopted by ICCAT, the allocation criteria shall apply progressively as the Total Allowable Catch increases.

**REPORT OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> ICCAT *AD HOC* WORKING GROUP ON ALLOCATION CRITERIA**  
(Murcia, Spain - November 7 to 9, 2001)

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

1.1 The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria was held at the Hotel Melia 7 Coronas from November 7 to 9, 2001. The meeting was opened by Mr. Carlos Domínguez-Díaz of the European Community. The meeting was attended by delegations from Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, the European Community, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Namibia, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, the United Kingdom (on behalf of its overseas territories), the United States of America and Uruguay as well as the following observers: Chinese Taipei, Mexico, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Netherlands Antilles, CARICOM, and the International Whaling Commission. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**.

1.2 The Executive Secretary thanked Canada, Japan, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, the United States and Chinese Taipei for their financial contributions to this meeting.

**2. Election of Chairman**

2.1 Mr. Carlos Domínguez-Díaz of the European Community, who had chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria, served as Chair of the meeting. Several delegations thanked the Chair for his work at the last meeting.

2.2 Morocco advised that Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri would succeed Mr. Abdeslam Fahfouhi on the Drafting Panel established at the third meeting of the Working Group to assist the Chair. Other members of the Drafting Panel ("Friends of the Chair"), Mr. Fabio Vieira Hazin of Brazil, Mr. Katsuma Hanafusa of Japan and Mr. David Balton of the United States, remained the same.

**3. Selection of Rapporteur**

The Chair thanked Ms. Sylvie Lapointe of Canada for her excellent work as rapporteur of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group. Ms. Allison Saunders of Canada was selected as rapporteur for the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**).

**5. Opening Statements**

The Chair noted that this meeting was a continuation of discussions held at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Working Group and urged parties, in the interest of time, to consider opening statements to have been delivered in Brussels. However, he further noted that any written opening statements submitted by parties would be circulated (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**).

**6. Review of the working documents on proposals for allocation criteria incorporated in the report of the May meeting of the Working Group, as well as new documents presented**

6.1 The Chair indicated that it was his intention to begin with a review of paragraphs 19 to 25 of the Draft Text of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria (Appendix 8 of that report), which had not been discussed in Brussels, and then proceed to a second reading of the document. (Unless otherwise specified, paragraph numbers cited in this document refer to Appendix 8 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Report). The final text adopted during this meeting is included as ANNEX 8, *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*.

**III. Allocation Criteria**

***D. Criteria Relating to Compliance / Data Submission / Scientific Research by Qualifying Participants***

19. [The extent of measures taken by a qualifying participant to prevent or eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity to ensure that levels of fishing effort do not exceed those commensurate with the sustainable use of the stock(s).]

6.2 Placing its remarks in the context of the International Plans of Action on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing as well as Capacity, Japan expressed its belief that developed countries should take measures to reduce their fleet capacity and noted that Japan had done so two years ago. Japan noted that it was important in an allocation exercise to differentiate between countries which acted responsibly to reduce their fleets and those that did not, as the latter would seek larger quotas than the former.

6.3 Morocco noted that an assessment of the type contemplated by paragraph 19 should be broadened beyond fleet capacity reduction to include other actions, such as Morocco's freezing of investment in the fisheries sector.

6.4 Brazil applauded the intention of paragraph 19 but noted that capacity reduction was already covered as a compliance issue by paragraph 17 and was much easier to assess in that context. Uruguay supported Brazil's comments. Japan responded that paragraphs 17 and 19 captured different concepts; paragraph 19 reflected the sacrifices developed states, such as Japan, must make so that developing states may access limited resources. The European Community expressed sympathy for Japan's position. Brazil highlighted the paradox in paragraph 19 that providing greater quota for a reduced fleet could stimulate growth. South Africa also expressed sympathy for Japan's position, particularly as paragraph 19 is drawn substantially from art. 5(h) of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("UNFA", or "UN Agreement on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Stocks"). South Africa noted that in its view, the problem with paragraph 19 arose from the phrase "the extent of" as that implied a judgment that it would be difficult for ICCAT to make unless it was prepared to document capacity. As a way forward, South Africa suggested that language regarding control of capacity be included in a preamble. Namibia supported inclusion of paragraph 19's concept in a preamble. The United States remarked on the importance of sustainable capacity, noted that all countries present had undertaken to reduce capacity per the IPOA on Capacity and suggested adding "consistent with international obligations" after "excess fishing capacity". Morocco opined that paragraphs 17 and 19 could be combined. Canada stated that it regarded paragraphs 17 and 19 as dealing with different issues and supported the U.S. reference to international obligations as that reference, inter alia, to the IPOA on capacity would provide guidance as to whether a party had addressed capacity. Mexico stated that overcapacity had arisen as a result of a few fleets, an aspect which should be reflected so as to avoiding burdening all participants with ramifications of actions by a few.

6.5 The United States suggested that paragraph 19 could be recast as a condition for applying allocation criteria under part IV rather than an allocation criterion under part III and proposed text for this purpose. Japan suggested a series of amendments designed to narrow the focus of paragraph 19. South Africa expressed unease at narrowing in haste a general principle drawn from UNFA; the European Community concurred with South Africa and suggested the text should be simplified. Brazil proposed text for inclusion in a preamble and agreed that it could alternatively be placed in part IV. Morocco expressed support for preambular text that would recognize in a general way all efforts to reduce overfishing. The United States cautioned that no preamble currently existed and that in

its view the creation of one would be a step backwards. Given the number of proposals on the table, the Chair urged the delegations which had made concrete proposals (Japan, US, Brazil and others) to meet over lunch and develop language encapsulating the idea that incentives should not be given to create excess capacity. (Further discussion on paragraph 19 occurred in the context of paragraph 21 and appears under that heading.)

**20. The contribution of qualifying participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.**

6.6 Brazil suggested deletion of the phrase "the contribution of qualifying participants to conservation and management of the stocks" because ICCAT should only look to the contribution of participants to its own conservation and management measures, not ones unilaterally adopted by parties, and that this concept was covered elsewhere in the document. Canada stated that it would like to retain the wording to allow recognition that it frequently goes beyond ICCAT's conservation requirements at some cost to both the Canadian government and industry; further, Canada did not see that this paragraph would cause any harmful effects to other parties. Japan and the European Community concurred with Canada. South Africa also stated it would prefer to retain paragraph 20 in its present form and, in the spirit of compromise, Brazil agreed.

**21. Extent to which qualifying participants have contributed to the over-exploitation of the fish stocks in the Convention Area [due to failure to abide by ICCAT measures].**

6.7 Uruguay, Morocco, Namibia and Brazil expressed support for the retention of this paragraph with the deletion of the wording currently in square brackets. The European Community questioned both the consistency of paragraph 21 with part I (qualifying criteria) and noted that retention of the language in square brackets would make the paragraph redundant while deletion of the same language would render it provocative. The European Community noted that ICCAT has a collective responsibility for stock management and cannot point the finger at single states. France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) also noted the alternately redundant or problematic nature of paragraph 21 depending on the retention or deletion of the phrase in square brackets. Japan queried the motivation behind paragraph 21 and noted that paragraph 19 was a good faith effort to deal with the issue. Japan indicated a preference for paragraph 21's deletion but also a willingness to review proposals that would deal with the issue in a positive manner. The United States also indicated it would prefer to delete paragraph 21 though it could accept its retention if the language in square brackets was deleted. Canada noted that determining the extent to which qualifying participants had contributed to the overexploitation of stocks would be a virtually impossible task as in many cases overfishing had occurred consistent with ICCAT measures. Canada further noted that this was appropriately dealt with in paragraph 17 on compliance and that paragraph 21 should be deleted. Korea insisted that if paragraph was kept, the language in square brackets would also need to be retained.

6.8 The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) suggested that language proposed by Brazil for paragraph 19 for placement in part IV could be used to deal with paragraph 21 or that both paragraphs 19 and 21 could be deleted. Following on this suggestion, the United States noted that parties in favor of paragraph 19 were generally opposed to paragraph 21 and vice versa, implying that a way forward on paragraph 21 could be found by treating it in a manner similar to paragraph 19; casting it as a more general principle in part IV. Alternatively, the United States suggested that Panels, in applying the other 16 allocation criteria, would find their task easier if both paragraphs 19 and 21 were deleted. South Africa expressed a similar sentiment. The Chair suggested that the small group reviewing paragraph 19 could also propose language for paragraph 21.

6.9 The small group returned with agreed language for part IV to replace paragraph 19 and agreement that a positive version of paragraph 21 should also be inserted in part IV. Following discussion, on the initiative of Côte d'Ivoire, it was agreed that an amendment by the United States to the replacement language for paragraph 19 caused it to sufficiently capture the concept of paragraph 21 so as to permit deletion of that paragraph. Agreed text appears in paragraph 23 of the final text (ANNEX 8).

**22. The allocation criteria should be applied with the goal of ensuring equitable opportunities for all qualifying participants.**

6.10 Namibia proposed replacing "equitable" with "fairness". Namibia indicated that this substitution would deal with its uncertainty about how and when this criterion would apply given the imbalance that currently exists between those who have quota and those who do not, i.e.: there would be a phasing out followed by equitable opportunities. The European Community expressed great concern at Namibia's comments on phasing out, stating that it intended to protect and preserve its historic fishing interests while promoting a fair share for developing states. This could, in establishing stable quota keys, in certain situations make it necessary to give up parts of quota it held. However, the European Community underlined that this would be a negotiated exercise and urged parties not to go into the exercise with undue expectations.

6.11 Several delegations queried the difference between "equitable" and "fairness". The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) suggested using "fair and equitable". Parties agreed to South Africa's proposal: "The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair and equitable manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants".

**23. The allocation criteria should be [prioritized or weighted] [applied flexibly by the relevant Panels on a case-by-case (or stock-by-stock) basis].**

6.12 To avoid the potential of this paragraph to polarize discussion and delay progress, the United States suggested that the words "prioritized or weighted" be deleted. Morocco, Japan, South Africa and Canada agreed, the latter noting the exceptional amount of time that would be required to weight the criteria. Morocco also questioned the meaning of the word "flexibly" in this context and wondered why it was necessary to specify that the criteria should be applied on a stock-by-stock basis when paragraph 2 of part I specified that the criteria would apply to all stocks managed by ICCAT. Japan suggested deletion of "flexibly" and Brazil, Canada and South Africa concurred. South Africa noted it was very comfortable with application of criteria being done on a stock by stock basis. Brazil stressed that while it did not object to the use of "stock-by-stock", the use of that phrase in paragraph 23 strengthened its objection to the use of the phrase "in general" which currently appears in square brackets in part II paragraph 4. Both the European Community and the United States underlined the importance of providing for gradualism in the document.

6.13 Morocco sought clarification as to whether the criteria would be weighted generally to apply to all stocks or whether weighting would be done on a per stock basis. The European Community noted it did not believe that weighting was possible to accomplish either on a global basis for all stocks or on the basis of individual stocks; rather, the document highlights issues that must be taken into account by the panels. The Chair explained that his understanding was that panels would apply all criteria to all stocks but that they could apply the criteria to each stock in a differentiated manner. Noting consensus with this explanation and the draft text as revised, the Chair considered paragraph 23 adopted as follows: "The allocation criteria should be applied by the relevant panels on a stock by stock basis".

**24. The application of the allocation criteria [must take into account the negative effect of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels, and the need to curb these practices effectively.] [should take into account catches by nonmembers.]**

6.14 Japan indicated it wished to replace paragraph 24 with its proposal on IUU fishing activities contained in Appendix 5 of the Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: "The allocation criteria should be applied to ensure the effectiveness of the action programs to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, particularly fishing by flag-of-convenience vessels." In the wake of questions from several delegations, the Chair indicated that in his opinion paragraph 24 as it currently stood required three things to be taken into account in the application of the allocation criteria: the negative effect of IUU fishing, the need to curb IUU practices, and catches by nonmembers. The Chair noted that Japan's proposal seemed only to include the second of these elements. The United States responded that the first and third elements as summarized by the Chair were not part of the allocation process but rather were items that should be dealt with in other ICCAT exercises such as stock assessment or TAC determination. It was the view of the United States that Japan's proposal captured the concept that the allocation criteria should not reward those who had engaged in IUU fishing and for that reason the United States supported

Japan's proposal. South Africa concurred and suggested that there was no doubt that allocation criteria could be used to legitimize IUU catches if such catches were included as historical catches.

6.15 The Côte d'Ivoire noted the importance of taking into account catches by nonmembers. South Africa noted that the difficulties encountered in drafting this paragraph likely stemmed from attempting to combine the concepts of IUU fishing and fishing by nonmembers. The United States indicated that, per footnote 6 of the text, the paragraph was intended to be directed at inappropriate catches by nonmembers. These, the United States believed, would be part of IUU fishing and would thus not need to be mentioned separately. Brazil suggested using the phrase "prevention, deterrence and elimination" of IUU fishing for consistency with the TPOA on IUU fishing. Gabon reiterated its support for combating IUU fishing.

6.16 After further discussion, it was agreed the paragraph should read: "The allocation criteria should be applied so as not to legitimize IUU catches and shall promote the prevention, deterrence and elimination of IUU fishing, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels."

**25. [Chartering, other than bare-boat chartering, should not be authorized except under conditions agreed by ICCAT.]**

**[The application of the allocation criteria should exclude practices leading to non-utilization of quotas by the Contracting Parties to which the quota has been assigned, such as quota trading.]**

**[No party will receive a quota allocation solely for the purpose of trading that quota to another party. However, ICCAT may allocate quota to be harvested through chartering arrangements that are consistent with ICCAT rules.]**

6.17 Brazil stressed that chartering is a legitimate tool for developing countries to develop their fisheries and that chartering should not be an allocation criterion. Brazil acknowledged that ICCAT should set conditions for chartering arrangements and expressed a willingness for the Commission to discuss this issue. Algeria, Namibia and the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) associated themselves with Brazil's comments. Namibia also noted that chartered vessels are required to be registered as Namibian vessels for the duration of the charter. The European Community remarked that chartering should be regulated and that the complicated issue should be discussed in Commission; the European Community did not see the need or desirability to refer to chartering in the allocation criteria document.

6.18 Japan made reference to its proposal for a Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Guideline for Fishing Vessel Charter Arrangement (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 7** - related to but not intended for discussion at this meeting) and noted that chartering should be accepted as an initial step for developing states to develop their fisheries. However, Japan observed that because of the principle of flag state control, chartering arrangements where the flag is not changed can cause problems for management. Japan proposed that if chartering without a change in flag was acceptable then such activity should be limited to the EEZ of the chartering coastal state as that was the area in which the chartering state would be able to control the vessel's activities. France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) also supported the idea that chartering should be considered by Commission and drew attention to chartering rules developed by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) as a possible precedent. France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) also observed that there were difficulties entailed in limiting chartering to the EEZ of the chartering state, especially for highly migratory stocks fisheries.

6.19 Canada stated that it is not opposed to chartering and acknowledged that it can be used by developing states in a constructive and legitimate way. Canada agreed that a reference to chartering should not be included in the allocation criteria but indicated that the Commission should address the issue of chartering at its upcoming meeting with the aim of developing guidelines so that flag state responsibilities are clear. The USA also supported the development of chartering rules by the Commission, and noted that the failure to abide by such rules, once in place, would be taken into account under allocation criteria regarding compliance or the IUU fishing.

6.20 The Chair observed that consensus had been reached that chartering would not be mentioned in the allocation criteria and that, as a result, the first sentence in paragraph 25 would be deleted. The Chair also noted

consensus for the report to reflect the Working Group's opinion that the Commission should address chartering as an urgent matter.

6.21 With regard to the second element of paragraph 25, there was widespread condemnation of quota selling and trading (Canada, US, Japan, South Africa, Brazil, Morocco, European Community, Côte d'Ivoire, Uruguay, Chinese Taipei, Mexico). Japan observed that temporary quota transfers such as that of northern swordfish made by the United States to Japan or of western bluefin tuna by Japan to Canada and the United States were useful for management purposes and should be permitted without resulting in the permanent decrease of the transferring party's quota.

6.22 Following discussion, including reference to proposals for Section IV (Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7), the Working Group was of the opinion that transfer of quota was not an allocation issue but rather a management issue. Thus, the Working Group decided to replace the current paragraph 25 with a general prohibition on quota selling and trading and request that the report reflect the Working Group's opinion that temporary transfers must be authorized by the Commission as part of management decisions. The agreed language for paragraph 25 reads: "No Qualifying Party should trade or sell its quota allocation or a part thereof."

**(Appendix 9 of Report of 3rd Working Group Meeting: Proposal by Japan and the United States for an Additional Provision in Section IV)**

**The allocation criteria should be applied in a manner that creates an incentive for Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to become Contracting Parties, where they are eligible to do so.**

6.23 Japan stated that the purpose of the proposal was to create an incentive for cooperating non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities to become contracting parties and avoid the logical inconsistency that parties in bad standing might receive better treatment than cooperating non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities. Brazil supported the proposal and opined that no state is obliged to become party to any international agreement.

6.24 Canada favors encouraging states to become contracting parties because their full participation strengthens the credibility and operation of the Commission. However, Canada commented that "membership has its privileges" and that the best incentive for cooperating non-contracting parties to join ICCAT is allocation decisions which favor contracting parties. The European Community stated its policy of inclusiveness, in that organizations should be open to all to become members, and referred to the guidance on this issue contained in articles 17(3) and 8(4) of UNFA. The European Community noted that part I of the allocation criteria already contemplated that cooperating non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities could qualify for allocation and expressed concern about the practical workings of an "incentive". The Côte d'Ivoire also expressed concern at how such an incentive might work.

6.25 The United States expressed its belief that contracting parties should be accorded more favorable treatment than cooperating non-contracting parties in recognition of the full suite of obligations the former has undertaken; more favorable treatment for members would also, in the U.S. view, encourage cooperating non-contracting parties to treat cooperating status as a temporary status. To reflect its desire to encourage all who fish ICCAT stocks and are eligible for membership to become contracting parties, the United States suggested replacing "creates an incentive" with "encourages". The European Community, Algeria, Morocco, and Korea voiced support for the suggestion and chair noted consensus on the language: "The allocation criteria should be applied in a manner that encourages cooperating non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities to become contracting parties, where they are eligible to do so."

**Appendix 10 of the Report of the 3rd Working Group Meeting: Proposal by Japan for a Provision in Section IV**

**The allocation criteria should be applied to encourage cooperation between the Coastal Developing States and the Fishing States for the sound fishery development of the former States.**

6.26 Japan amended its proposal to refer to "coastal developing states of the region and developed states". It explained that the intention of its proposal was to encourage cooperation. Japan observed that sound fishery development is important, that many developing states have difficulties controlling their fleets and that Japan is willing to assist developing states in solving these difficulties. Japan stressed it did not intend a reward for cooperation but rather a recognition that the only way to accommodate new entrants was for those with the largest catch quotas to shift resources to coastal states. In doing so, Japan wants to ensure that a sound and sustainable fishery results. Japan also noted that a previous paragraph had been removed from the document on the understanding that this paragraph would be added.

6.27 South Africa questioned the need to include the proposal as its sentiment is captured in articles 62, 63 and 119(1)(a) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). As well, South Africa queried whether allocation rewards should go to developed states for helping coastal developing states rather than simply providing the allocation reward directly to the developing coastal state. South Africa also indicated the need to clarify the meaning of "sound" fishery development, ie was the reference to economics, conservation, or other factors? Uruguay and Brazil agreed with South Africa. The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) suggested replacing "sound" with "sustainable", a suggestion which Japan accepted. Algeria also expressed support for Japan's proposal with the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) amendment. Canada noted that given the ongoing nature of discussions in other fora, reference should be made to the "objective of sustainable development", rather than the "principle of sustainable development".

6.28 Brazil suggested using text from article 5 of the FAO Code of Conduct; the United States indicated that article 5 was not in the context of allocation and would not be an appropriate addition to the allocation criteria. The United States also noted that the provision turned on the developing nature of the states, not their coastal nature and thus suggested that the word "coastal" be dropped. Morocco and Algeria expressed general support for these suggestions. China noted that the wording must reflect the assistance and cooperation provided by China, as a developing high seas fisher, to other developing states.

6.29 Canada stated that it recognized and respected the importance of cooperation between developed and developing states and noted that this concept is contained in a number of international agreements, notably the FAO Code of Conduct and the UN Agreement on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Stocks. While Canada was not fundamentally opposed to the paragraph and would not block consensus, the Canadian representative noted that in previous discussions it was felt that obligations enshrined elsewhere did not need to be repeated in the allocation criteria. The European Community expressed a similar position to that of Canada, indicating that it attaches importance to the provisions in different legal instruments regarding assistance to developing states but that it queries the value of their inclusion in the allocation criteria as well as how the resulting criterion would function in practice. The European Community also indicated it could accept the criterion if consensus developed. Mexico also noted that cooperation is already covered by principles of international law and need not be added here.

6.30 These comments were reflected in changes made to two proposals for a cooperation provision in Section IV (Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7) and agreed wording appears in paragraph 26 of the final text (ANNEX 8).

**Appendix 5 of the Report of the 3rd Working Group Meeting: Proposal by Japan for a Provision in Section IV**

**The catches made under the objections should not be treated as the historical catches. The Commission will decide treatment of those catches at the time of the next allocation on a case by case basis, taking into account all the relevant factors such as the reasons for the objections, autonomous management by the Parties that lodged objections, the stock conditions, and the effects of the objection to other Parties which are bound to the catch limit in question.**



6.31 Japan stated that it had no intention of undermining the right to object contained in the ICCAT Convention. However, the Japanese delegate pointed out that catch taken pursuant to an objection to ICCAT conservation measures should be treated differently from normal historical catches in the allocation process. Otherwise, the Contracting Party that lodged an objection could increase its historical catch as much as it wanted regardless of ICCAT catch limits applicable to other parties. Japan also noted that twenty years ago it had suffered a dramatic decrease in its bluefin tuna quota, to which it did not object. Japan encouraged all parties to refrain from presenting objections or else ICCAT's future would be in danger. Similarly, Japan noted that the use of objections compromised ICCAT's ability to take action against IUU fishing, in part because it reduced the credibility of ICCAT in the eyes of nonmembers.

6.32 In response, Morocco emphasized that the objection procedure was provided for in the Convention and should only be discussed in the Commission; there was certainly no place for its discussion in the Working Group on Allocation. Morocco recalled that it had been a member of ICCAT since the organization's inception and, as ICCAT had used a date unfavorable to Morocco to establish allocations, Morocco had naturally availed itself of the legal objection procedure. However, Morocco asserted that it had never ceased efforts to comply with ICCAT's conservation measures.

6.33 Brazil indicated sympathy for the Japanese proposal but stated that it could not support a proposal which would in effect discriminate against states which exercised their legal rights. Brazil also stated that only the Commission could review the objection procedure and that the outcome of the Working Group on Allocation would be very important for avoiding future objections. South Africa expressed appreciation for the intent of Japan's proposal but also a concern that the Convention does not countenance the judgment by a Panel or the Commission of a Contracting Party's objection which would be required to operationalize Japan's proposal. South Africa hoped that this issue would be drawn to the Commission's attention. The European Community noted that the exercise of the right to object did not free parties from responsibilities under the Convention and stated that the issue must be further developed in the Commission so as to arrive at the proper balance between rights and responsibilities. The European Community expressed its view that a party presenting an objection should explain its objection and establish alternate measures so that a free or unreasonable fishery does not develop. Uruguay agreed with the need to present alternate measures and to have this issue dealt with by the Commission. The United States echoed the European Community, noting that the increasing presentation of objections threatens ICCAT more than any other issue and urging the Commission to take up this issue. Canada also expressed sympathy for Japan's proposal and the need for the Commission to address the issue of objections. To that end, Canada indicated it would be making a proposal at the Commission meeting next week.

6.34 Japan expressed disappointment with these interventions and pointed out that even after the allocation criteria were finalized, the negotiation of specific allocations would be difficult and lengthy. The Japanese delegate stated that objections made after this process could ruin the results of such effort and could well undermine ICCAT's conservation and management measures. Japan, therefore, asked the cooperation of all contracting parties in refraining from objecting after establishment of the new allocation criteria and indicated that Japan would seek a solution to the important problem of objections at the Commission meeting.

6.35 The Chair then proceeded to a second reading of the text of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group meeting to resolve outstanding issues.

**1. Be a Contracting [in good standing] or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity**

6.36 Brazil characterized the requirement to be in good standing as one that would discriminate against developing states as they would be the parties most likely to be in arrears. Making reference to Convention provisions on parties in arrears, Brazil indicated that the Working Group was not the appropriate forum in which to discuss the financial status of parties in ICCAT. Algeria and Morocco concurred. Côte d'Ivoire noted the irony in contracting parties consistently being at a disadvantage to cooperating non-contracting parties as the latter are not required to be in good standing. Côte d'Ivoire also observed that there are contracting parties which cannot pay (though this circumstance does not apply to Côte d'Ivoire) and that they should not be penalized for this reason.

6.37 Canada noted that it had proposed the requirement to be in good standing at the meeting in Brussels. Canada views the state of arrears as a serious issue affecting the ability of the Commission to carry out its duties and believes this issue must be dealt with by the Commission. In the interest of moving forward, Canada indicated it would accept deletion of the phrase. Despite its original support for the paragraph, the United States also accepted deletion of the paragraph, noting that there were other ways available to deal with the issue. In particular, the United States stated that if a country is woefully behind in its dues, it should be open to panels to raise those circumstances in the general atmosphere of discussion. The European Community also agreed to deletion of the phrase, trusting that the issue of respective financial commitments would be taken up in Commission and that a similar degree of flexibility would be shown in that quarter by other parties.

6.38 The Chair noted consensus to delete the phrase but also the serious nature of the issue and the desire of the Working Group to see the issue of financial arrears addressed in the Commission.

**3. [Have a domestic fishing fleet capable of fishing for the stocks to be allocated or a fully-fledged plan submitted to ICCAT to develop such a fleet.]**

6.39 Brazil indicated that the paragraph should be deleted as it qualified the rights of developing states and contained the paradox that one could not obtain quota without a fleet but could not reasonably be expected to have a fleet without quota. Namibia, Angola, Japan, Gabon and Morocco also spoke in favor of deletion. Trinidad & Tobago observed that qualifying criteria should not be linked (as this paragraph is) to catch allocation. The European Community also favored deletion and, noting that the document was a package, suggested it be reflected in a more positive way in Section III.C, i.e., a reference to the rights of developing states to develop their fisheries.

6.40 The United States supported the concept of the paragraph but believed it had been addressed through the prohibition of trading and selling of quota. The United States also noted that if the paragraph was removed, there would need to be reaffirmation of the commitment expressed earlier in the meeting to develop rules for chartering. Canada echoed these points.

6.41 The Chair noted consensus for deletion of the paragraph.

**4. These criteria shall apply [in general] to all stocks allocated by ICCAT [as or when sharing arrangements or TACs for such stocks are negotiated or revised.]**

6.42 The European Community indicated this paragraph dealt with issues being addressed in paragraph 27 (a new paragraph that contains several additions proposed for Section IV and which appears later in this report) and so could be deleted. South Africa noted that while paragraph 27 dealt with the "how" of allocation, it was important to retain paragraph 4 as it dealt with what was being allocated. The Chair noted that South Africa's proposal for paragraph 4 that "these criteria apply to all stocks allocated by ICCAT" received general acceptance.

**7. Status of the stock(s) to be allocated in relation to maximum sustainable yield, or in the absence of maximum sustainable yield an agreed biological reference point, and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery [, taking into account any rebuilding plan that may be in effect].**

6.43 The United States, Japan and Canada reaffirmed their support for a reference to rebuilding plans in this paragraph. The European Community indicated that rebuilding plans are part of a suite of conservation measures which should be taken into account. The European Community indicated that a broader perspective was also required because parties not involved in rebuilding plans had also made sacrifices for the purpose of conservation. South Africa commented on the need for a link between allocation and MSY. (Further discussion on this item occurred in the context of paragraph 27 and appears under that heading in this report.)

**8. The distribution and biological characteristics of the stock(s), including the [extent to which the stock(s) occur] [the occurrence of the stock(s)] in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas.**

6.44 Trinidad & Tobago stated that originally it had supported the second bracketed text relating to the occurrence of the stock but that it had changed its preference to the first bracketed language dealing with the extent

of occurrence. Trinidad & Tobago indicated its reason for doing so was to ensure that the occurrence of critical habitats and spawning areas was considered so that parties whose waters contained these areas would not be disadvantaged. Brazil supported Trinidad & Tobago, noting that while Brazil is party to UNFA, of which article 7(d) refers to the extent of the stocks, many others around the table are not. Japan agreed with Trinidad & Tobago that habitat and spawning areas should be included in consideration but believed that to be covered by the reference to the biological characteristics of the stock. Japan thus supported the second bracketed language on occurrence of the stocks and cautioned against the use of UNFA language out of context.

6.45 The US, Canada and the European Community indicated a preference for the second bracketed text as it was not possible to empirically determine the extent of a highly migratory stock's occurrence. Canada noted that a reference to the extent of occurrence would provide fertile ground for disputes in the panels. Canada also suggested the reference to high seas be deleted as its purpose was unclear.

6.46 In the interest of compromise Brazil and Trinidad & Tobago agreed to accept the second bracketed text. The Chair noted consensus on this point.

### **9. The interests of artisanal, subsistence [and small-scale] fishers**

6.47 Japan noted that there was no reference to small-scale fishers in article 5(i) of UNFA and that subsequent UNFA references to small-scale fishers were only in relation to developing states. Japan also expressed concern about the IUU activities of small-scale vessels. Japan thus suggested either deleting the reference to small-scale fishers entirely or limiting its application to developing states. Brazil indicated that the small-scale fishers reference should be retained and also supported Japan's latter suggestion. The United States rejected limiting the small-scale fishers reference to developing countries; a large part of the U.S. fleet is small-scale and the provision should benefit all countries with small-scale fishers. Angola concurred with the US.

6.48 Canada suggested that the appropriate focus was on artisanal and subsistence fishers and that the reference to small-scale fishers should be deleted as it is not well-defined. The delegate from Canada noted that the Canadian fleet consists mostly of vessels less than 24 meters in length (a common definition of small-scale) and that inclusion of industrialized fleets in this paragraph was likely not contemplated by most parties.

6.49 Morocco, the European Community, Algeria and Angola spoke in favor of retaining the small-scale fishers reference. South Africa indicated it could accept retention or deletion of the bracketed text but raised a number of definitional questions. Côte d'Ivoire and Uruguay expressed a desire for a definition. Given the shortness of time, the Chair implored delegates not to embark on a discussion of definitions.

6.50 Japan indicated that the purpose of clause was to pay attention to small coastal fisheries. Japan thus suggested the paragraph read: "The interests of artisanal subsistence and small-scale coastal fishers." The Chair noted consensus on this suggestion.

### **11. The needs of the coastal States whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of the living marine resources [regulated by ICCAT].**

6.51 Namibia expressed its view that the stock specific paragraph 10 (derived from UNFA article 11(d)) and the much broader paragraph 11 (drawn from UNFA article 11(e)) balanced each other. Namibia thus saw no need to restrict paragraph 11 to living marine resources regulated by ICCAT and suggested deletion of the bracketed language. Morocco agreed that the bracketed language should be deleted as it was important to capture descriptors of all contracting parties in the allocation criteria.

6.52 The United States stated its position that it is illogical to allow a state anywhere in the world with a reliance on stocks other than those managed by ICCAT to have a superior claim to ICCAT managed stocks. The United States indicated that the phrase "regulated by ICCAT" does not appear in UNFA because it is a global agreement and does not contain references to specific regional fisheries management organizations. Japan concurred with this view. Chinese Taipei (observer) also agreed with the United States, indicating that failing to maintain a reference to stocks regulated by ICCAT would put ICCAT beyond its mandate.

6.53 Iceland (observer) stated that there are no states which are overwhelmingly dependent on ICCAT stocks so the retention of the language in brackets renders the paragraph meaningless. Iceland also noted that the compromise reached at UNFA negotiations was to distinguish between the needs of communities and the needs of entire states. Iceland also noted that states overwhelmingly dependent on living marine resources are very fragile and have a special interest in the marine ecosystem overall.

6.54 Brazil agreed with the observer from Iceland's assessment that the paragraph was senseless if restricted to ICCAT regulated stocks. Brazil also suggested making it explicit that the paragraph applied to states in the region. The United States suggested that the paragraph apply to states that have an overwhelming dependence on living marine resources "particularly those regulated by ICCAT", which the European Community indicated was a reasonable balance given the breadth of the paragraph. At Brazil's suggestion the language was modified to "including those regulated by ICCAT".

6.55 The United States indicated it accepted the paragraph, as modified by the US/ Brazil suggestion on the understanding that an overwhelming dependence on living marine resources included an overwhelming dependence on ICCAT stocks; in the view of the United States a general overwhelming dependence on living marine resources would not be enough to qualify for consideration under the paragraph. Iceland (observer) indicated its understanding that the paragraph meant overwhelming dependence in general, part of which is dependence on ICCAT stocks. With these understandings expressed, the Chair noted consensus on the paragraph.

**12. The socio-economic contribution of the fishery to the developing states, especially small island developing states [and territories], from the region or subregion [in whose areas of national jurisdiction the stocks occur].**

6.56 The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) and the United States introduced language to clarify the meaning of "territories" in this document. The proposal met with general acceptance and appears as a footnote to this paragraph in the adopted text.

6.57 Brazil stated that the bracketed language relating to areas of national jurisdiction should be deleted as socio-economic contribution should not be limited to that deriving from fisheries in a state's exclusive economic zone. Brazil noted the similarity of the paragraph to UNFA article 11 but indicated that UNFA language had been altered elsewhere in the allocation criteria. Mexico and Morocco concurred.

6.58 Japan and Canada spoke in favor of retaining the bracketed language, with Canada noting the importance of consistency with UNFA article 11 and observing that the paragraph should not be allowed to stray beyond its objective of recognizing the socio-economic contribution of ICCAT stocks to developing countries. Various delegations made drafting suggestions to tighten the paragraph's application. At the end of this discussion, the Chair noted consensus on deletion of the bracketed language, and on language qualifying states and territories as those within the region and specifying that the fisheries concerned are for stocks regulated by ICCAT.

**14. The economic and/or social importance of the fishery for qualifying participants [and the need to minimize the economic disruptions in those States whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention Area.]**

6.59 Brazil suggested deleting the bracketed language and discussing minimization of economic disruption as part of gradualism. The European Community strongly objected to this suggestion as the minimization of economic disruption is a key element of the allocation criteria package being constructed. The delegate of the European Community noted that the European Community will be ceding to other parties over a time period to be decided a certain part of its historical catch which will bring major problems for European Community industry. Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei agreed that the bracketed language should be retained. The United States and Canada concurred that keeping the bracketed language was necessary for the overall balance of the allocation criteria.

6.60 South Africa suggested that the paragraph be revised to read: "The economic and/ or socio importance of the fishery for Contracting Parties whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention Area." Japan, Brazil and Canada indicated support for South Africa's formulation. Trinidad and Tobago stated that this paragraph still remained an unbalancing factor for the criteria document as it was historical

catch “dressed up in a different weed”. However, given the lack of support for its view, Trinidad and Tobago indicated it would accept the South African proposal.

6.61 Acting upon the suggestion of several delegations, the Chair returned to discussion on this paragraph after related issues in paragraph 27 (below) had been resolved. At that point consensus on the South African proposal was reached.

**15. The contribution of the [fishery/catches of ICCAT-managed stocks/fishery for the stock concerned] to [direct domestic consumption/food security] [and to employment].**

6.62 Delegates reached agreement to replace the text in the first set of square brackets with Brazil's proposal: “fisheries for the stocks regulated by ICCAT”.

6.63 Delegates also reached consensus on retaining a reference to employment, as per the third set of square brackets, though Iceland observed that employment was a socio-economic factor covered elsewhere in the criteria.

6.64 Delegates considered multiple possibilities for the language in the second set of square brackets. Gabon expressed concern about the phrase “direct domestic consumption”, noting that the income earned from the export of tuna played an important role in his country's economy. Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil and Morocco stated similar concerns. Iceland also disagreed with the inclusion of direct domestic consumption, viewing it as an affirmation of domestic trade but a repudiation of international trade. All of these delegations as well as South Africa and Mexico accepted a reference to “food security”.

6.65 The European Community reiterated the importance of retaining direct domestic consumption as market demand created benefits for all. Japan concurred. The European Community then offered “domestic consumption and food security” or “domestic nutritional requirements and food security” as alternatives. Japan suggested “domestic food needs” be used instead of “direct domestic consumption” and the overly broad term “food security”. Brazil indicated that it could accept either “domestic consumption” or “national food needs” if the phrase “incomes resulting from exports and employment” was also used. Algeria suggested that the phrase “food security and national needs” be used.

6.66 Following on these many alternatives, the Chair noted consensus on the inclusive formula: “national food security/needs, domestic consumption, income resulting from exports” to replace the text in the second set of square brackets.

**Uruguay proposal: The rights of the States in the region, particularly the coastal states in the region which have or may develop tuna fisheries in areas under national jurisdiction.**

6.67 Uruguay introduced its proposal as a way to address the limits it saw on the references to the rights of developing states in other parts of the document. Morocco indicated that it was not appropriate to add an additional criterion; Côte d'Ivoire suggested that Uruguay's proposal complicated some issues. The United States indicated that coastal state rights and the legitimate needs of developing states were reflected in other paragraphs of the document and did not need to be addressed in a new paragraph. China agreed with the US. Uruguay withdrew its proposal, indicating that it did not believe that Uruguay's situation was covered by many paragraphs of the document.

**18. [The effective exercise of responsibilities concerning the vessels under their jurisdiction.]**

6.68 The European Community suggested deletion of the word “effective” but retention of the remainder of the text. Canada and the United States concurred. Brazil indicated it could accept the European Community suggestion but believed the deletion of the word “effective” removed the meaning from the paragraph. The Chair noted consensus on the paragraph as amended by the European Community.

**Appendix 11 of the Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting: Canada and U.S. proposal for new paragraph 5, Section IV**

(Rapporteur's note: This proposal evolved into new paragraphs 27 and 28 and so appears at this point in the document. Note that discussion on this paragraph occurred not only in a second reading of the text of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group meeting report, but covered the course of the three days of the 4<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting. For convenience, discussions are consolidated here.)

**The allocation criteria shall be implemented in a phased manner as follows:**

- a) the allocation criteria shall apply immediately for ICCAT stocks that are currently not subject to a sharing arrangement;
- b) subject to paragraph c), where sharing arrangements exist for ICCAT stocks, the allocation criteria will apply once the sharing arrangement expires or is renegotiated or when the Total Allowable Catch increases;
- c) where ICCAT stocks are at low levels of abundance and are covered by rebuilding programs adopted by ICCAT, the allocation criteria shall apply progressively as the Total Allowable Catch increases.

6.69 Canada indicated that this proposal was tabled in Brussels as a way to clarify how allocation criteria might be applied in practice and to provide additional guidance to panels. The delegate from Canada specifically sought to dispel any misunderstanding that stocks subject to rebuilding plans would be exempt from the allocation criteria. Rather, allocation criteria would apply upon an increase in TAC of a stock under a rebuilding plan. Canada emphasized that it is not prudent to increase fishing effort on stocks of very low abundance and this proposed paragraph is closely linked to paragraph 7.

6.70 The United States supported points made by Canada, noting that a phased approach embodies the important concept of gradualism. The United States characterized a rebuilding plan as the strongest commitment to conservation ICCAT can make and indicated that, as new entrants could be accommodated at the outset of new rebuilding plans, there should be no disincentive for ICCAT to establish more rebuilding plans.

6.71 Brazil indicated it could accept paragraph a) of the proposal but had concerns with paragraphs b) and c) as rebuilding plans and TACs could last "forever", thus impeding application of the new criteria. Brazil also saw difficulty in linking the application of the criteria to a review of a TAC. Brazil mused that the addition in paragraph b) of a minimum timeframe for application of the new criteria or providing for the new allocation criteria to apply upon completion of a new assessment would be improvements. Dr. Powers, SCRS Chairman, intervened at this point to urge delegates to avoid creating any situation where the SCRS would be asked to conduct assessments solely for the purpose of triggering application of the new criteria.

6.72 Côte d'Ivoire indicated that the allocation criteria should apply regardless of an increase in TAC; South Africa indicated that any alteration of TAC would be a point for application of the criteria. Namibia, Morocco and Uruguay also expressed concerns about paragraphs b) and c). Trinidad and Tobago indicated it could support paragraph b) if it was made clear that reasonable time limits were contemplated. Trinidad & Tobago also expressed their support for rebuilding plans but observed that all parties were making sacrifices as lack of access was equivalent to a cut in quota.

6.73 The European Community indicated their intention to bring forward a new proposal on gradual application (Appendix 7 to ANNEX 7) and stated its position that allocation criteria should, in general, apply to all stocks with gradual introduction of new allocation keys through panels on a case by case basis. The European Community could foresee two situations: first, an increasing TAC, where the majority of the increase should go to newcomers and secondly, stocks in trouble where full application of new allocation criteria would be achieved gradually through a transition period of a number of years. The European Community did not see the need to exempt stocks subject to rebuilding plans in any way.

6.74 Japan stated that rebuilding plans should not be used as an excuse to prevent application of the new criteria and emphasized that gradualism is an important element. Japan suggested that language in paragraph 7 on rebuilding plans and gradualism be retained.

6.75 Following discussions, a new proposal was circulated:

- new b) For stocks that are currently subject to a quota and catch limit by Contracting Party, the allocation criteria should be applied in a gradual manner to minimize economic dislocation and result in stability.**
- new c) The application of allocation criteria shall take into account rebuilding programs adopted by ICCAT.**

6.76 Japan noted that the proposal should read "catch/quota" instead of "catch and quota". Morocco suggested that these terms be replaced by "sharing arrangements" and the US, Brazil and Canada concurred. The European Community noted that referring only to "sharing arrangements" in new paragraph b) unacceptably excluded stocks for which there was only a TAC. To cover these stocks, Japan suggested the use of "catch/quota" instead of "sharing arrangements". Morocco indicated that "sharing arrangements" would include these stocks.

6.77 Brazil requested deletion of "minimize economic dislocation and result in stability" because it suggested that the door would be shut after a certain period, an inappropriate implication given the dynamic nature of quota allocation. Brazil also noted that economic dislocation was dealt with elsewhere in the criteria and should be deleted; Uruguay concurred. South Africa supported Brazil's intervention and stated its disapproval of suggestions that stability was linked to economic dislocation. Japan indicated ICCAT's long history of painful management necessitated a reference to economic dislocation and stability in this paragraph. The European Community stated that stability of allocation keys among contracting parties was desirable and that it foresaw a period of dynamism followed by long term stability as the uncertainty occasioned by a continuous review was not in anyone's interest. Namibia and France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) expressed sympathy for a gradual approach in application of the new criteria, with Namibia and Trinidad & Tobago noting that avoidance of economic dislocation for established and new fishers alike was desirable.

6.78 Canada indicated that the language on rebuilding plans had moved well away from the original Canada/U.S. proposal and urged parties to consider the amount of movement that has already been made in seeking a compromise. Canada indicated a clear link between acceptance of new paragraph c and retaining the square bracketed language in paragraph 7. Trinidad and Tobago expressed a preference for including rebuilding references in this paragraph rather than paragraph 7 which is itself an allocation criteria. Mexico (observer), which has made requests to catch stocks subject to rebuilding plans for the past four years, indicated that taking into account rebuilding plans could not mean that new entrants would be prevented from catching these stocks.

6.79 South Africa reiterated the need for a time period on application of the new criteria, e.g., expiry of a sharing arrangement, renegotiation of a sharing arrangement, etc. South Africa also suggested that the resolution of this issue would be easier once paragraphs 7 and 14 were resolved. The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico and Uruguay also advocated the need for clearer time frames, with Mexico urging application as soon as possible. Brazil's analysis was that three periods of time were involved: 1) a permanent concept of gradualism, 2) a period of time needed to phase in a particular member, which should be a given period decided by each panel and 3) a period before allocation criteria are applied. Brazil characterized the latter as the most important period and indicated it had not yet been addressed.

6.80 The Chair then compiled all suggestions made by parties into one paragraph for the consideration of delegates:

**27. The allocation criteria shall be implemented in a manner as follows:**

- a) **For the stocks that are currently not subject to a sharing arrangement, the new criteria shall be applied whenever an allocation is agreed by the Commission.**
- b) **For stocks that are currently subject to a [sharing arrangement] [TAC, quota, catch limit, or effort limitation] by ICCAT, the allocation criteria should be applied in a gradual manner [when the existing sharing arrangement expires or is renegotiated, when the TAC is modified] [when a new stock assessment is performed] [every x years, whichever comes first] [or over a given period of time] [when so decided by the relevant panels] [to minimize economic dislocation] [in the interest of the economic needs of all parties concerned and the need to achieve equitable sharing arrangements] and [result in stability] [long-term stability of allocation keys among qualifying participants].**
- c) **[The application of allocation criteria should take into account rebuilding programs adopted by ICCAT.]**

6.81 Many of the points raised in discussion on earlier iterations of this paragraph were raised again. Brazil also suggested that the stocks to which the allocation criteria would apply be specified. Trinidad and Tobago indicated that enumerating the stocks in such a manner would be detrimental to the longevity of the document and Uruguay concurred.

6.82 Algeria suggested that Section IV of the document conclude with paragraph 26 and that a new Section V on implementation be added to deal with gradual application and the stocks covered.

6.83 A variety of proposals were made by the European Community, South Africa (Appendix 9 to ANNEX 7), Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Japan and Canada to address concerns relating to gradual application of the criteria, stock by stock application, time frames, application by panels and minimization of economic dislocation. The United States then proposed the following text for paragraphs 7 and 27c for simultaneous consideration.

- 7. **...taking into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention.**

- 27 c) **The application of the allocation criteria should take into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention**

6.84 The European Community expressed support for the U.S. proposal. Canada noted that the meaning of the paragraph had been dramatically altered and questioned its appropriateness as it seemed to deal more with the contribution of the parties than the status of the stock. The original intention of the paragraph had been to recognize the unique nature of rebuilding plans in allowing stocks to rebuild to maximum sustainable yield. Canada suggested instead that "allocation criteria should take into account conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT, including rebuilding plans" be used in both in paragraphs 7 and 27(c) but withdrew its proposal given the lack of support. The U.S. language was adopted as paragraphs 6 and 22 of the final text (ANNEX 8).

6.85 The Chair stated that the final text adopted by the Working Group (ANNEX 8) would be forwarded to the Commission for its approval. He also indicated that the Commission would need to examine four unresolved issues that may be related to allocation decisions: Contracting Parties in arrears, vessel chartering, temporary quota transfers, and objections.



## 7. Other matters

Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Chair for a very productive meeting and to members of the Secretariat for their assistance.

## 8. Adoption of Report

The Report was adopted by correspondence.

## 9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7

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**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chairman
3. Selection of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Opening statements
6. Review of the working documents on proposals for allocation criteria incorporated in the report of the May meeting of the Working Group, as well as new documents presented
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report
9. Adjournment

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**

**Opening Statements**

***BY CONTRACTING PARTIES***

**Statement by Algeria**

The Algerian delegation expresses its appreciation to the Autonomous Region of Murcia for hosting this fourth meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria and hopes that this honorable initiative will lead to positive results in the work of this group. At the same time, the Algerian delegation thanks the Secretariat for all its efforts and wishes them every success in the work of the Commission.

Although we have been a Contracting Party for a short time, Algeria appreciates all the efforts made to bring together the opinions among the different Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-contracting parties, fishing entities and observers. For our part, the interest we accord to the objectives of this Working Group, is equal in importance to that our country has for a fair and equitable management policy for the tuna resources.

Our country's willingness to cooperate is clear and firm and we hope that this current momentum continues to be maintained in the interest of all.

#### **Statement by Brazil**

The Brazilian Delegation is pleased to participate at this 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. We take this opportunity to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for undertaking the usual excellent logistics for the meeting and to express our appreciation to Spain for hosting it in this pleasant city of Murcia.

Brazil approaches this occasion with a firm commitment to achieve a constructive outcome. We feel motivated to do so due to the undeniable progress that has been made towards combining allocation criteria proposals into a single starting point from which to work. We believe that this Group is now closer to reach a sound foundation on which to build an agreed set of allocation criteria that are fair to all ICCAT members.

We are aware that substantial differences still exist with respect to some matters but we trust the Group's capacity to overcome these differences and to look for mutually satisfactory solutions. To reach such a goal, we hope that all delegations present here will show the necessary flexibility and that productive discussions will be taking place in the next few days.

We are convinced that we, as a Group, must concentrate efforts in order to move forward. Consensus has already been reached on some important criteria. Much more can be done here in Murcia if the Group keeps focusing on an equitable approach to quota allocation within ICCAT. The Brazilian Delegation, as usual, is ready to collaborate in the search for a way out to cooperation and partnership.

Brazil is certain of the urgent need to ensure that the application of conservation and management measures shall not deprive coastal states, in particular the developing ones, of their legitimate right to develop fisheries in the high seas.

Before I finish, I must recall that the significant outcomes of our last meeting were due in great part to your commendable work and attitude, based on transparency, precision and, above all, impartiality. The Brazilian Delegation is very sure that you will lead all of us again to meaningful progress.

#### **Statement by Côte d'Ivoire**

The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire would like to congratulate you for continuing as Chairman of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria for the catch quotas of tunas and tuna-like species, the fourth meeting being the logical continuation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held in Brussels in May, 2001.

I would also like to thank the Spanish Government and the Community of Murcia for hosting this important meeting, in which we are pleased to take part.

It should be recalled that the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire is closely linked to the principle of durable management of the high seas resources based on scientific research and on equitable measures that permit the various States to develop their fisheries on sound bases.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting made notable progress in the development of these measures. But it should be recognized that there is still a lot of work to do in this aspect. If we want to arrive at equitable measures, each Party should make concessions and sacrifices that take into account not only important economic interests of the developed countries that are in play, but also the right of the developing coastal states that may want to fish the resources within their EEZs.

Only by consenting to sacrifices and in aiming at mutual understanding, will we arrive at a consensus that is beneficial to all the Parties.

There is a temporary working group established to resolve a specific problem that is becoming a permanent working group. This is not tolerable. We have to bear in mind that after the adoption of the allocation criteria, we will go on to the following phase of weighting. The process is thus long. During this meeting, the coastal

developing States are awaiting the quota that ICCAT will assign to them and they are suffering. Hopefully this unsupportable situation will come to an end soon.

All the Parties should consider not only their own interests, but the interests of others as well, particularly those of the coastal States. It is only through sincere dialogue that we will find a definitive solution to the allocation criteria so that ICCAT continue its work. This organization runs the risk, in effect, of losing its credibility if this problem is not resolved at this 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria for catch quotas.

#### **Statement by the European Community**

The European Community warmly thanks the Autonomous Government of Murcia and the Kingdom of Spain, as well as the ICCAT Secretariat, for organizing this Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

Our last meeting in Brussels was marked by good co-operation between Parties, under the excellent chairmanship of Mr. Dominguez. We are confident that this fourth meeting will benefit from the same level of co-operation. The Community considers that the Group should have as its objective to finalize its work on the allocation criteria in order that the Panels can commence their work.

In May, the European Community has demonstrated, in concrete terms, its desire to take real account of the interests of Developing Countries and we hope that this flexibility will be reciprocated.

The European Community looks to the Working Group to elaborate allocation criteria which respect the interests of all Parties within ICCAT and in conformity with the Convention. It is essential to arrive at a balanced solution foreseeing a long-term stability in the allocation keys, thereby ensuring a responsible and sustainable long-term exploitation of the stocks.

The European Community, as all Contracting Parties of ICCAT, attaches a great importance to this meeting. It is our common responsibility to reach an understanding which fairly reflects the interests of the different Parties. The Community, for its part, reiterates its commitment to working with all Parties to achieve that objective and its understanding that the finalization of our work will permit the ICCAT Panels to commence the practical implementation of the principles and guidelines developed by the Working Group.

#### **Statement by Gabon**

The Delegation of Gabon is pleased to participate once again in this important meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria and thanks the Spanish Government for hosting this 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The Delegation of Gabon congratulates and thanks the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas for have taken the initiative of organizing these sessions again, proof of ICCAT's constant concern to find solutions that are satisfactory to all the Parties.

Gabon is participating with avid interest in this 4<sup>th</sup> Working Group since five years the Government of the Gabonese Republic decided on the development of fishing applying the concept of responsible fishing, for which help is necessary to respect the protection and the conservation of the tuna resources and at the same time permit the implantation of fishing industries in our country, which is a developing country.

Gabon is very concerned about the inopportune intrusions of vessels that carry out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in developing countries and particularly in their exclusive economic zone, this uncontrolled fishing power could, over the long-term, risk having catastrophic effects on the fish stocks. Consequently, a quota allocated to a stock threatened by IUU boats is not fair.

Lastly, on behalf of the delegation of my country, I encourage all the parties here present at this 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on allocation criteria to be flexible so that we can advance towards acceptable solutions because an ad hoc meeting cannot go on indefinitely.

#### **Statement by Japan**

Japan would like to express its appreciation to the Autonomous Government of Murcia for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Working Group on Allocation Criteria. It is our great pleasure to participate in this important meeting.

The Japanese sincere wish to complete this important task of establishment of new criteria was clearly stated in our opening remarks in May. Thus, we do not repeat it here. On this occasion, however, Japan would like to stress important remaining issues to be discussed this week.

1. Treatment of catches under the objection to the ICCAT conservation measures (Appendix 5, 3b of the May meeting Report)
2. Effort for elimination of IUU fishing particularly fishing by flag-of-convenience vessels (Appendix 5, 3a of the Report and Paragraph 24 of the draft text)
3. Encouragement of Cooperation between Developing States and Developed States for the sound fishery development of the former States (Appendix 10 of the Report)
4. Recognition of temporary transfer of an unused portion of quota
5. Gradualism of application of the new criteria

We hope to have thorough discussion on these five and other issues with other delegates here.

#### **Statement by Korea**

The Korean delegation would like to express its gratitude to Spain for hosting this meeting which we deem is essential to achieving the basic objectives of ICCAT. We also sincerely appreciate the efforts of the ICCAT Secretariat not only for preparing this meeting but also for all the achievements of the past three working group meetings on allocation criteria.

It is recognized by most of the nations that fisheries resources are seriously over-exploited throughout the world. The depletion is causing concern among various countries. And this has often resulted in regional tensions instead of cooperation. We believe that the only way to solve this problem and consolidate the international community is to extract the full cooperation of the interested parties and this could be achieved through the negotiations in various fisheries forums such as ICCAT. Therefore, ICCAT's initiative can be influential for conserving fisheries resources globally not just the tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean. For instance, ICCAT has been long reviewed as a model of management for resources under its jurisdiction. In this regard, we commend ICCAT's successful efforts in terminating illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. Korea has fully participated in the efforts to eradicate IUU fishing and will continue to do so in the future.

We, however, believe the allocation criteria should be based on principles which are fair and equitable to the fishing and coastal states alike. Only such criteria would enable the cooperation and compliance of countries which have different characteristics and positions. And in order to establish fair and equitable criteria, all the participants should maintain a flexible stance and focus on achieving a middle ground on which all of the members could agree.

Korea has continuously labored to meet the recommendations of ICCAT for conserving tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean since its admission to the Commission in 1970. Although we are not currently operating fishing activities in the area, we have great interest in the conservation and sustainable management of tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean and hope to re-engage in fishing operations in the near future.

It is true that there are several criteria that we believe to be adequate in establishing the quota allocation criteria. Long-term historical catch and implementation records of ICCAT's management measures as well as efforts to conserve the resources as a member of the Commission should be taken into account. However, if such implementation records or conservation efforts are to be included, various fishing environments of each country should also be considered while their objectivity and credibility are established.

We hope all of the participants would cooperate in reaching a fair and equitable allocation criteria in perspective of the long-term objectives of ICCAT, namely the conservation and sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like fisheries. Korea is fully committed to fulfilling this goal.

#### **Statement by Morocco**

On behalf of the Moroccan Delegation, I would like to thank the Spanish Government and the Community of Murcia for kindly hosting this important and decisive meeting, in which it is a pleasure for us to take part.

As everyone here present knows, this Working Group is holding one of its most important meetings. The three previous meetings resulted in important progress, within a spirit of responsibility, of reconciliation and mutual understanding.

It is within this same spirit that we would like to carry out the work of this 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, in the hopes of arriving at conclusive results aimed at guaranteeing the right of coastal states and in particular developing coastal states, to promote their tuna fisheries and to contribute actively to their country's development, on a social and economic level, while at the same time respecting the management measures adopted by ICCAT.

We should therefore establish adequate tools for a fair and equitable allocation of the tuna resources, guaranteeing their durable management that takes into account the growing interests of the coastal developing countries.

It is appropriate to recall that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) also expressed their concern that the assessment of the stocks of some species that should be carried out without delay.

For this reason, we hope that this Working Group can arrive at practical results to allocate catches that will be recommended by the SCRS in the light of the results of their evaluations.

Lastly, we hope that all the participants demonstrate flexibility in order to advance in our work and arrive at concrete and reasonable results.

#### **Statement by Namibia**

First of all, my delegation would like to express our utmost gratitude to the people of Murcia for hosting this important ICCAT meeting. We further commend the Secretariat for its outstanding preparations for this meeting.

Namibia applauds the progress made during the last Working Group meeting in Brussels. My delegation specifically thanks the Chair for providing superb leadership. We have come to this meeting with the high hope of finalizing the work of the Working Group. Any further delay in the completion of our work will have severe negative impacts on some of the resources under the management of ICCAT. I refer particularly to swordfish and bluefin tuna. There are ample legal instruments such as UNCLOS, UN Fish Stocks Agreements and the FAO Code of Conduct, to guide our deliberations. We urge all delegations to work towards a common aim and to be flexible in their approaches.

#### **Statement by the Russian Federation**

The Russian delegation is pleased to participate in this 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. I would like to express, on behalf of the Russian delegation, my most sincere appreciation to the authorities of the Autonomous Region of Murcia for hosting this Working Group in this very beautiful and delightful city of Murcia. Also, I would like to congratulate the ICCAT Secretariat for the organization of the work of this meeting.

As a starting point, I would like to emphasize that the position of the Russian delegation is in conformity with the ICCAT Resolution that established the Working Group on Allocation Criteria itself that states the definition of quota allocation criteria should taken into account the applicable rules of international law and the principles of the relevant international agreements measures. Therefore, the position of our delegation is based on the following principles:

1. The coastal states have the right to develop their own fisheries within the waters under their national jurisdiction as well as the waters of adjoining high seas. Any conservation and management measure related to straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks adopted by regional or sub-regional fisheries organizations must respect the preferential status of such coastal states, particularly in relation to developing states.

This principle is granted to coastal states by the following instruments:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
  - The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and
  - The United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
  - The International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity.
2. The interests of the fishing communities, including those engaged in subsistence, small scale and artisanal fisheries, must be taken into account.

This principle is assured in the following instruments:

- The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and
  - The United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.
3. At the same time, no one can negate the existence of fishing capacity of the developing fishing countries. We need to harmonize the two interests, while the historical catch and the current fishing capacity are inevitably the starting point and the main criterion for quota allocation. In addition to the historical catch and the fishing capacity, and the sound fishery development of the coastal developing countries, the following elements are also important for the criteria:
- Stock conditions
  - Capacity and record of implementation and enforcement of ICCAT conservation and management measures, through effective control mechanisms, in particular, for large-scale tuna fishing vessels.
  - Data submission and scientific research required by ICCAT.

In this meeting we should, therefore, make every effort and find a definitive solution to the problem of allocation.

#### **Statement by the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)**

The United Kingdom in respect of its Overseas Territories participating in ICCAT is pleased to take part in the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. This meeting is very important, both for the future work in ICCAT and for fisheries management on a global scale.

From this year's meeting, there will be six United Kingdom Overseas Territories which participate in ICCAT: the British Virgin Islands will join Bermuda, Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Helena and its dependencies Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island, and the Falkland Islands. These different territories have among them interests in both existing ICCAT allocations and in appropriate provision to enable the development of their fisheries in a manner fully compatible with ICCAT recommendations.

ICCAT plays a vital role in the management of Atlantic fisheries. The UK hopes that all sides will show flexibility within this debate on allocation to ensure that ICCAT and all its members continue to work together to manage stocks responsibly. We hope that all parties will support the Chairman in his efforts to reach agreement at this meeting. We have a responsibility to ensure that these allocation criteria reflect the concerns of all Contracting Parties, and ensure that responsible fishing practices are maintained with the ICCAT area. This includes ensuring that total allocations do not exceed the total allowable catch recommended on the best available scientific advice.

We hope that the next three days will prove to be productive and will provide a framework for our discussions at the annual meeting next week, and indeed for similar discussions within other regional fisheries organizations.

#### **Statement by the United States**

The United States would like to thank the Autonomous Government of Murcia for hosting the fourth meeting of ICCAT's Working Group on Allocation Criteria. The City of Murcia and the region offer many attractions, and the United States delegation is pleased to be here. We would also like to thank the members of the ICCAT Secretariat for their hard work in support of this meeting, coming as it does just before the Seventeenth Regular

Meeting of the Commission. We very much appreciate the extra time and effort necessary to organize and run two back-to-back meetings such as these.

On behalf of the U.S. delegation, I would like to note our pleasure that Carlos Dominguez has returned to guide the deliberations of the Working Group once again. His leadership at the Working Group's third meeting contributed substantially to the ability of the group to move forward and make considerable progress. We look forward to working under his expert guidance during this fourth Allocation Criteria Working Group meeting.

With respect to the substance of the days ahead, the United States sincerely believes that this fourth meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria can --and should-- be the last. We were very encouraged by the progress made on the issues during the third Working Group meeting this past May. We saw some real movement on difficult issues by a number of parties. We have high hopes that the Working Group can build on the success of the last meeting and develop an agreed document that will be presented to the Commission next week for adoption.

Having said that, we recognize that there are a number of challenging issues that still face the Working Group. We urge all parties to continue to be flexible -- particularly with respect to Section IV of the current text. Finding acceptable compromises will be key to our success over the next three days -- and our success over the next three days will be critical for the future of ICCAT.

#### **BY OBSERVERS**

##### **Statement by Chinese Taipei**

On behalf of my delegation, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the city government of Murcia for accommodating this meeting, and the efforts made by the Secretariat to make this meeting possible.

Remarkable progress has been made through the previous three working group meetings after very difficult but frank negotiations among participants. Consensus for many controversial issues has been reached though several of them still remained unsolved, among which are the conditions for the application allocation criteria.

We note that participants of the Working Group have been trying to find ways to maintain a balance of interests among parties, in particular between coastal States and fishing States. As you may recall, Article 64 of UNCLOS calls for cooperation between coastal States and States fishing on the high seas in the conservation of highly migratory species, both within and beyond EEZ's, so that such species can be conserved, managed, and optimally utilized.

We do respect the needs and traditions of coastal communities that are overwhelmingly dependent on fishing. We also understand the importance of social and economic contribution of fisheries to developing coastal States. However, one should not ignore the interests of the parties currently fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in this region. Any measure developed should not have the implication of creating economic impacts on those parties whose fishing vessels have been traditionally fishing on the high seas of the Convention Area.

I thank you for giving us the privilege of being here and sharing with all delegates here our experiences in fisheries management. We hope this meeting will be successful and fruitful.

##### **Statement by Mexico**

On behalf of the Government of Mexico, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria and the Government of Spain for its hospitality.

Since the start of our participation in the meetings of this Working Group, the Mexican delegation has expressed its concern about the matters to which it assigns particular importance due to their repercussions in the sustainable use of the living marine resources mandated by the Commission and in the development of the Mexican fishing sector.



In this sense, my country has expressed and therefore reiterates that the allocation criteria used up to now of only considering historical catches should not be maintained as the only criterion. For this reason, I express our approval for the efforts that have been made at the recent meetings of the Group in considering other elements to be applied on the fish populations that have been allocated in the past as well as those that may be distributed in the future.

For Mexico, it is fundamental to recognize the rights and obligations countries included in the United Nations Law of the Sea of December 1982, as well as other international instruments that the international community has adopted, and also to recognize the distribution of the fishery resources, their state of health, and compliance with the management measures established by the Commission. In the same way, we have insisted on the need to apply the principle of common, but differentiated responsibility, which has been adopted by the international community, in the sense that those who have contributed to the depletion of the resources, should contribute in the same measure to their recovery. We coastal countries have the right to develop our fisheries in a sustainable manner and, in the case of the highly migratory species, cooperating with other coastal countries and with those whose fleets fish on the high seas.

We are sure that the Group's work can be completed at this meeting, thus permitting the prompt application of the criteria, since this working group was established precisely to arrive at criteria that lead to a more equitable distribution of fishing possibilities, taking into account the interests and needs of all the countries here represented, including the non-cooperating parties.

Mexico has waited patiently for this work to conclude and that the criteria adopted be applied as soon as possible with transparency and fairness, thereby satisfying the requirements of those of us who participate responsibly in this organization.

I reiterate Mexico's interest to continue cooperating in the Commission's efforts and that a consensus be reached which considers the interests and concerns of all, with the objective of attaining the sustainable use of the living marine resources of the Atlantic under mandate of this organization.

#### Appendix 4 to ANNEX 7

### **Proposal by Japan Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Guideline for Fishing Vessel Charter Arrangement**

Recognizing that for the recent several years, the issues associated with fishing vessel chartering have been raised from time to time in the ICCAT;

Noting that fishing vessel charter without changing a flag of the vessel would often pose and actually posed management problems, since the basis for the current international fishery management is flag state control;

Further noting that although fishing vessel chartering can be a useful option for developing nations to take for their fishery development, due attention should be paid to chartering of large-scale fishing vessels with high mobility so as not to create a loophole for international fishery management measures.

Desiring that, in case a fishing vessel charter arrangement other than bareboat charter is allowed in the ICCAT Convention area, it should be conducted in compliance with the following guideline.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) resolves that:

The fishing vessel chartering except bareboat chartering should follow the attached Guidelines for Fishing Vessel Chartering Arrangement.

*ICCAT Guidelines for Fishing Vessel Charter Arrangement**1. Nature and Period of Charter Arrangement*

The Charter arrangement in question should be allowed as an initial step of fishery development of the chartering nation. The chartering period should be less than (5) years.

*2. Chartering Nations*

Chartering nations should be developing coastal states of the ICCAT Convention area.

*3. Fishing Vessels to be Chartered*

Fishing vessels to be chartered should be vessels registered to and licensed by Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. Those vessels should be duly registered to the Commission and should not be or have been on the list of IUU fishing vessels.

*4. Operation Areas*

Operation areas should be limited to the EEZ of the chartering nation. When the fishing vessels go out of the EEZ, the flag states should manage those vessels. If chartering nations are coastal nations of the Mediterranean Sea where the EEZs are not usually established, the fishing operation of the chartered vessels should be limited to an area within and in the vicinity of the territorial waters of the chartering nations.

*5. Cooperative Arrangements between Chartering Nations and Flag States*

Cooperative arrangements should be worked out before a start of the charter operations between chartering nations and flag states of the chartered vessels so that fishery management can be implemented smoothly and effectively for those fishing vessels in and outside the EEZ.

*6. Catches under Charter Arrangements*

Catches of the chartered vessels that operate under this guideline should be counted as the catches of the chartering nation.

*7. Effective Management*

Vessel location systems such as VMS and appropriate tools for differentiation of fishing areas such as fish tags or marks should be used for effective fishery management.

*8. Report to the Commission*

Chartering Nations should report fishing vessel charter arrangements to the Commission each year. In such reporting, details of the arrangements described in the above items should be covered fully for review by the Commission.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7

**Proposal by Japan  
for Section IV, Paragraph 25 of the Draft Text  
of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria**

[to be added after Paragraph 25 in Section IV]

On the other hand, temporary transfer of an unused portion of one qualifying participant's allocated quota to the other should be allowed upon approval of the Commission to alleviate the difficulties of the latter. This temporary transfer should not be used as a reason to reduce, at the next time of allocation, the quota of the participant who transferred its unused quota to the other.

**Proposal by Canada, U.S. and Japan  
For Section IV of the Draft Text  
of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria**

No Qualifying Participant should receive a quota allocation for the purpose of trading or selling that quota allocation.

Temporary transfer of an unused portion of one Qualifying Participant's allocation quota to another may be authorized by the Commission.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7

**Proposals for a Cooperation Provision in Section IV**

**Proposal 1**

The allocation criteria should be applied to encourage cooperation between the developing States of the region and other fishing States for the sustainable use of the stocks managed by ICCAT.

**Proposal 2**

The allocation criteria should promote cooperation of the developing States with the coastal developing States, as established in the international agreements.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 7

**Proposal by the European Community on Gradual Application**

The allocation criteria should be applied in a gradual manner that establishes new sharing arrangements over a certain period of time to ensure appropriate transition, at the end of which there should be stable sharing arrangements.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

**Proposal by the European Community  
Replacement of Paragraph 27**

The allocation criteria should be applied by ICCAT in a gradual manner for all stocks, on a case by case basis, over a period of time to be determined by the relevant Panels, in order to minimize economic dislocation and result in long term stability of allocation keys among Qualifying Participants.

**Proposal by South Africa  
Paragraph 27b**

For stocks that are currently subject to a sharing arrangement and/or quantitative restriction by ICCAT, the allocation criteria should apply when the existing sharing arrangement or quantitative restriction expires or is renegotiated, but no later than 2002, in a gradual manner to address the economic needs of all parties concerned.

## ICCAT CRITERIA FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES

### I. Qualifying Criteria

Participants will qualify to receive possible quota allocations within the framework of ICCAT in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Be a Contracting or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.
2. Have the ability to apply the conservation and management measures of ICCAT, to collect and to provide accurate data for the relevant resources and, taking into account their respective capacities, to conduct scientific research on those resources.

### II. Stocks to Which the Criteria Would be Applied

3. These criteria should apply to all stocks when allocated by ICCAT.

### III. Allocation Criteria

#### A. Criteria Relating to Past/Present Fishing Activity of Qualifying Participants

4. Historical catches of qualifying participants.
5. The interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of qualifying participants.

#### B. Criteria Relating the Status of the Stock(s) to be Allocated and the Fisheries

6. Status of the stock(s) to be allocated in relation to maximum sustainable yield, or in the absence of maximum sustainable yield an agreed biological reference point, and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery taking into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention.
7. The distribution and biological characteristics of the stock(s), including the occurrence of the stock(s) in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas.

#### C. Criteria Relating to the Status of the Qualifying Participants

8. The interests of artisanal, subsistence and small-scale coastal fishers.
9. The needs of the coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks.
10. The needs of the coastal States of the region whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources, including those regulated by ICCAT.
11. The socio-economic contribution<sup>1</sup> of the fisheries for stocks regulated by ICCAT to the developing States, especially small island developing States and developing territories<sup>1</sup> from the region.

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1. For the purposes of this document, the term "territories" refers only to the territories of those States that are Contracting Parties to the Convention in respect of those territories alone.

12. The respective dependence on the stock(s) of the coastal States, and of the other States that fish species regulated by ICCAT.
13. The economic and/or social importance of the fishery for qualifying participants whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention Area.
14. The contribution of the fisheries for the stocks regulated by ICCAT to the national food security/needs, domestic consumption, income resulting from exports, and employment of qualifying participants.
15. The right of qualified participants to engage in fishing on the high seas for the stocks to be allocated.

***D. Criteria Relating to Compliance/Data Submission/Scientific Research by Qualifying Participants***

16. The record of compliance or cooperation by qualifying participants with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including for large-scale tuna fishing vessels, except for those cases where the compliance sanctions established by relevant ICCAT recommendations have already been applied.
17. The exercise of responsibilities concerning the vessels under the jurisdiction of qualifying participants.
18. The contribution of qualifying participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.

**IV. Conditions for Applying Allocation Criteria**

19. The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair and equitable manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants.
20. The allocation criteria should be applied by the relevant Panels on a stock-by-stock basis.
21. The allocation criteria should be applied to all stocks in a gradual manner, over a period of time to be determined by the relevant Panels, in order to address the economic needs of all parties concerned, including the need to minimize economic dislocation.
22. The application of the allocation criteria should take into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention.
23. The allocation criteria should be applied consistent with international instruments and in a manner that encourages efforts to prevent and eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and ensures that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with the ICCAT objective of achieving and maintaining MSY.
24. The allocation criteria should be applied so as not to legitimize illegal, unregulated and unreported catches and shall promote the prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels.
25. The allocation criteria should be applied in a manner that encourages cooperating Non-Contracting parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to become Contracting Parties, where they are eligible to do so.
26. The allocation criteria should be applied to encourage cooperation between the developing States of the region and other fishing States for the sustainable use of the stocks managed by ICCAT and in accordance with the relevant international instruments.
27. No qualifying participant shall trade or sell its quota allocation or a part thereof.

## RECOMMENDATIONS &amp; RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2001

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING A MANAGEMENT STANDARD  
FOR THE LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY**

*RECALLING* that the Commission has actively taken various measures and actions to eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities by large-scale tuna longline vessels in the Convention Area;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that FAO has been taking initiatives to eliminate IUU fishing activities;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission adopted a *Resolution Concerning Preparation of a Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Fishery* at its 2000 meeting;

*RECOGNIZING* that large-scale tuna longline vessels shift fishing grounds very easily from the Convention Area to the Pacific or the Indian Oceans and *vice versa* and that this highly mobile nature of this fishery makes control and management of this fishery difficult;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* that their catches are transferred from the fishing grounds to the market directly without going through the flag countries;

*BEING AWARE* that most of their bluefin, bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches are exported to Japan;

*NOTING*, with grave concern, that many IUU large-scale tuna longline vessels still survive by shifting their flags from non-Contracting Parties to Contracting Parties with less management ability, and by changing their vessel names and nominal owners to evade international efforts to eliminate these vessels;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the lack of a minimum management standard of the Commission allows such shifting to Contracting Parties; and

*RECOGNIZING* the urgent necessity of undertaking due measures so as not to use Contracting Parties as shelters of such vessels,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities are encouraged to take on a provisional basis measures to meet the minimum management standard (**Attachment I**) when they issue fishing licenses to tuna longline vessels greater than 24 meters in overall length (or greater than 20 meters between perpendiculars, hereinafter referred to as "large-scale tuna longline vessels") under their registry to fish for tunas in the Convention Area.
2. All the Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities should cooperate with those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities which issue licenses to large-scale tuna longline vessels to meet the above standard.
3. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities which issue licenses to large-scale tuna longline vessels should report annually to the Commission measures taken according to paragraph 1 using the format shown in **Attachment II**.

4. Provisions taken pursuant to paragraph 1 should be continuously reviewed in line with the progress made at the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures.

*Attachment I*

**ICCAT MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR THE  
LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE FISHERY**

The Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities should:

**1. Management in the fishing grounds**

- i* Monitor and inspect, where appropriate through patrol boats and maintain surveillance of the activities of its vessels in order to ensure compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management measures.
- ii* Deploy scientific observers on-board the vessels according to the Commission's recommendation;
- iii* Require the installation of satellite-based vessel monitoring systems on board the large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area according to the Commission's recommendation;
- iv* Require a report of their entry/exit to and from the management areas and the Convention Area, unless otherwise indicated through use of a vessel monitoring system.
- v* Require a daily or periodical report of the vessel's catches of species to which catch limits are applicable;

**2. Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports)**

- i* Require a report of any transshipment of the vessel's catches by species and by management area;
- ii* Conduct port inspection according to the Commission's recommendation;
- iii* Implement statistical document programs according to the Commission's recommendation;

**3. Management at landing ports**

- i* Collect landing and transshipment data to verify catch data, if appropriate, through cooperation with other Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities.
- ii* Require a report of landings of their catches by species and by management area.

**MODEL FORMAT**  
**FOR ANNUAL REPORTING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICCAT MANAGEMENT STANDARD FOR LARGE-SCALE TUNA LONGLINE VESSELS**

**a. Management in the fishing grounds**

	<i>Scientific Observer boarding</i>	<i>Satellite-based vessel monitoring system</i>	<i>Daily or required periodic catch report</i>	<i>Entry/Exit report</i>
Yes, No				
Note	%	% or number of vessels	Method	Method

**b. Management of transshipment (from the fishing grounds to the landing ports)**

	<i>Transshipment report</i>	<i>Port inspection</i>	<i>Statistical document program</i>
Yes, No			
Note	Method	Method	

**c. Management at landing ports**

	<i>Landing inspection</i>	<i>Landing reporting</i>	<i>Cooperation with other Parties</i>
Yes, No			
Note	Method	Method	



**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING THE  
TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENT OF QUOTAS**

*RECOGNIZING* the results of the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

**Any temporary quota adjustments shall be done only under authorization by the Commission,**

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING  
COMPLIANCE IN THE BLUEFIN TUNA AND ATLANTIC SWORDFISH FISHERIES**

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* adopted at the 1996 Commission Meeting, and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the South Atlantic Swordfish Fishery*, adopted at the 1997 Commission Meeting;

*AWARE* that all the Contracting Parties may not have the necessary data at the moment to establish catch limits for a management period immediately following a management period during which overfishing was reported, and are not in condition to respect the provisions of application stipulated under paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, which were also applicable to the South Atlantic swordfish fisheries;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* which is also applicable to the South Atlantic swordfish fisheries, all unused portion (if this is specified in the pertinent management recommendation) or excess of the annual quota/catch limit shall be deducted from/may be added to, according to the case, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

	<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
North Atlantic swordfish	2000	2002
	2001	2003
	2002	2004
East Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna	1999	2001
	2000	2002
	2001	2003

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT  
ON THE DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR DATA SUBMISSION**

*GIVEN* that Article IX of The Convention states that the Contracting Parties agree to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information the Commission may need for the purposes of this Convention;

*ALSO GIVEN* that Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure states that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics shall develop and recommend to the Commission such policies and procedures in the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of fishery statistics as may be necessary to ensure that the Commission has available at all times complete, current and equivalent statistics on fishery activities in the Convention Area;

*RECOGNIZING* that the Format Adopted by the Commission for Annual National Reports to be Submitted to ICCAT established by this Commission in 1995 states that National Reports should be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one month before the start of the annual or Regular or Special Commission meeting. Where the meeting of SCRS is held some time before the Commission meeting, such reports should be submitted at the start of the SCRS meeting. The exact submission dates should be annually determined by the Secretariat;

*ALSO GIVEN* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting states that each Contracting Party shall include in its national report a completed "ICCAT Reporting Table;"

*EMPHASIZING* that the SCRS continues to recommend that the Commission ensure that the ICCAT Secretariat be provided with reliable data in a timely manner on catch, effort, size in the format requested, and on as fine a scale as possible. These obligations are considered a minimum standard as they are clearly stated in the ICCAT Convention, FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as the UN Implementation Agreement;

*NOTING* that in 2001, the SCRS recommended that the deadline for the submission of Task I data be revised to 31 July concurrent with the deadline for Task II statistics;

*AND ALSO NOTING* that the 1996 SCRS recommended that all data changes be formally reported and justified.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. All Task I and Task II data should be submitted annually to the Secretariat by 31 July the following year, as recommended by the SCRS. In case where the final statistics cannot be submitted by that date, at least preliminary statistics should be provided. Exceptions may be in years when early assessment meetings are held, in which case Task I and Task II for those particular species being addressed should be submitted two weeks prior to the start of the meeting or as specified in the meeting announcement.
2. National Reports, and therefore ICCAT Reporting Tables (for use by the Compliance Committee), should be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one month before the start of the annual or Regular or Special Commission meeting. Where the meeting of SCRS is held some time before the Commission meeting, the sections on the *National Fisheries Information and Research and Statistics* (Parts 1 and 2 of the National Report) should be submitted at the start of the SCRS meeting. The exact submission dates should be annually determined by the Secretariat.
3. All revisions of historical scientific data should be formally reported and duly justified. In the case of Task I and II data, these reports should be made on forms provided by the Secretariat and reviewed by the SCRS. The SCRS will advise the Secretariat if revisions are then accepted for scientific use.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE  
2002 BIGEYE TUNA CONSERVATION MEASURES**

*RECALLING* that the *Recommendation on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* was adopted at the 2000 Commission meeting;

*RECOGNIZING* that the effectiveness of the measure taken by the above recommendation has yet be reviewed and that the stock assessment of bigeye tuna will be conducted at the 2002 SCRS meeting;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall, in 2002, limit their catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to the average of the catch of bigeye tuna taken by all their vessels in 1991 and 1992.
2. Notwithstanding the paragraph above,
  - a) China shall limit, in 2002, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 4,000 MT, while the overall number of its vessels registered with the Commission be frozen at 60 for 2002 and thereafter, unless the Commission decides otherwise. The catch and the number of the fishing vessels of China will be reviewed before the 2002 Commission annual meeting.
  - b) The Commission shall request Chinese Taipei to limit, in 2002, its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna to 16,500 MT and the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to 125.
  - c) The Commission shall request the Philippines to limit, in 2002 and thereafter the number of its fishing vessels fishing for Atlantic bigeye tuna to five (5).
3. The provision of paragraph 1 will not apply to Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose reported 1999 catch, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, was less than 2,100 MT.
4. Underages/overages of the 2002 catch limit for bigeye tuna may be added to/must be subtracted from the 2003 and/or 2004 catch limits for bigeye tuna.
5. The SCRS shall include in its next assessment of the Atlantic bigeye stock, possible recovery scenarios, including specific TAC recommendations, with the goal of rebuilding Atlantic bigeye tuna to biomass levels that will support MSY.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON NORTH ATLANTIC  
ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS**

*CONSIDERING* that, to maintain the stability of the spawning stock biomass of northern albacore, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommends that catches do not exceed their current level of 34,500 MT;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The establishment of a total allowable catch (TAC) of:

34,500 MT for 2002

2. This catch limit will be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties according to the following table:

<i>Party</i>	<i>2002 Quota</i>
European Community	28,712 MT
United States	607 MT
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,319 MT</b>

3. With the exception of Japan, Contracting Parties other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 above will limit their catches to 200 MT.
4. Japan will endeavor to limit its total northern albacore catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.
5. For the Non-contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, the catch limit for 2002 will be 4,459 MT<sup>1</sup>
6. All underages or overage of the quota/annual catch limit of northern albacore should be deducted from or added to the quota/catch limit for the year 2003 and/or 2004.
7. The 1998 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore remains in force.

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1. This total includes a special allocation for Chinese Taipei of 4,453 MT, since it has Cooperating status.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT REGARDING THE SCRS  
MIXING REPORT ON ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

*RECALLING* that the Commission adopted, in 2000 at its 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting (Marrakech, Morocco – November 13 to 20, 2000) a resolution for SCRS to examine the effects of mixing of Atlantic bluefin tuna for stock assessments and management,

*NOTING* that SCRS held a Workshop on Bluefin Mixing in Madrid from September 3-7 and considered the latest evidence on mixing of Atlantic bluefin tuna from the western and eastern fishing grounds from conventional tag, electronic and satellite tag research programs; and considered the latest results of genetic research on the stock structure of bluefin tuna,

*ALSO NOTING* that SCRS has concluded that it is likely that the distribution of fish from the two known spawning areas overlaps, at least for a part of the year, for a large proportion of the Atlantic Ocean, and that the current boundary does not depict the present understanding of the biological distribution and biological stock structure.

*CONSIDERING* the SCRS recommendation “that assessment models be developed that permit accommodating more biological realism and which provide for greater flexibility” for managers to select effective and efficient conservation programs and management units for bluefin tuna of western and eastern origin,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

Contracting Parties, in cooperation with their National Scientists and the SCRS, should endeavor to conduct scientific research throughout the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea that will contribute to the better understanding of Atlantic bluefin tuna movement patterns. As recommended by the SCRS, research should include archival tagging of fish of all sizes, larval and spawning studies, and genetic and microconstituent analyses.

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON BLUEFIN TUNA  
RESEARCH IN THE CENTRAL NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN**

*GIVEN* that at its 1998 meeting the Commission adopted a 20-year rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the West Atlantic;

*CONSIDERING* that the uncertainty associated with the boundary between the east and west management units for bluefin tuna highlights the need for sound management in both the east and west Atlantic;

*NOTING* the 2000 Recommendation by this Commission to support research in the central north Atlantic, and the subsequent research conducted in 2001 and reported to the SCRS;

*DESIRING* to continue to support this important research in the central north Atlantic Ocean:

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The Commission continue to endorse the recommendation of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program and the 2000 Workshop on the Biology of Bluefin Tuna in the Mid-Atlantic regarding new research on bluefin tuna in the central north Atlantic;
2. All Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities undertake to consider providing funding or other logistical support in order to conduct this critical scientific endeavor;
3. Participants in this research be exempt from the Commission's conservation measures for up to 15 MT of bluefin tuna annually and up to 15 MT annually of other tunas and tuna-like species taken incidentally during the research in 2002 and future years; and
4. The United Kingdom on behalf of the Overseas Territory of Bermuda assign exemptions, in accordance with Paragraph 3, to participants in the research such that the objectives of the research are fulfilled to the extent possible, and report to the Commission annually.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON REVISION AND SHARING  
OF THE SOUTHERN ALBACORE CATCH LIMIT**

*NOTING* that the updated stock assessment conducted during 2000 indicates that the replacement yield of the southern albacore stock is estimated to be 29,200 MT, and that catches at that level should be sustainable;

*NOTING FURTHER* that established southern albacore catch limits have not been exceeded since establishment of the 1998 *Recommendation on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*;

*RECOGNIZING* that the establishment of a long-term sharing arrangement should be negotiated now that the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation Criteria has developed criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities, but that further time is required to evaluate options for implementing these criteria;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that problems have been experienced in reporting albacore catches under the 1998, 1999 and 2000 sharing and monitoring arrangement, and recognizing the need to improve such reporting;

*DESIRING* to continue to implement effective measures to limit catches of southern albacore to sustainable levels;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The total catch limit for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5° N be set at 29,200 MT for 2002, that being the estimated replacement yield of the stock.
2. For the purpose of this recommendation, Brazil, Namibia, South Africa and Chinese-Taipei be considered to be Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore, as contemplated in the 1997 southern albacore catch limit recommendation. All other Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall be considered to be not actively fishing for southern albacore, whether taking albacore as a target species or by-catch.
3. The catch limit for southern albacore caught by those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing actively for southern albacore be set at 27,500 MT for 2002.
4. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above implement effective systems to ensure correct reporting of their respective cumulative southern albacore catches to the ICCAT Secretariat within two months of those catches having been made.
5. The ICCAT Secretariat notify all those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above when a total cumulative catch level of 22,000 MT is reached, this being 80% of their catch limit of 27,500 MT.
6. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately initiate multi-lateral discussions when the 22,000 MT warning catch level is reached, in order to decide on steps to be taken to prevent total catches by those countries, entities or fishing entities from exceeding the catch limit of 27,500 MT.
7. Those Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities referred to in paragraph 2 above immediately implement measures to stop fishing for southern albacore when the established catch limit of 27,500 MT is reached, so as to ensure that that limit is not exceeded.



8. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not fishing actively for southern albacore (as designated in paragraph 2 above), and having caught on average less than 100 MT of southern albacore per year during 1992-1996, be subject to an annual southern albacore catch limit of 100 MT.
9. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities not fishing actively for southern albacore (as designated in paragraph 2 above), whether taking albacore as a target species or by-catch, and having caught on average more than 100 MT of southern albacore per year during 1992-1996, but excluding Japan, be subject to an annual southern albacore catch limit of 110% of their respective average 1992-1996 catches of albacore in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.
10. Japan endeavor to limit its total catch of southern albacore to 4% by weight of its total longline bigeye tuna catch in the Atlantic Ocean South of 5°N.
11. No provision shall be made for carry-over of any under-harvests made under this sharing arrangement.
12. The southern albacore catch limit, monitoring and other management measures be reviewed, and revised as necessary, at the 2002 Commission meeting.
13. This Recommendation replace, in their entirety, the 1998 *Recommendation on Revision, Implementation and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*, the 1999 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Extend the Southern Albacore Management Arrangement and to Improve Monitoring* and the 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit*.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR EVALUATING ALTERNATIVES  
TO REDUCE CATCHES OF JUVENILES OR DEAD DISCARDS OF SWORDFISH**

*RECALLING* that the Commission and the SCRS has taken great interest in the potential of utilizing time-area closures as an effective tool for reducing the mortality of undersized swordfish and other species;

*RECOGNIZING* that in 1999, the SCRS expressed concerns "about the high catches (landings plus discards) of small swordfish" and regarding both the lack and possible inaccuracies of size data in many fisheries;

*RECALLING* that the Commission has responded to the concerns of the SCRS regarding small fish mortality with the adoption of two minimum size limitations, and has directed the SCRS to report at the 2002 Commission meeting on alternative means of reducing mortality on small swordfish, specifically area closures and gear modifications;

*RECOGNIZING* further that in 1999, the SCRS also emphasized that gains in yield could accrue if the current minimum size recommendations intended to reduce the mortality of undersized swordfish could be more effectively implemented through the application of innovative approaches;

*RECOGNIZING* also that in 2001, the SCRS, in response to a Commission request, hold a specific workshop to analyze the problem of juvenile swordfish catches in the Mediterranean, and the results show that time-area closures should be mostly effective if enforced on regional basis, to better protect a large distribution area including some non-Contracting Parties;

*RECOGNIZING* that some ICCAT Contracting Parties have already implemented time-area closures for the purpose of reducing the mortality of undersized swordfish, and that other Contracting Parties may also choose to do so;

*RECALLING* that the 1999 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Plan for North Atlantic Swordfish* encourages Contracting Parties to reduce dead discards of swordfish;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities should evaluate any long-term time-area closures implemented within the Convention Area for vessels flying their flag for the purpose of reducing the mortality of undersized swordfish and present such evaluation in the form of a scientific paper to the SCRS for consideration.
2. Regional Fishery management organizations should be encouraged to implement time-area closures in their area of competence, if laying within the ICCAT Convention Area, in cases where there is scientific evidence that large identified areas are important for juvenile swordfish. The evaluation of any measures established by such organizations should be presented to SCRS for consideration.
3. The purpose of such evaluation should be to determine if such time-area closures implemented by a Contracting Party and/or a Regional Fishery management organization may be as effective, or are likely to be more effective, in reducing the mortality of undersized swordfish caused by vessels flying its flag as the ICCAT minimum size requirement in effect for that Contracting Party at the time of such evaluation, if such requirement were fully complied with.
4. The SCRS is requested to review such papers.

5. Subsequent to SCRS review, and upon request by a Contracting Party, the Commission should consider whether the applicable minimum size recommendations should be modified or eliminated by the relevant Contracting Party with respect to its vessels, provided the time-area closure remains in place.
6. Following SCRS review, and upon request by a Contracting Party, the Commission should consider whether the applicable minimum size recommendations should be modified or eliminated by the relevant Contracting Parties acting in an area subject to a Regional Fishery management organization, provided the time-area closure remains in place in such area.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE  
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A REBUILDING  
PROGRAM FOR NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*RECOGNIZING* that no new stock assessments were conducted for North Atlantic Swordfish in 2000 and 2001;

*NOTING* that the North Atlantic Swordfish is currently under a ten (10) year rebuilding plan that began in 2000 and would continue through 2009;

*RECALLING* that during the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission (Marrakech, 2000), Trinidad and Tobago indicated the need for its catch statistics to be revised and requested the assistance of ICCAT in doing so;

*CONSIDERING* that Trinidad and Tobago with the assistance from ICCAT completed a partial revision of its catch statistics for North Atlantic Swordfish for the years 1993-2000 and that these partial catch statistics were accepted by the SCRS at its Annual Meeting in October, 2001;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the partial revised catch statistics from Trinidad and Tobago did not include data from locally owned vessels that were foreign flagged prior to the year 2000 and that these catch statistics still need to be verified;

*RECOGNIZING* that 4.9% of the TAC for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 have been allocated to those without specific quotas, and that those with 1996 catch levels below 100 MT shall not increase their catch levels above their 1996 level as reported by the SCRS at its 1997 meeting.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

The words "1997 SCRS Report" in paragraph 3d of the *Recommendation to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* adopted at the 1999 Commission meeting should be read as "2001 SCRS Report" with respect to Trinidad and Tobago.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*NOTING* that the current agreement on total allowable catch (TAC) expires at the end of 2001;

*IN THE ABSENCE* of an agreement necessary to permit establishing an allocation scheme for 2002:

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. In 2002, the target for the TAC for South Atlantic swordfish shall be 14,620 MT.
2. Each Contracting Party, Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity fishing for South Atlantic swordfish shall establish a catch limit for 2002, being encouraged to set the catch limit such that the target for the TAC is not exceeded, and shall notify the Secretariat of the specified catch limit by the beginning of 2002.
3. At its 2002 meeting, the Commission shall negotiate and adopt a sharing arrangement for the TAC for South Atlantic swordfish.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
TO AMEND THE PLAN TO REBUILD BLUE MARLIN  
AND WHITE MARLIN POPULATIONS**

*RECALLING* that in 2000, ICCAT established a plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin populations, which required SCRS to conduct stock assessments of Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin in 2002.

*NOTING* that according to the SCRS, in previous years, assessments of up to 6 species stocks have been accomplished, but the SCRS, Secretariat, and National Scientific infrastructures were stretched beyond maximum sustainable levels in these cases.

*RECOGNIZING* that for each assessment, multiple person-months of preparation of data, supporting analysis, and software development and testing are required for the conduct of a successful assessment and with the current infrastructures, an average assessment demand of four or five per year is manageable by SCRS.

*FURTHER NOTING* that the SCRS recommends that, until the Secretariat, SCRS, and National Scientific infrastructures support greater workload levels, no more than five species stock assessments be scheduled in any year, but that four be the norm,

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the above and also the more serious nature of stock status and thus the greater immediate need for an updated evaluation of the status of Atlantic white marlin,

*RECOGNIZING* that some countries voluntarily complied with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Atlantic Blue Marlin and Atlantic White Marlin*, adopted at the Commission meeting in 1997, which called for the release of all live billfish and therefore reduced the landings and mortality of Atlantic marlins, and

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that any additional management actions for blue and white marlins need be based on scientific advice,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Amendment of Phase 1 of the plan outlined in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* adopted at the Commission meeting in 2000, as follows:

Paragraph 3 is amended by replacing the phrase "1999 landing levels" with "landing levels for either 1996 or 1999, whichever is greater."

2. Amendment of Phase 2 of the plan outlined in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* adopted at the Commission meeting in 2000, as follows:

Paragraph 7 is amended to read "SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment of Atlantic white marlin in 2002 and of blue marlin in 2003."

Paragraph 8 is amended to read "For white marlin, the SCRS shall, at the 2002 Commission meeting, present its evaluation of specific stock recovery scenarios that take into account the new stock assessments, any new information and any re-evaluation of the historical catch and effort time series. For blue marlin, the SCRS shall, at the 2003 Commission meeting, present its evaluation of specific stock recovery scenarios that take into account the new stock assessments, any new information and any re-evaluation of the historical catch and effort time series."

Paragraph 9 is amended to read "Based on SCRS advice, the Commission at its 2002 meeting shall, if necessary, develop and adopt programs to rebuild the Atlantic stock of white marlin to levels that would support MSY. Management measures in effect during Phase I for blue marlin will be continued through 2003. Based on SCRS advice, the Commission at its 2003 meeting shall, if necessary, develop and adopt programs to rebuild the Atlantic stock of blue marlin to levels that would support MSY. Such rebuilding programs shall include a timetable for recovery to a scientifically derived goal consistent with the objectives of the Convention, with associated milestones and biological reference points. This objective could be reached through general plans of monitoring of effort and/or time-area closures and/or other measures practical to apply by the various Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-contracting parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities, taking the specific characteristics of their fisheries into account."

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON ATLANTIC SHARKS**

*NOTING* that the *International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks* expressly calls upon states to cooperate internationally, including through regional fishery management organizations such as ICCAT;

*RECALLING* the *Resolution on Cooperation with FAO with Regard to Study on the Status of Sharks and By-catch of Shark Species*, adopted by ICCAT in 1995;

*NOTING* that a limited number of Contracting Parties have provided catch and effort data including dead discard data for sharks from fishing activities for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area.

*RECOGNIZING* that based on Commission interests, the SCRS intends to conduct assessments for Atlantic shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*), and that the quality of these assessments will depend upon the full participation of all parties in data collection efforts;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

1. The SCRS should conduct assessments for Atlantic shortfin mako and blue sharks in 2004, and hold an interim meeting in 2003, as SCRS considers necessary, to determine needed improvements in data collection;
2. All Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities should:
  - a) submit catch and effort data, including dead discard estimates, for porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks;
  - b) encourage the release of live sharks, to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally, especially juveniles;
  - c) minimize waste and discards from shark catches in accordance with article 7.2.2.(g) of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (for example, requiring the retention of sharks from which fins are removed);
  - d) voluntarily agree not to increase fishing effort targeting Atlantic porbeagle, shortfin mako and blue sharks until sustainable levels of harvest can be determined through stock assessments.



**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE  
ICCAT BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* the Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing Statistical Document Programs for Swordfish, Bigeye Tuna and Other Species Managed by ICCAT adopted by the Commission in 2000 in which the full implementation of the program was required by 1 January 2002, or as soon as possible thereafter;

*AWARE* that there is uncertainty of the catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna and that the availability of trade data would greatly assist in reducing such uncertainty;

*RECOGNIZING* that Atlantic bigeye tuna is the main target species of IUU fishing operations and that most of the bigeye harvested by such IUU fishing vessels are exported to Contracting Parties, especially to Japan;

*RECALLING* the Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and the Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area adopted by the Commission in 2000;

*RECOGNIZING* that the Statistical Document Program is an effective tool to assist the Commission's effort for the elimination of IUU fishing operations;

*RECOGNIZING* the nature of the international market for Atlantic bigeye tuna;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT;**

1. Contracting Parties, by July 1, 2002 or as soon as possible thereafter, require that all bigeye tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by an ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document which meets the requirements described in **Annex 1** or an ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate which meets the requirements described in **Annex 2**. Bigeye tuna caught by purse seiners and pole and line (bait) vessels and destined principally for the canneries in the Convention area are not subject to this statistical document requirement. The Commission and the Contracting Parties importing bigeye tuna shall contact all the exporting countries to inform them of this program, in advance of implementation of the program.
2. (1) The ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document must be validated by a government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag state of the vessel that harvested the tuna, or, if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorized individual of the exporting state;  
  
(2) The ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate must be validated by a government official or other authorized individual of the state that re-exported the tuna; and  
  
(3) The substitutional measure described in paragraphs A-D of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document*, adopted by the Commission in 1993, may be applied to the above requirements for both validations in this Bigeye Statistical Document Program. The substitutional measure should also apply *mutatis mutandis* to chartering arrangements as provided in paragraph 2(1) above.

3. Each Contracting Party shall provide to the Executive Secretary sample forms of its statistical document and re-export certificate required with bigeye tuna imports and information on validation in the format specified in Annex 4 and inform him of any change in a timely fashion.
4. The Contracting Parties which export or import bigeye tuna shall compile data from the Program.
5. The Contracting Parties which import bigeye tuna shall report the data collected by the Program to the Executive Secretary each year by April 1 for the period of July 1-December 31 of the preceding year and October 1 for the period of January 1-June 30 of the current year, which shall be circulated to all the Contracting Parties by the Executive Secretary. The formats of the report are attached as Annex 3.
6. The Contracting Parties which export bigeye tuna shall examine export data upon receiving the import data mentioned in paragraph 5 above from the Executive Secretary, and report the results to the Commission in the national reports.
7. The Contracting Parties should exchange copies of statistical documents and re-export certificates to facilitate the examination mentioned in paragraph 6, consistent with domestic laws and regulations.
8. The Commission shall request Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, Fishing Entities to take the measures described in the above paragraphs.
9. The Executive Secretary shall request information on validation from all the non-Contracting Parties fishing and exporting bigeye tuna to Contracting Parties, and request them to inform him in a timely fashion of any changes to the information provided.
10. The Executive Secretary shall maintain and update information specified in paragraphs 3 and 9 and provide it to all the Contracting Parties, and promptly circulate any changes.
11. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties which import bigeye tuna to cooperate with implementation of the Program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.
12. Implementation of this Program shall be in conformity with relevant international obligations.
13. At the initial stage of the program, the statistical documents and the re-export certificates will be required for frozen bigeye products. Prior to implementing this Program for fresh products, several practical problems need to be solved, such as guidelines to ensure procedures to handle fresh products at customs.
14. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents by the European Community*, adopted by the Commission in 1998, shall apply to the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program for bigeye caught by vessels that fly the flag of a Member State of the European Community.
15. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Contracting Parties shall implement this recommendation by July 1, 2002 or as soon as possible thereafter in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party.

**Requirements Concerning  
the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document**

1. The sample form of the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document shall be as in the **Appendix**.
2. Customs or other appropriate government officials will request and inspect all import documentation including the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document for all bigeye tuna in the shipment. Those officials may also inspect the content of each shipment to verify the information on the document.
3. Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of bigeye tuna will be allowed to enter the territory of Contracting Parties.
4. Shipments of bigeye tuna that are accompanied by improperly documented Bigeye Tuna Statistical Documents (i.e., improperly documented means that the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate shipments of bigeye tuna, that are contrary to ICCAT conservation efforts, and their entry will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanction.
5. The import of fish parts other than the meat, i.e., head, eyes, roe, guts, tails may be allowed without the document.

<b>DOCUMENT NUMBER</b>	<b>ICCAT BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT</b>		
<b>EXPORT SECTION</b>			
1. FLAG OF COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY			
2. NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER (when available)			
3. TRAPS (if applicable)			
4. POINT OF EXPORT (City, State / Province, Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
5. AREA OF CATCH (check one of the following) <input type="checkbox"/> (a) Atlantic <input type="checkbox"/> (b) Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> (c) Indian * In case of (b) or (c) checked, the items 6 and 7 below do not need to be filled out.			
<b>6. DESCRIPTION OF FISH</b>			
Product Type (*1) F/FR    RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	Gear Code(*2)	Net Weight (Kg)	
1= F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled and Gutted, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet OT=Other, describe the type of product *2= When the Gear Code is OT, describe the type of gear,			
<b>7. EXPORTER CERTIFICATION</b> I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
Name	Company name	Address	Signature    Date    License Number (if applicable)
<b>8. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION</b> I validate that information listed above is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
Total weight of the shipment    _____ Kg			
Name & Title	Signature	Date	Government Seal
<b>IMPORT SECTION:</b>			
<b>9. IMPORTER CERTIFICATION</b> I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
Name	Address	Signature	Date    License # (if applicable)
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)			
Name	Address	Signature	Date    License # (if applicable)
Final Point of Import			
City	State/Province	Country / Entity / Fishing Entity	

NOTE: If a language other than English is used in completing this form. Please add the English translation on this document.

**ICCAT BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT INSTRUCTION SHEET**

**DOCUMENT NUMBER:** Block for the issuing Country/Entity/Fishing Entity to designate a country/entity/fishing entity en coded Document Number.

**(1) FLAG COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY:** Fill in the name of the country/entity/fishing entity of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment and issued this Document. According to the ICCAT Recommendation, only the flag state of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment or, if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, the exporting state, can issue this Document.

**(2) NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER (when available):** Fill in the name and registration number of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment.

**(3) TRAPS (if applicable):** Fill in the name of the trap that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment.

**(4) POINT OF EXPORT:** Identify the City, State or Province, and Country/Entity/Fishing Entity from which the bigeye tuna was exported.

**(5) AREA OF CATCH:** Check the area of catch. (If (b) or (c) checked, items 6 and 7 below do not need to be filled out.)

**(6) DESCRIPTION OF FISH:** The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information. **NOTE:** One row should describe one product type.

1. **Product Type:** Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment.
2. **Gear Code:** Identify the gear type which was used to harvest the bigeye tuna using the list below. For OTHER TYPE, describe the type of gear, including farming.
3. **Net product weight in kilograms.**

**(7) EXPORTER CERTIFICATION:** The person or company exporting the bigeye tuna shipment must provide his/her name, company name, address, signature, date the shipment was exported, and dealer license number (if applicable).

**(8) GOVERNMENT VALIDATION:** Fill in the name and full title of the official signing the Document. The official must be employed by a competent authority of the flag state government of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna appearing on the Document or other individual or institution authorized by the flag state. When appropriate, this requirement is waived according validation of the document by a government official, or if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorized individual or institution of the exporting state. The total weight of the shipment shall also be specified in this block. The substitutional measure described in paragraphs A-D of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document*, adopted by the Commission in 1993, may be applied to the above requirements for the validations in this Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program.

**(9) IMPORTER CERTIFICATION:** The person or company that imports bigeye tuna must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the bigeye was imported, license number (if applicable), and final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate countries, entities or fishing entities. For fresh and chilled products, the signature of the importer may be substituted by a person of a customs clearance company when the authority for signature is properly accredited to it by the importer.

**GEAR CODE:**

<i>Gear Code</i>	<i>Gear Type</i>
BB	BATHOAT
GILL	GILLNET
HAND	HANDLINE
HARP	HARPOON
LL	LONGLINE
MWT	MID-WATER TRAWL
PS	PURSE SEINE
RR	ROD AND REEL
SPHL	SPORT HANDLINE
SPOR	SPORT FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
SURF	SURFACE FISHERIES UNCLASSIFIED
TL	TENDED LINE
TRAP	TRAP
TROL	TROLL
UNCL	UNSPECIFIED METHODS
OT	OTHER TYPE

**RETURN A COPY OF COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO:** (the name of the office of the competent authority of the flag state).

**Requirements Concerning  
the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate**

1. The sample form of the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate shall be as in the **Appendix**.
2. Customs or other appropriate government officials will request and inspect all import documentation including the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate for all bigeye tuna in the shipment. Those officials may also inspect the content of each shipment to verify the information on the document.
3. Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of bigeye tuna will be allowed to enter the territory of Contracting Parties.
4. A Contracting Party shall be free to validate ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates for bigeye tuna imported by that Contracting Party, to which ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Documents or ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates are attached. ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificates shall be validated by government organizations or by recognized institutions which are accredited by a Contracting Party's government to validate the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document. A copy of the original Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document accompanying the imported bigeye tuna must be attached to an ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate. The copy of the original Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document so attached must be verified by that government organization or by that recognized institution accredited by a government which validated the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document. When re-exported bigeye tuna is again re-exported, all copies of documents, including a verified copy of a Statistical Document and Re-export Certificate which accompanied that bigeye tuna upon importation, must be attached to a new Re-export Certificate to be validated by a re-exporting Contracting Party. All copies of the Documents to be attached to that new Re-export Certificate must be also be verified by a government organization or a recognized institution accredited by a government which validated the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document.
5. Shipments of bigeye tuna that are accompanied by improperly documented Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate (i.e., improperly documented means that the Bigeye Tuna Re-export Certificate is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate shipments of bigeye tuna, that are contrary to ICCAT conservation efforts, and their entry will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanction.
6. ICCAT Contracting Parties that validate Re-export Certificates in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 4 shall require from the re-exporting bigeye dealer necessary documents (e.g. written sales contracts) which are to certify that the bigeye tuna to be re-exported corresponds to the imported bigeye tuna. Contracting Parties which validate Re-export Certificates shall provide flag states and importing states with evidence of this correspondence upon their request.
7. The import of fish parts other than the meat, i.e., head, eyes, roe, guts, tails may be allowed without the document.

DOCUMENT NUMBER	<b>ICCAT BIGEYE TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE</b>			
<b>RE-EXPORT SECTION:</b>				
1. RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY / ENTITY / FISHING ENTITY				
2. POINT OF RE-EXPORT				
3. DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED FISH				
F/FR	Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	Net Weight (Kg)	Flag country/ Entity/Fishing Entity	Date of Import
4. DESCRIPTION OF FISH FOR RE-EXPORT				
F/FR	Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/FL/OT	Net Weight (Kg)		
* F=FRESH, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled and Guttled, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet OT=Other(Describe the type of product)				
5. RE-EXPORTER CERTIFICATION: I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Name/Company Name    Address    Signature    Date    License Number (if applicable)				
6. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION: I validate that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Name & Title    Signature    Date    Government Seal				
<b>IMPORT SECTION:</b>				
7. IMPORTER CERTIFICATION: I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License # (if applicable)
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License # (if applicable)
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)				
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License # (if applicable)
Final Point of Import				
City _____ State/Province _____ Country / Entity / Fishing Entity _____				

NOTE: If a language other than English is used in completing this form. Please add the English translation on this document.

**ICCAT BIGEYE TUNA RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE INSTRUCTION SHEET**

**DOCUMENT NUMBER:** Block for the issuing Country/Entity/Fishing Entity to designate a Country/Entity/Fishing Entity coded document number.

**(1) RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY**

Fill in the name of the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity which re-exports the bigeye tuna in the shipment and issued this Certificate. According to the ICCAT Recommendation, only the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity can issue this Certificate.

**(2) POINT OF RE-EXPORT**

Identify the City/State Province and Country/Entity/Fishing Entity from which the bigeye tuna was re-exported.

**(3) DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED FISH**

The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information: NOTE: One row should describe one product type. (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment. (2) Net weight: Net product weight in kilograms. (3) Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity: the name of the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity of the vessel that harvested the bigeye tuna in the shipment. (4) Date of import: Imported date.

**(4) DESCRIPTION OF FISH FOR RE-EXPORT**

The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information: NOTE: One row should describe one product type. (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment. (2) Net weight: Net product weight in kilograms.

**(5) RE-EXPORTER CERTIFICATION**

The person or company re-exporting the bigeye tuna shipment must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the shipment was re-exported, and re-exporter's license number (if applicable).

**(6) GOVERNMENT VALIDATION**

Fill in the name and full title of the official signing the Certificate. The official must be employed by a competent government authority of the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity appearing on the Certificate, or a person or institution authorized to validate such certificates by the competent government authority. The substitutional measure described in paragraphs A-D of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document*, adopted by the Commission in 1993, may be applied to the above requirements for the validations in this Bigeye Statistical Document Program.

**(7) IMPORTER CERTIFICATION**

The person or company that imports bigeye tuna must provide his/her name, address, signature, date the bigeye tuna was imported, license number (if applicable) and re-exported final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate Countries/Entities/Fishing Entities. For fresh and chilled products, the signature of the importer may be substituted by a person of a customs clearance company when the authority for signature is properly accredited to it by the importer.

**RETURN A COPY OF THE COMPLETED CERTIFICATE TO:** (the name of the office of the competent authority of the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity).







**INFORMATION ON VALIDATION OF ICCAT STATISTICAL DOCUMENTS**

- 1. Flag \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Statistical Document (Bluefin, Bigeye, Swordfish, All): \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Government/Authority organization(s) accredited to validate Statistical Documents

<i>Organization Name</i>	<i>Organization Address</i>	<i>Sample Seal</i>

**NOTE:** For each organization, attach a list with the names, titles and addresses of the individuals authorized to validate Documents.

- 4. Other institutions accredited by the government/authority to validate Statistical Documents

<i>Organization Name</i>	<i>Organization Address</i>	<i>Sample Seal</i>

**NOTE:** For each organization, attach a list with the names, titles and addresses of the individuals authorized to validate Documents.

**Instructions** Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, Fishing Entities having vessels that harvest species whose international trade must be accompanied by ICCAT Statistical Documents are requested to submit the information on this sheet to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT<sup>1</sup>, and to ensure that any changes to the above are also transmitted to the Executive Secretary on a timely fashion.

1. ICCAT: c/Corazón de María, 8 (6<sup>th</sup> floor), Madrid, Spain 28002.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A  
SWORDFISH STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* the Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing Statistical Document Program for Swordfish, Bigeye Tuna and Other Species Managed by ICCAT adopted by the Commission in 2000 in which the full implementation of the program was required by 1 January 2002, or as soon as possible thereafter;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the efforts to maintain and rebuild Atlantic swordfish, consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

*RECOGNIZING* that the Statistical Document Program is an effective tool to assist the Commission's effort for the elimination of IUU fishing operations;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish adopted by the Commission in 1995, and recalling the 1999 Recommendation by ICCAT establishing trade measures pursuant to this Resolution;

*AWARE* that it is important to improve the reliability of statistical information on catches of Atlantic swordfish and that the availability of trade data would greatly assist in reducing such uncertainty;

*RECOGNIZING* that a considerable number of vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish are registered to nations that are not members of ICCAT;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the significant efforts that have been undertaken by Contracting Parties to address the problems created by catches of Atlantic swordfish by non-contracting parties, entities, and fishing entities;

*CONSIDERING* that some of the non-contracting parties, entities, and fishing entities have great difficulty in providing information on the catches of their flag vessels;

*ALSO BEING AWARE* that this program may be adapted to the specific regulations established by ICCAT Contracting Parties, as well as in the framework of regional economic organizations;

*RECOGNIZING* the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with respect to statistical document programs, which could impact the programs of the Commission;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Contracting Parties shall require that all swordfish, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party be accompanied by an ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document (**Attachment 2**) that meets the requirements described in **Attachment 1** or an ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificate (**Attachment 4**) that meets the requirements described in **Attachment 3**. The Commission and the Contracting Parties importing swordfish shall contact all the exporting countries to inform them of this program, particularly differentiation of treatment between catches of swordfish in the Convention Area and those outside of it, in advance of implementation of the program.
2. (1) The ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document must be validated by a government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag state of the vessel that harvested the swordfish, or, if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorized individual of the

exporting state; (2) the ICCAT Swordfish Re-Export Certificate must be validated by a government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the state that re-exported the swordfish; and (3) the substitutional measure described in paragraphs A-D of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document*, adopted by the Commission in 1993, may be applied to the above requirements for both validations in the Swordfish Statistical Document Program. The substitutional measure should also apply *mutatis mutandis*, to chartering arrangements as provided in section (1) of this paragraph

3. Each Contracting Party shall provide to the Executive Secretary sample forms of its statistical document and re-export certificate required with swordfish imports, and information on validation in the format specified in **Attachment 6** and inform him of any change in a timely fashion.
4. Contracting Parties that import or export swordfish shall compile the data collected through the Program.
5. Contracting Parties that import swordfish shall report the data collected by the Program to the Executive Secretary each year by April 1 for the period of July 1 through December 31 of the preceding year and October 1 for the period of January 1 through June 30 of the current year, which shall be circulated to all the contracting parties by the Executive Secretary. The formats of the reports are attached, as in **Attachment 5**.
6. Contracting Parties that export swordfish shall examine export data upon receiving the import data in Paragraph 5 above from the Executive Secretary, and report the results to the Commission in their National Reports.
7. Contracting Parties should exchange copies of statistical documents and re-export certificates to facilitate the examination mentioned in paragraph 6 consistent with domestic laws and regulations.
8. The Commission shall request Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, entities, and fishing entities to take the measures described in the above paragraphs.
9. The Executive Secretary shall request all non-Contracting Parties, entities, and fishing entities fishing for and exporting swordfish to Contracting Parties to provide information on validation in the format specified in **Attachment 6** and to inform him in a timely fashion of any changes to the information provided.
10. The Executive Secretary shall maintain and update information specified in paragraphs 3 and 9 and provide it to all the Contracting Parties, and promptly circulate any changes.
11. The Commission shall request Non-Contracting Parties, entities, and fishing entities that import swordfish to cooperate in the implementation of the Program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation in the format specified in **Attachment 5** on an annual basis by October 15 for the previous calendar year.
12. Implementation of this program shall be in conformity with relevant international obligations.
13. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document by the European Community*, adopted by the Commission in 1998, shall apply to the Swordfish Statistical Document Program for swordfish caught by vessels that fly the flag of a Member State of the European Community.
14. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible, but not later than January 1, 2003 in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party.

**Requirements Concerning The ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document**

1. The sample form of the ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document shall be as in **Attachment 2**.
2. Customs or other appropriate government officials will request and inspect all import documentation including the ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document for all swordfish in the shipment. Those officials may also inspect the content of each shipment to verify the information on the document.
3. Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of swordfish will be allowed to enter the territory of Contracting Parties.
4. Shipments of swordfish that are accompanied by improperly documented Swordfish Statistical Documents (i.e., improperly documented means that the Swordfish Statistical Document is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate shipments of swordfish, that are contrary to ICCAT conservation efforts, and their entry into the territory of a Contracting Party will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) or subject to administrative or other sanction.
5. The import of fish parts other than the meat, i.e., head, eyes, roe, guts, tails may be allowed without the document.

DOCUMENT NUMBER	<b>ICCAT SWORDFISH STATISTICAL DOCUMENT</b>				
<b>EXPORT SECTION</b>					
1. FLAG COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY :					
2. POINT OF EXPORT:					
CITY, STATE OR PROVINCE			COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY		
3. AREA OF CATCH (check one of the following)					
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> North Atlantic (b) <input type="checkbox"/> South Atlantic (c) <input type="checkbox"/> Mediterranean (d) <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific (e) <input type="checkbox"/> Indian					
If (d) or (e) is checked, items 4 and 5 below need not be completed					
4. DESCRIPTION OF FISH					
Product Type <sup>a</sup>	Vessel name and registration	Gear Code <sup>b</sup>	Net Wt (kg)		
F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/ST/OT					
<sup>a</sup> F=Fresh, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled & Guttled, DR=Dressed, FL=Fillet, ST= Steak, OT=Others (Describe the type: _____) <sup>b</sup> When the Gear Code is OT, describe the type of gear: _____					
5. EXPORTER CERTIFICATION For export to countries that have adopted the ICCAT alternative minimum size for swordfish, the exporter must certify that the above listed Atlantic swordfish are greater than 15 kg (33 lb.) or if pieces, the pieces were derived from a swordfish weighing >15 kg.					
I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Name	Company Name	Address	Signature	Date	License # (if applicable)
6. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION I validate that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Name & Title	Signature	Date	Government Seal	Net Weight (kg)	
<b>IMPORT SECTION</b>					
7. IMPORTER CERTIFICATION I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country/Entity/Fishing Entity)					
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #	
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country/Entity/Fishing Entity)					
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #	
Importer Certification (Final Destination of Shipment)					
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #	
Final Point of Import - City: _____ State or Province: _____ Country/Entity/Fishing Entity _____					

NOTE: If a language other than English is used for completing this document, please add an English translation on this document or on a separate pap

## ICCAT SWORDFISH STATISTICAL DOCUMENT INSTRUCTION SHEET

Pursuant to the 2001 ICCAT recommendation, swordfish imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or upon first entry into a regional economic organization must be accompanied by an ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document (SWD) beginning January 1, 2003. Swordfish dealers who export or import swordfish from all ocean areas will be required to complete the appropriate sections of the SWD. Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of swordfish will be allowed to enter the customs territory of Contracting Parties (e.g., Japan, Canada, U.S., Spain, etc.). Improperly documented swordfish shipments (i.e., the SWD is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate and contrary to ICCAT conservation efforts. Entry of improperly documented swordfish will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the customs territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanctions.

Please use the instructions below as a guide to complete the sections that apply to Exporters, Importers, and Government Validation. If a language other than English is used for description, please add an English translation either on the SWD or on a separate paper. Note: If a swordfish product is exported directly from the harvesting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity to a Contracting Party, without going through an intermediate Country/Entity/Fishing Entity, all fish can be identified on one document. However, if the swordfish product is exported through an intermediate Country/Entity/Fishing Entity (i.e., a Country/Entity/Fishing Entity other than the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity which is the final destination of the product), separate documents must be prepared for fish destined for different final destinations, or only one fish may be identified on a document to cope with any possible separation in an intermediate Country/Entity/Fishing Entity. Import of swordfish parts other than meat (i.e., heads, eyes, roe, guts, tails) may be allowed entry without an accompanying SWD.

**DOCUMENT NUMBER:** This block is for the issuing Country/Entity/Fishing Entity to designate a country coded Document Number.

**(1) FLAG COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY** - Fill in the name of the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity of the vessel that harvested the swordfish in the shipment and issued this Document. According to the ICCAT Recommendation, only the flag state of the vessel that harvested the swordfish in the shipment, or, if the vessel is operating under a chartering arrangement, the exporting state, can issue this Document.

**(2) POINT OF EXPORT** - Identify the City and State or Province, and country/entity/fishing entity from which the swordfish was exported.

**(3) AREA OF CATCH** - Check the area of catch. (In case of (d) or (e) checked, items 4 and 5 need not be completed.)

**(4) DESCRIPTION OF FISH** - The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information. (NOTE: One row should describe one product type.) (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment; (2) NAME OF VESSEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBER - Fill in the name and registration number (if available) of the vessel that harvested the swordfish. If product in shipment is from more than one vessel, list all vessels whose product is included in the shipment; (3) Gear Code - Identify the gear type which was used to harvest the swordfish using the listed codes; (5) Net weight - Net product weight in kilograms.

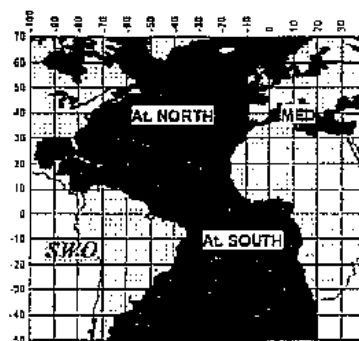
**(5) EXPORTER CERTIFICATION** - The person or company exporting the swordfish shipment must provide his/her name, signature, address, date the shipment was exported, and dealer license number (if applicable). For countries that have adopted the ICCAT alternative minimum size for swordfish the exporter must certify that the listed Atlantic swordfish are greater than 15 kg (33 lb.) or if pieces, the pieces were derived from a swordfish weighing > 15 kg.

**(6) GOVERNMENT VALIDATION** - Fill in name and full title of the official signing the SWD. The official must be employed by a competent authority of the flag state government of the vessel that harvested the swordfish appearing on the SWD or other individual or institution authorized by the flag state or if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by a government official or other authorized individual or institution of the exporting state. Net weight must also be certified and recorded in kg.

The substitutional measure described in paragraphs A-D of the *Resolution by ICCAT concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document*, adopted by the Commission in 1993, may be applied to the above requirements for the validations in this Swordfish Statistical Document Program.

**(7) IMPORTER CERTIFICATION** - The person or company that imports swordfish must provide their name, signature, address, date the swordfish was imported, license number (if applicable) and final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate countries, entities or fishing entities. For fresh and chilled products, signature of the importer may be substituted by person of a custom clearance company when the authority of signature is properly accredited to the company by the importer.

GEAR CODE	GEAR TYPE
BB	Baitboat
GHLL	Gillnet
HAND	Handline
HARP	Harpoon
LL	Longline
MWT	Mid-water trawl
FS	Purse seine
RR	Rod and reel
SPHL	Sport handline
SPOR	Sport fisheries, unclassified
SURF	Surface fisheries, unclassified
TL	Tended line
TRAP	Trap
TROL	Troll
UNCL	Unspecified methods
OT	Other type: Describe the type of gear



Original completed document must accompany exported shipment. Retain a copy for your records. The original (imports) or a copy (exports) must be postmarked and mailed, or faxed, within 24 hours of import or export to: XXXX



**Requirements Concerning the ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificate**

1. The sample form of the ICCAT Swordfish Tuna Re-export Certificate shall be as in Attachment 4.
2. Customs or other appropriate government officials will request and inspect all import documentation including the ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificate for all swordfish in the shipment. Those officials may also inspect the content of each shipment to verify the information on the document.
3. Only complete and valid documents will guarantee that shipments of swordfish will be allowed to enter the territory of Contracting Parties.
4. A Contracting Party shall be free to validate ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificates for swordfish imported by that Contracting Party, to which ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Documents or ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificates are attached. ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificates shall be validated by government organizations, persons authorized by a government organization, or by recognized institutions which are accredited by a Contracting Party's government to validate the ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document. A copy of the original Swordfish Statistical Document accompanying the imported swordfish must be attached to an ICCAT Swordfish Re-export Certificate. The copy of the original Swordfish Statistical Document so attached must be verified by that government organization or by that recognized institution accredited by a government which validated the ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document. When re-exported swordfish is again re-exported, all copies of documents, including a verified copy of a Statistical Document and Re-export Certificate which accompanied that swordfish upon importation, must be attached to a new Re-export Certificate to be validated by a re-exporting Contracting Party. All copies of the Documents to be attached to that new Re-export Certificate must be also be verified by a government organization or a recognized institution accredited by a government which validated the ICCAT Swordfish Statistical Document, or by persons authorized by a government organization.
5. Shipments of swordfish that are accompanied by improperly documented Swordfish Re-export Certificate (improperly documented means that the Swordfish Re-export Certificate is either missing from the shipment, incomplete, invalid or falsified) will be considered illegitimate shipments of swordfish, that are contrary to ICCAT conservation efforts, and their entry will be suspended (PENDING RECEIPT OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED DOCUMENT) into the territory of a Contracting Party or subject to administrative or other sanction.
6. ICCAT Contracting Parties that validate Re-export Certificates in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraph 4 shall require from the re-exporting swordfish dealer necessary documents (e.g., written sales contracts) which are to certify that the swordfish to be re-exported corresponds to the imported swordfish. Contracting Parties which validate Re-export Certificates shall provide flag states and importing states with evidence of this correspondence upon their request.
7. The import of fish parts other than the meat, i.e., head, eyes, roe, guts, tails may be allowed without the document.

DOCUMENT NUMBER	<b>ICCAT SWORDFISH RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE</b>				
<b>RE-EXPORT SECTION:</b>					
1. RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY					
2. POINT OF RE-EXPORT					
3. DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED FISH					
F/FR	Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/FL/ST/OT	Net Weight (Kg)	Flag country/ Entity/Fishing entity	Date of Import	
4. DESCRIPTION OF FISH FOR RE-EXPORT					
F/FR	Product Type(*) RD/GG/DR/ST/FL/OT	Net Weight (Kg)			
* F=FRESH, FR=Frozen, RD=Round, GG=Gilled and Gutted, DR=Dressed, ST=Steak, FL=Fillet OT=Other(Describe the type of product)					
5. RE-EXPORTER CERTIFICATION: For export to countries/entities or fishing entities that have adopted the ICCAT alternative minimum size for swordfish, the exporter must certify that the listed Atlantic swordfish are greater than 15 kg (33 lb.) or if pieces, the pieces were derived from a swordfish weighing >15 kg.					
I certify that above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Name	Company Name	Address	Signature	Date	License # (if applicable)
6. GOVERNMENT VALIDATION: I validate that above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Name & Title	Organization	Signature	Date		
<b>IMPORT SECTION:</b>					
7. IMPORT CERTIFICATION: I certify that above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.					
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)					
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #(if applicable)	
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)					
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #(if applicable)	
Importer Certification (Intermediate Country / Entity / Fishing Entity)					
Name	Address	Signature	Date	License #(if applicable)	
Final Point of Import					
City	State/Province	Country/Entity/Fishing Entity			

NOTE: If a language other than English is used in completing this form, please add the English translation on this document.

## ICCAT SWORDFISH RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE INSTRUCTION SHEET

**DOCUMENT NUMBER:** Block for the issuing Country/Entity/Fishing Entity to designate a Country/Entity/Fishing Entity coded document number.

### (1) RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY

Fill in the name of the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity which re-exports the swordfish in the shipment and issued this Certificate. According to the ICCAT Recommendation, only the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity can issue this Certificate.

### (2) POINT OF RE-EXPORT

Identify the City/State Province and Country/Entity/Fishing Entity from which the swordfish was re-exported.

### (3) DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED FISH

The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information: NOTE: One row should describe one product type. (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, STEAK, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment. (2) Net weight: Net product weight in kilograms. (3) Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity: the name of the Country/Entity/Fishing Entity of the vessel that harvested the swordfish in the shipment. (4) Date of import: Imported date.

### (4) DESCRIPTION OF FISH FOR RE-EXPORT

The exporter must provide, to the highest degree of accuracy, the following information: NOTE: One row should describe one product type. (1) Product type: Identify the type of product being shipped as either FRESH or FROZEN, and in ROUND, GILLED AND GUTTED, DRESSED, STEAK, FILLET or OTHER form. For OTHER, describe the type of products in the shipment. (2) Net weight: Net product weight in kilograms.

### (5) RE-EXPORTER CERTIFICATION

The person or company re-exporting the swordfish shipment must provide his/her name, company name address, signature, date the shipment was re-exported, and re-exporter's license number (if applicable).

### (6) GOVERNMENT VALIDATION

Fill in the name and full title of the official signing the Certificate. The official must be in the employment of the competent government authority of the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity appearing on the Certificate, or a person or institution authorized to validate such certificates by the competent government authority. The substitutional measure described in paragraphs A-D of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Statistical Document*, adopted by the Commission in 1993 may be applied to the above requirements for the validations in this Swordfish Statistical Document Program.

### (7) IMPORTER CERTIFICATION

The person or company that imports swordfish must provide his/her name, company name, address, signature, date the swordfish was imported, license number (if applicable) and re-exported final point of import. This includes imports into intermediate Countries/Entities/Fishing Entities. For fresh and chilled products, the signature of the importer may be substituted by a person of a customs clearance company when the authority for signature is properly accredited to it by the importer.

**RETURN A COPY OF THE COMPLETED CERTIFICATE TO:** (the name of the office of the competent authority of the re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity).

## REPORT OF THE ICCAT SWORDFISH STATISTICAL DOCUMENT

Period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ IMPORT COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month Month Year

Flag Country/Entity/ Fishing Entity	Area Code	Gear Code	Point of Export	Product Type		Product Wt. (Kg)
				F/FR	RD/GG/DR/ST/FL/OT	

Gear Code	Gear Type
BB	Baitboat
GILL	Gillnet
HAND	Handline
HARP	Harpoon
LL	Longline
MWT	Mid-water trawl
PS	Purse seine
RR	Rod & reel
SPHL	Sport Handline
SPOR	Sport fisheries unclassified
SURF	Surface fisheries unclassified
TL	Tended line
TRAP	Trap
TROL	Troll
UNCL	Unclassified methods
OTH	Other type (Indicate the type of gear):

Product type	Area Code
F Fresh	NAT North Atlantic
FR Frozen	SAT South Atlantic
RD Round	MED Mediterranean
GG Gilled & gutted	PAC Pacific Ocean
DR Dressed	ID Indian Ocean
FL Fillet	
ST Steak	
OT Other form, describe the type of products in the shipment	

**REPORT OF THE ICCAT SWORDFISH RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ IMPORT COUNTRY/ENTITY/FISHING ENTITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month                      Month      Year

<i>Flag Country / Entity/Fishing Entity</i>	<i>Re-export Country/Entity/F ishing Entity</i>	<i>Point of Re-export</i>	<i>Product Type</i>		<i>Product Wt. (kg)</i>
			<i>F/FR</i>	<i>RD/GG/DR/ST/FL/OT</i>	

**Product type**

- F            Fresh
- FR         Frozen
- RD         Round
- GG         Gilled & gutted
- DR         Dressed
- ST         Steak
- FL         Fillet
- OT         Other form, describe the type of products in the shipment

**INFORMATION ON VALIDATION OF ICCAT STATISTICAL DOCUMENTS**

1. Flag \_\_\_\_\_
2. Statistical Document (Bluefin, Bigeye, Swordfish, All): \_\_\_\_\_
3. Government/Authority organization(s) accredited to validate Statistical Documents

<i>Organization Name</i>	<i>Organization Address</i>	<i>Sample Seal</i>

**NOTE:** For each organization, attach a list with the names, titles and addresses of the individuals authorized to validate Documents.

4. Other institutions accredited by the government/authority to validate Statistical Documents

<i>Organization Name</i>	<i>Organization Address</i>	<i>Sample Seal</i>

**NOTE:** For each organization, attach a list with the names, titles and addresses of the individuals authorized to validate Documents.

**Instructions** Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, Fishing Entities having vessels that harvest species whose international trade must be accompanied by ICCAT Statistical Documents are requested to submit the information on this sheet to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT<sup>1</sup>, and to ensure that any changes to the above are also transmitted to the Executive Secretary on a timely fashion.

1. ICCAT: c/Corazón de María, 8 (6<sup>th</sup> floor), Madrid, Spain 28002.

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING  
THE ICCAT BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program* was adopted at the 2001 Commission meeting and the Program requires validation of the Statistical Document by a government official or other authorized individual or institution of the flag state of the vessel that harvested the tuna;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT to Enhance the Effectiveness of the ICCAT Measures to Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas* was adopted at the 2000 Commission Meeting;

*RECOGNIZING* that the IUU vessels participating in the scrapping program implemented by Japan and the re-registration program by Chinese Taipei to eliminate IUU fishing will face difficulty in obtaining government validation by the flag country;

*NOTING* that Chinese Taipei issued an administrative ordinance to encourage re-registration and a list of vessels that applied for re-registration will be available after December 31, 2001;

*BEING AWARE* that a major target species of IUU tuna longline vessels is bigeye tuna;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program*, Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities may accept a Document validated by a government official or other authorized individual of Japan or Chinese Taipei on the bigeye tuna caught by the vessels participating in the scrapping program by Japan as listed in the **Appendix** and those participating in the re-registration program and granted temporary registration to Chinese Taipei on condition that those vessels shall operate in compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures.
2. Chinese Taipei shall submit a list of vessels that have temporary registrations to the Commission no later than January 31, 2002. The Executive Secretary shall circulate it to all the Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities.
3. Japan and Chinese Taipei shall review performance of the vessels on the **Appendix** and submit a revision of the **Appendix** to the Commission by July 1, 2002.
4. **Appendix II** of the *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT to Enhance the Effectiveness of the ICCAT Measures to Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas*, adopted at the 2000 Commission Meeting, shall be replaced by the list to be submitted according to the above Paragraph 2. The said **Appendix II** shall be invalid.

## List of Vessels Participating in the Scrapping Program by Japan

(as of November 1, 2001)

	<i>Scrap year</i>	<i>Name of vessels</i>		<i>Flag country</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Built year</i>	<i>Fishing Area</i>
1	2002	盈智祥 66號	YING CHIN HSIANG 66	BOLIVIA	379	1979	INDIAN
2	2002	華成 707號	HUA CHENG 707	CAMBODIA	606	1980	INDIAN
3	2002	華忠 808號	HUA CHUNG 808	CAMBODIA	549	1980	INDIAN
4	2002	振發 736號	CHEN FA 736	PHILIPPINES	636	1979	ATLANTIC
5	2002	中義 85號	ZHONG I 85	BOLIVIA	437	1976	PACIFIC
6	2002	連太	LIEN TAI	BELIZE	491	1979	ATLANTIC
7	2003	傑佛利 131號	JEFFREY 131	BELIZE	597	1980	PACIFIC
8	2003	穩發 236號	WIN FAR 236	E. GUINEA	672	1978	INDIAN
9	2003	穩發 266號	WIN FAR 266	E. GUINEA	535	1979	INDIAN
10	2003	金億	CHIN I MING	BOLIVIA	663	1979	ATLANTIC
11	2003	金長	CHEN CHANG MING	BOLIVIA	578	1980	ATLANTIC
12	2003	金昇號	GOLDEN RICH (previous : ZHONG XIN 26)	BOLIVIA	520	1974	ATLANTIC
13	2003	啓滿號	CHI MAN	BOLIVIA	556	1982	INDIAN
14	2003	鴻佑 112號	HUNG YU 112	BOLIVIA	690	1981	INDIAN
15	2003	鎮強壹號	CHEN CHIANG 1	E. GUINEA	578	1988	INDIAN



**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF BLUEFIN TUNA AND SWORDFISH  
AND THEIR PRODUCTS FROM HONDURAS**

*RECALLING* the adoption in 1994 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*;

*RECALLING* the adoption in 1995 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure the effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*;

*NOTING* the 1995 decision by the Commission to identify Honduras pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Action Plan, and the 1998 decision by the Commission to identify Honduras pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan as a nation whose vessels were fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures for those species;

*FURTHER RECALLING* the adoption in 1996 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution* and the adoption in 1999 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*, pursuant to which Contracting Parties took appropriate action to the effect that the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish and their products in any form from Honduras has been prohibited;

*RECOGNIZING* the significant progress that the Government of Honduras has recently taken to reduce substantially the activities of its fishing vessels that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures related to Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish;

*HIGHLIGHTING* in this regard recent correspondence from the Government of Honduras that explains specific actions taken, in particular effecting sharp reductions in the number of tuna fishing vessels registered in Honduras;

*WELCOMING* that on January 30, 2000 Honduras became an ICCAT Contracting Party;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall lift the import prohibition on Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution*.
2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall also lift the import prohibition on Atlantic swordfish and its products that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party and Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT  
CONCERNING THE IMPORTATION OF BIGEYE TUNA AND  
BIGEYE TUNA PRODUCTS FROM ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

*RECALLING* the adoption in 1998 of the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported And Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (hereinafter referred to as "the 1998 Resolution");

*RECALLING* as well the 1999 decision by the Commission to identify St. Vincent and the Grenadines pursuant to the 1998 Resolution as a country whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

*NOTING* the adoption in 2000 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, pursuant to which Contracting Parties took appropriate action to the effect that the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been prohibited;

*RECOGNIZING* the significant progress that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recently taken to initiate a broad program of reform to achieve full compliance with ICCAT measures, including reducing substantially the activities of its fishing vessels that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures related to Atlantic bigeye tuna, adopting revised national legislation, and developing and implementing monitoring, control, and surveillance methods to its fleet;

*CONCERNED* nonetheless that additional steps still remain to be taken for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to address fully the concerns in the 1998 Resolution;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall lift the import prohibition on Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines that was imposed pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*.
2. The suspension of the import prohibitions imposed under the Recommendation above shall take effect on 1 January 2003, unless the Commission decides, on the basis of documentary evidence, at its 2002 meeting that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has not completed necessary actions to bring its fishing practices for Atlantic bigeye tuna into conformity with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT  
CONCERNING MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT,  
DETER AND ELIMINATE IUU FISHING BY TUNA LONGLINE VESSELS**

*RECALLING* that the Commission makes yearly reviews of various trade and sighting data and based on that information prepares a list of IUU fishing vessels,

*RECOGNIZING* that since IUU fishing vessels change their names and flags frequently to evade the sanction measures against them and that the lists of IUU fishing vessels based on the past trade data are still useful but should not be the sole tool to eliminate the IUU fishing vessels;

*EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN* that a significant amount of catches by the IUU fishing vessels are believed to be transferred under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

*BEING AWARE* that the majority of crew onboard the IUU tuna longline vessels are residents of the Contracting Parties, Cooperative Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities;

*STRESSING THE NEEDS* for Chinese Taipei, Japan and Parties concerned to investigate the relation between licensed vessel owners and IUU fishing activities and take necessary actions to prevent licensed vessel owners from being engaged in and associated with IUU fishing activities.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. The Commission should hold a working group meeting in 2002 in Tokyo to consider and work out more effective measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing, particularly that by flag of convenience vessels, taking into account the FAO International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing.
2. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that are entitled to fly their flags on tuna longline fishing vessels larger than 24 meters length overall (LOA) (hereinafter referred to as the "LSTLV" and that are importing those LSTLV's tuna products should, to the greatest extent possible, collect and provide to the above Working Group information on the history and economic background of their LSTLV, including the business relations of duly licensed LSTLV with business entities that have a record of IUU fishing.
3. The Working Group should scrutinize the trade data and other relevant information available to the Commission as well as the information and evidence provided in accordance with paragraph 2 above.
4. As a result of the scrutiny, the Working Group should develop and submit to the 2002 meeting of the Commission new, more effective measures to deter, prevent and eliminate IUU fishing by tuna longline vessels
5. The Working Group should review the criteria presently used to enlist vessels on the ICCAT list of tuna longline vessels engaged in IUU fishing, and consider a procedure for taking sanction measures and, as appropriate, revised criteria for listing IUU vessels.
6. Before the consideration of the above measures by the Commission at its 2002 meeting,
  - a) Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities should pay due attention in validating ICCAT Statistical Document on fish caught by the LSTLV entitled to fly their flag so as not to legitimize IUU catches.

- b) Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities should instruct their residents to refrain from engaging in and associating with activities that may support IUU tuna longline fishing vessels and with any other activities that undermine the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.
7. In 2002, the Commission should review the outcome of the Working Group as well as all the relevant information and should adopt more effective measures against this problem, and if necessary and appropriate, take actions according to the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* adopted at the 1998 Commission meeting.
8. Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities should collect information on the transfer of tunas between fishing vessels and transport vessels, including at-sea transfers, should ensure the validity of certificate of transshipment, and particularly at the port of final destination, should conduct thorough inspection of transhipped tunas at the time of landing.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FURTHER DEFINING THE SCOPE OF IUU FISHING**

*RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 1999 meeting a *Resolution Calling for Further Actions Against Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing Activities by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas*;

*RECOGNIZING* that the *International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported Fishing* of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations establishes in Section 3.1 a clear definition of what constitutes IUU fishing;

*MINDFUL* of the need to ensure that actions taken to support ICCAT conservation and management measures are non-discriminatory and in accordance with international law;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall take every possible action, consistent with relevant laws, to instruct their importers, transporters, and other concerned business people to refrain from engaging in transaction and transshipment of tunas and tuna-like species caught by vessels carrying out illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing activities, which include, *inter alia*, any fishing not in compliance with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures, in the Convention Area or other areas.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON BECOMING A COOPERATING PARTY,  
ENTITY OR FISHING ENTITY**

*RECALLING* the *Resolution by ICCAT on Coordination with Non-Contracting Parties* adopted by the Commission in 1994 and the *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* adopted in 1997; and

*RECOGNIZING* the continuing need to encourage all Non-contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for ICCAT species to implement ICCAT conservation measures;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall contact all Non-contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities known to be fishing in the Convention area for species under ICCAT competence to urge each of them to become a Contracting Party to ICCAT or to attain status as a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. In doing so, the Executive Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission.
2. Any Non-contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity which seeks to be accorded Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status shall apply to the Executive Secretary. At the time such a request is made the applicant shall inform ICCAT of its firm commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures. The applicant shall commit itself to transmit all the data to ICCAT that the Contracting Parties have to submit to ICCAT based on the recommendations adopted by the Commission. Requests must be received by the ICCAT Secretariat no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an ICCAT annual meeting, to be considered at that meeting.
3. The Commission's Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should be considered a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.
4. Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status shall be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance of ICCAT conservation and management measures or a written request for withdrawal of the status has been received by the Commission.
5. Those Non-contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that do not respond to the Commission as specified in this Resolution will not be considered Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to ICCAT.
6. The *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity*, adopted at the 1997 Commission meeting, be substituted by this Resolution.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT  
CONCERNING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICCAT  
BY CONTRACTING PARTIES**

*RECALLING* that according to Article X.2 of the ICCAT Convention, each Contracting Party is required to contribute annually to the budget of the Commission;

*RECOGNIZING* that the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention adopted in Madrid in 1992 has not been ratified by two thirds of the Contracting Parties required for the Protocol to come into force;

*EXPRESSING* grave concern that the financial status of the Commission is of constant concern given that some Contracting Parties do not contribute to the Commission's annual budget and are several years in arrears;

*AND NOTING* that Article X.8 of the ICCAT Convention permits the Commission to suspend the voting rights of any Contracting Party when that Contracting Party's arrears in payment equal or exceed an amount equal to contributions for the two preceding years;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Commission hereby expresses its grave concerns that the contributions of some Contracting Parties are in arrears and requests the Chairman of the Commission to write the relevant Contracting Parties drawing this concern to their attention.
2. Contracting Parties who have not yet ratified or accepted the Madrid Protocol should redouble their efforts to do so.
3. Considerations pursuant to Article X.8 of the Convention should be added to the Agenda of the 2002 Commission meeting.

**OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS <sup>1</sup>****10.1 Proposed Draft Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Chartering of Fishing Vessels**

Recalling that, according to Article 92 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, of 10 December 1982, ships shall sail under the flag of one State only and shall be subject to its exclusive jurisdiction on the high seas except as otherwise provided in relevant international instruments,

Recognizing that vessel chartering is a legitimate and useful option for developing nations to develop their fisheries;

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) resolves:

Chartering of fishing vessels, other than bareboat chartering, should observe the following guidelines:

1. Charter arrangements should be allowed, predominantly as an initial step in the fishery development of the chartering nation. The period of the chartering arrangement should be as short as possible, consistent with the fishery development schedule of the chartering nation.
2. Chartering nations should be Contracting Parties of the ICCAT Convention Area.
3. Fishing vessels to be chartered should be registered to Contracting Parties, to Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities, or to other responsible Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities that effectively exercise their duty to control their fishing vessels to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
4. Both the chartering Contracting Party and the flag State should ensure compliance by chartered vessels with relevant conservation and management measures established by ICCAT, in accordance with their rights, obligations and jurisdiction under international law.
5. Catches under the chartering arrangement of vessels that operate under these guidelines should be counted as the catches of the chartering Contracting Party, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties concerned and consistent with Article 27 of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities and ICCAT Document [ ] regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas.
6. All catches taken under the charter should be recorded by both the flag State and the chartering Contracting Party separately from catches taken by other vessels. Catches should be reported to ICCAT by the chartering Contracting Party.
7. Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and, as appropriate, tools for differentiation of fishing areas, such as fish tags or marks, should be used, according to the relevant ICCAT measures, for effective fishery management.
8. At least 10% of the chartered vessels, or 10% of the fishing time of the chartered vessels, should have observers on board.
9. The chartered vessels shall have a fishing license issued by the chartering nation.
10. Unless specifically provided in the chartering arrangement, and consistent with relevant domestic law and regulation, the catch of the chartered vessels should be unloaded exclusively in the Ports of the chartering Contracting Party or under its direct supervision in order to assure that the activities of the chartered vessels

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1. Note by Secretariat: Annex 10-1 was not adopted by the Commission; it has been included here at the request of several delegations. Discussion of Annex 10-1 has been deferred to the 2002 Meeting.



do not undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures. The catch must be the property of a chartering company, legally established in the chartering Contracting Party.

11. Any transshipment at sea should be consistent with ICCAT Recommendation 97-11. Any transshipment at sea should also be previously and duly authorized by the chartering nation and should happen only under the supervision of an observer on board.
12. a) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the chartering Contracting Party should provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
  - the name (in both native and Latin alphabets) and registration of the chartered vessel;
  - the name and address of the owner(s) of the vessel;
  - the description of the vessel, including the length, type of vessel and the type of fishing method(s);
  - species of fish covered by the charter and quota allocated to the Chartering Party;
  - the duration of the chartering arrangement;
  - the consent of the flag State; and
  - the measure adopted to implement these guidelines.
- b) At the time the chartering arrangement is made, the flag State should provide the following information to the Executive Secretary:
  - its consent to the chartering arrangement; and
  - the measures adopted to implement these guidelines.
- c) The Executive Secretary of ICCAT should circulate this information without delay to all Contracting Parties. The Commission should review all chartering arrangements at its annual meeting.

#### **10.2 Proposed Draft Recommendation concerning chartering arrangements In 2002 and 2004**

Recognizing that, under the ICCAT Convention, Contracting Parties shall co-operate in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fish at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch;

Further recognizing that, under international law, it is for the flag State to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag comply with conservation and management measures established by ICCAT

Acknowledging the need and interest of all States and in particular those of coastal developing States to develop their fishing fleets so as to enable them to fully utilize the fishing opportunities available to them under relevant ICCAT recommendations;

Mindful that the practice of charter arrangements, whereby fishing vessels do not change their flag, might seriously undermine the effectiveness of conservation and management measures established by ICCAT unless properly regulated;

Realizing that there is a need for ICCAT to regulate charter arrangements with due regard to all relevant factors;

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommends that:

1. Contracting Parties may utilize parts of the catch quotas, which they are allocated in accordance with ICCAT recommendations, by way of charter arrangements with fishing vessels entitled to fly the flag of another Contracting Party and notified by that Contracting Party to ICCAT, subject to the terms laid down in this recommendation.

2. This recommendation shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to co-operating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.
3. Charter arrangements shall be confined to sea areas under the fisheries jurisdiction of Contracting Parties.
4. The parts of the catch quotas referred to in paragraph 1 shall be no more than 60% in 2002, 40% in 2003 and 20% in 2004.
5. The chartering Contracting Party shall notify the following information to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT:
  - the name and registration of the chartered vessel;
  - the consent of the relevant flag Contracting Party;
  - a copy of the charter arrangement;
  - the catch quotas concerned;
  - the duration of the charter arrangement; and
  - the measures adopted by the chartering Contracting Party to ensure that the chartered vessel complies with the provisions of this recommendation and the conservation and management measures established by ICCAT.

The Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall circulate this information without delay to all Contracting Parties.

6. All catches taken under such charter arrangements shall be deemed to be catches of the chartering Contracting Party. They shall be recorded by both the flag Contracting Party and the chartering Contracting Party separately from catches taken by other vessels. They shall be reported to ICCAT by the chartering Contracting Party.
7. When operating under charter arrangements, chartered vessels shall not be authorized to fish on quotas of the flag Contracting Party and under any other charter arrangement.
8. Chartered vessels shall be equipped with operational satellite tracking devices allowing a continuous tracking of the position of the vessel by the flag Contracting Party. Upon request of the chartering Contracting Party, the flag Contracting Party, in accordance with its domestic legislation, could make this information available to the chartering Contracting Party.
9. The chartering Contracting Party shall ensure compliance by chartered vessels with relevant conservation and management measures established by ICCAT. This does not nullify the obligation of the flag Contracting Party to ensure compliance by its vessels with relevant conservation and management measures established by ICCAT in sea areas under fisheries jurisdiction of Contracting Parties.
10. The chartering Contracting Party shall report to the Executive Secretary of ICCAT by [date x] each year for the previous calendar year the particulars of charter arrangements made and carried out under this recommendation, including information of catches taken and fishing effort deployed by each chartered vessel.
11. This recommendation shall apply only for the years 2002 to 2004. During this period, it may be reviewed and, as appropriate, revised each year.

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COMPLIANCE**  
*(Murcia, Spain - November 11, 2001)*

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Working Group on Compliance met on November 11, 2001 at the Hotel Melia 7 Coronas in Murcia, Spain. The Commission Chair, Mr. José Ramón Barañano, who expressed the regrets of the Compliance Committee Chair, Mr. Ernesto Penas, for not being able to attend, opened the meeting. Delegations from the following Contracting Parties attended this meeting: Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Namibia, Russia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, and Uruguay. Representatives from Netherlands Antilles and St. Vincent and the Grenadines attended the meeting as observers. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The only change to the draft agenda as circulated was to add a new item 3, Election of the Chair. The revised Agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**.

**3. Election of the Chair**

Following the nomination of Mr. Friedrich Wieland of the European Community to Chair the meeting, the Delegate from Morocco queried whether it was ICCAT policy to only nominate officers that are known to ICCAT. Mr. Barañano replied that experience with ICCAT is but one of many points to consider in choosing a Chair for an ICCAT committee, and that Mr. Wieland has had much experience in other fisheries organizations. Following these comments, Mr. Wieland was elected Chair by consensus.

**4. Nomination of the Rapporteur**

Mr. David Kerstetter of the United States was nominated Rapporteur for the working group meeting.

**5. Possible structure for the 2001 and future compliance annexes**

5.1 The Chair opened the discussion by noting that the objective of this working group was to work with a complex set of rules and develop a compliance annex for the Compliance Committee meeting later in the week. Recalling the request by the Committee at the 2000 meeting for the Secretariat to examine the measures and suggest ways to simplify existing compliance procedures, the Chair then invited the Secretariat to comment on their effort.

5.2 The ICCAT Executive Secretary Dr. A. Lima, introduced document COM/01/023 (an initial draft of the 2001 Compliance Tables prepared by the Secretariat) and explained the many difficulties of the old compliance tables, including the inconsistency and lack of clarity in many of the old Recommendations. Dr. Lima expressed his hope that this would remain a transparent process, and that given the number of parties expressing interest in commenting upon these tables, that the complete annex be considered a draft document only. He noted in conclusion that although Task I data are not intended for compliance use, these data can be used when other data are not reported.

5.3 Mr. P. Kebe of the ICCAT Secretariat presented an update to the draft Compliance Tables. Several Contracting Parties, he continued, have given changes to these data to the Secretariat, and he urged anyone suggesting such changes to use the form prepared by the Secretariat for that purpose.

5.4 Mr. Kebe continued by noting that, in compiling these tables, the Secretariat was required to interpret some of the recommendations, and he explained the criteria used. Many of these assumptions are included as footnotes to each table in the annex.

5.5 It was noted that only eight Contracting Parties had submitted "Reporting Tables" as required by the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* (Ref. 98-14). The Compliance Working Group expressed concern that so few Contracting Parties had supplied data in a timely fashion to the Secretariat.

5.6 It was suggested that missing data might be reflective of the confusing nature of the data request. It was also suggested that the underlying recommendations might be too complex.

5.7 The following points were discussed by the Working Group, who desired to bring these issues to the attention of the Compliance Committee:

- Application of underages and overages. There were some disagreements on whether this process applied toward all stocks or only selected ones. Some parties argued that the underage and overage provisions only applied when specifically authorized in compliance or management recommendations.
- Consistent application of the 125% penalty. Regarding this penalty for a second year of harvest above an ICCAT quota, it was noted that this only applied to bluefin tuna and swordfish because these were the only two species with quotas. Several delegates noted the importance of consistency within the compliance process, while others suggested that some amount of flexibility might be desirable.
- Objections and parties with a zero catch limit that continue to fish. On the question of Contracting Parties that set autonomous quotas, some delegations expressed the view that those who formally object to a measure and set a quota should be bound by that quota. Other delegates suggested that anyone setting their own quota was, in effect, not adhering to ICCAT recommendations, and that perhaps all of that catch should be regarded as illegal. There was general agreement with the view that any catch occurring during a period where the country had zero quota would not be counted as legitimate catch history for allocation purposes.
- Task I data and compliance. A frequent point of contention, which was not resolved at this meeting, was whether Task I data could legitimately be used for compliance purposes if other data were not supplied. No agreement was reached on whether compliance and Task I data should remain separate. Several delegates pointed out that Recommendation 98-14 expressly approved of the use of Task I data in the absence of national reported data, but it was noted by another delegate that even this Recommendation is still subject to review.

5.8 Several delegates expressed the view that Contracting Parties requesting changes in the annex data also supply rationales for such changes. There was not consensus on this view, however. Many delegates further noted that many issues still remain undecided or inconsistent, such as the procedure to be used when exchanging quota between Contracting Parties.

5.9 Several questions were raised about the use of SCRS estimates of undersized fish within a compliance format. The Chair of the SCRS explained that such estimation was done with sampling strategies that provide data about the stocks for assessment purposes only. These estimates may not be representative of the catch of each particular Contracting Party.

5.10 Many Delegates requested that data not supplied by the respective Contracting Party be clearly noted within the annex tables.

**6. Review of annual reporting tables of Contracting Parties, Task I data, and applicable ICCAT Recommendations**

6.1 Several suggestions were made on the annex as a whole, including page numbers for the annex tables, adding percentages for those stocks with quotas managed as percentages of other species, and rearranging the tables to reflect the calculation of balances by years. The Secretariat agreed to examine these suggestions for inclusion in future versions of the annex.

6.2 It was noted by many delegates that Algeria claimed a 4,000 MT eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna quota, despite having no formal allocation from ICCAT. Mr. Kebe explained that this figure was shaded in the table in order to indicate that it was a claim by Algeria and not an allocation by the Commission. It was agreed that the annex should not be the place for such claims, which should reflect the ICCAT quota. Any such claims should instead be included as a footnote to the respective table.

6.3 The Delegate from Japan requested that the Secretariat compile a similar annex table for bigeye tuna, even though catch limits did not apply until 2001. Mr. Kebe noted that this could be done with available data and agreed to provide this table in the next version of the annex.

**7. Compilation of 2001 compliance annexes for consideration by the Compliance Committee**

7.1 The Working Group agreed that this item was premature at the present time, and therefore encouraged everyone to submit data, and corrections if necessary, to the Secretariat. Mr. Kebe reminded delegations that the appropriate Secretariat form must accompany any requests for changes.

7.2 The Chair commented in conclusion that the report of this working group would reflect the varying views of the meeting participants. He also requested that all delegations submit the necessary data by the evening of November 12 to the Secretariat using the forms provided.

**8. Other matters**

There were no other matters.

**9. Adoption of Report**

The Report was adopted by correspondence.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting of the Working Group on Compliance adjourned at 18:00.

## Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11

## Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of the Chair
4. Nomination of Rapporteur
5. Possible structure for the 2001 and future compliance annexes
6. Review of annual reporting tables of Contracting Parties, Task I data, and applicable ICCAT recommendations
7. Compilation of 2001 compliance annexes for consideration by the Compliance Committee
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report
10. Adjournment

## Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11

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## **REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

1.1 The Compliance Committee met during the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission at the Hotel Melia 7 Coronas in Murcia, Spain. The Committee meeting was opened by the ICCAT Commission Chair Mr. José Ramón Barañano for Committee Chair Mr. Ernesto Penas, who was unable to attend.

1.2 Delegations from the following Contracting Parties attended all or part of this meeting: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Honduras, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

2.1 The only change to the draft agenda as circulated was to change item three to the election of the Chair and accordingly shift upward the numbers of the other agenda items.

2.2 The revised agenda was accordingly adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 12**.

### **3. Election of the Chairman for the 2001 Meeting**

In the interest of continuity with the work of the Working Group on Compliance, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) nominated Mr. Friedrich Wieland (European Community) for the position of Chair. He was elected by consensus of the Committee.

### **4. Nomination of the Rapporteur**

Also in the interest of continuity with the work of the Working Group on Compliance, Mr. David Kerstetter (United States) was nominated for the position of Rapporteur.

### **5. Status of the Compliance of the Contracting Parties as Concerns Statistics**

5.1 The Delegates of the United States and Canada both made opening statements. These statements are attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 12**.

5.2 The Chair reviewed the work of the Working Group on Compliance, noting that the report from this meeting would be available before the end of the Committee meeting. This report is attached as **ANNEX 11**.

5.3 Mr. Papa Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat) drew attention to the updated compliance tables (attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 12**). He stated that the Committee needed to provide guidance to the Secretariat on interpreting applicable requirements. He also noted that Chinese Taipei had submitted data.

5.4 The Delegate of Japan raised several issues, such as the establishment of increased national quotas and autonomous quotas.

5.5 He explained some of the problems of illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) catch activities. The Delegate introduced a document containing miscellaneous information on bigeye tuna imports into Japan, which he considered relevant in the given context.

5.6 The Delegate of Algeria commented that the 4,000 MT autonomous quota for 2000 and 2001 in the draft compliance tables represented the as-yet unrealized fishing capacity of Algeria, and that actual harvests in 2000 were 2,432 MT. The Delegate expressed hope that Algeria could develop its bluefin tuna fishery now that it was a Contracting Party.

5.7 Several delegates emphasized the importance of both accurate data collection and timely transmission of statistics. It was also noted that not all Contracting Parties had submitted their Reporting Tables prior to the 2001 Commission Meeting.

## 6. National Rules for the Application of the ICCAT Measures and the Collection of Catch Data

6.1 The Delegate of the United States recalled that Contracting Parties were under an obligation to report to the Commission annually the status of their fisheries relative to compliance with minimum size recommendations. He stressed that only nine of the 31 Contracting Parties had submitted size-related data, making discussion of this issue difficult. The Delegate of Canada echoed this statement, noting that compliance with the minimum size recommendations was a continuing problem and that it was impossible to even review this issue without supporting data.

6.2 It was noted that a document entitled "Information on Minimum Size Regulations in Force by Contracting Parties", compiled and distributed by the Secretariat (COM/01/029) also contained information on this agenda item.

## 7. Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures

7.1 The Chair briefly reviewed the meeting and its findings, with reference to the "Report of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures" (ANNEX 5). He outlined that the Commission authorized the Working Group to continue its work, but that the terms of reference needed to be clarified. Following some discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission that the terms of reference given in paragraph 1 of the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (Ref. 00-20), be amended as follows: "... to develop integrated monitoring measures, including compliance and enforcement aspects, in accordance with..."

7.2 The Delegate of Japan introduced the proposed *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning a Management Standard for the Large-scale Tuna Longline Fishery* (attached as ANNEX 9-1). He emphasized that it was important for the Commission to take action given the severity of the IUU problem.

7.3 Several delegations expressed serious reservations about provisions within this document, including questions of national sovereignty, gear discrimination, and financial obligations on the Contracting Parties. Some delegations suggested that this document be taken to the next meeting of the working group. Others believed that it was urgent to address at least some of the issues raised in the Japanese proposal at this meeting if at all possible.

7.4 The Committee was informed that the contacts between the delegations had resulted in an agreeable text. The Delegation of the European Community noted the form described by section 4, which is included as Attachment II to the proposal. The Delegate of Canada requested the deletion of "under their registry" in paragraph 1 of the proposal as well as the change of "shall" to "should" in paragraphs 2 and 3. The Delegate of Brazil requested that a comma be inserted after "boats" in paragraph 1.i of Attachment I. Japan concurred with these changes. Thereupon the Committee agreed to forward to the Commission the revised *Resolution Concerning a Management Standard for the Large-scale Tuna Longline Fishery* (ANNEX 9-1) for approval.

7.5 The Delegate of Morocco commented that the FAO *International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing* had passed at the last COFI meeting in February 2001. The Delegate of China suggested that the best action regarding this Plan of Action would be a resolution of endorsing the FAO plan.

## 8. Current ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme

There were no discussions under his agenda item.

## 9. Review of the Application and Compliance of the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

9.1 The Chair began discussion on this item by stating his intention that there be four sections of the review: (1) catch tables, (2) minimum sizes, (3) restriction on the number of vessels, and (4) other compliance failures.

### *Catch Table Review*

9.2 The Delegate of the United States recalled the previous discussions on the catch tables, noting that very little was achieved due to a lack of consensus on calculation procedures. As the Chair had suggested in a previous meeting of the Working Group on Compliance, the United States submitted their position in writing to the Secretariat.

9.3 The Delegate of the United States requested clarification on whether the draft compliance tables (Appendix 3 to ANNEX 12) included the most recent clarifications on the interpretation of previous ICCAT Recommendations. Mr. Kebe replied that no, these clarifications were not included in the tables of past harvests, but that they would be applied toward future harvests in future tables.

9.4 The Delegate of the European Community requested clarification on the proposed *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* (attached as ANNEX 9-3), which stated the adjustment years for harvests of Eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish. The Delegate of the United States inquired whether this regarded the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* adopted in the 1998 Commission meeting (Ref. 98-13), and if so, requested that the adjustment years begin at 1999, not 2000. Although the Delegate of the European Community noted his view that the Commission had already approved the 1999 underages, this change was done and the revised proposal was circulated. Given the recent introduction of the document, the Delegate of the United States requested time to review the new version.

### *North Atlantic albacore*

9.5 The only discussion on this was the unusually high reported catch by Venezuela. The Delegate of Venezuela replied that he would report on this catch to the Committee at a later time.

### *South Atlantic albacore*

9.6 The Delegate of the European Community noted that it had a 1,124 MT "under-consumption" in 2000.

### *Billfishes*

9.7 The Delegate of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) noted that its apparent over-harvest in 2000 was an artifact in the data resulting from rounding up fractions of metric tons during reporting, adding that the actual catch limit, while still small, is greater than zero. Mr. Kebe agreed, stating that future versions of the table would list the catch limit as 1 MT.

9.8 The Delegate of Japan introduced a document with catch and catch limits for blue marlin and white marlin as calculated according to various Recommendations. He questioned the reference year for marlin catch limit calculations, observing that other Contracting Parties had harvested more in 1999 than in 1996. He considered this

to be unfair given that Japan itself had reduced its harvests in 1999 by more than the amount required. He proposed that the actual catch limit for the years 2001 and 2002 be based on a 25% reduction from the 1996 catches instead of being referenced to the 1999 landings.

*North Atlantic swordfish*

9.9 The Delegate of the European Community noted an excess catch of 35 MT in 2000.

*South Atlantic swordfish*

9.10 The Delegate of the European Community noted a 2 MT "underage" in 2000.

*East Atlantic bluefin tuna*

9.11 The Delegate of the United States requested that the Secretariat clearly define the method used to calculate these tables. The Delegate continued by stating the position that the 1999 objections by Morocco and Libya only apply to the quota limitations, not to compliance measures.

9.12 The Delegate of Japan introduced a document to explain the methodology used by Japan to calculate underages and overages due to the fishing year management scheme used by Japan. The Delegate also commented that the "Application of overage/underage Table" provided a model form for explaining to the Commission how catch limits were calculated. He suggested that all Contracting Parties consider submitting similar tables to the Secretariat and requested its inclusion in the record of the meeting. This form is attached to this report as Appendix 4 to ANNEX 12.

9.13 The Delegate of the United States disagreed with the methods used to calculate the quotas and under-harvest by the European Community for 1997 through 2000. The Delegate of Canada commented that he agreed with the interpretation by the United States, but that the issue was no longer resolvable. The Delegate of the European Community remarked that this issue has been settled. The Delegate also noted a 1,696 MT underage in 2000 for the European Community. The Delegate of the European Community also requested clarification from the Secretariat on carryover provisions. Mr. Kebe replied that this was still an unresolved issue because the annex from 2000 was not formally adopted and hence provided no guidance for the Secretariat on interpreting all the eastern bluefin tuna provisions. The Delegate of the United States suggested that perhaps the best course of action would be to focus on establishing agreed upon procedures for the future.

9.14 The Delegate of Algeria requested that the pre-1998 catch data for Algeria be deleted from the table because of previous reporting difficulties by the Algerian government. Mr. Kebe replied that, in the absence of Reporting Tables, Task I data were used as decided by the Compliance Committee in 1999, and that any changes to existing Task I statistics needed the approval of the SCRS.

*West Atlantic bluefin tuna*

9.15 The Delegate of Canada explained their catch table, noting that although they had a 20 MT under-harvest, they had 40 MT of dead discards, so the net result was a 20 MT over-harvest. This would be taken off the 2001 quota.

9.16 The Delegate of South Africa stressed that countries would have no reason to use the objection procedures if they were treated equitably. The Delegate of Morocco noted that an objection is due to an underlying cause that must be addressed. The Delegate of Brazil supported these statements, but noted that the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance with Management Measures Which Define Quotas and/or Catch Limits* (Ref. 00-14) applied to every Contracting Party and every ICCAT managed stock. He emphasized that the completion of the work of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria signaled a new era for ICCAT.



*Atlantic bigeye tuna*

9.17 The Delegate of China commented that it had objected to the 2001 catch limit. He noted that China had subsequently set an autonomous catch limit for 2001 that it would like to see included in the compliance tables.

*Minimum size review*

9.18 Mr. Kebe noted that the tables had been updated regarding minimum size data reporting.

*Restriction on the number of vessels*

9.19 Mr. Kebe noted that the 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels Fishing for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the Convention Area* (Ref. 00-17) provided a listing of the vessels, but did not separate them by target species. He continued by noting that the comprehensive list covered all vessels, not only the ones targeting bigeye and albacore.

9.20 The Chair questioned whether this implied non-compliance or just made it impossible to review. He suggested that Recommendation (Ref. 00-17) might have created more problems than it solved. Mr. Kebe noted that it was necessary to separate the lists of boats that target bigeye and the list of boats that target albacore from the other boats to be able to draw up a table of comparison within the limits which have been set on effort.

*Other compliance failures*

*Equatorial Guinea*

9.21 The Delegate of Japan noted that no response had been received from Equatorial Guinea regarding the letter sent from ICCAT in 2001 informing them of the 2000 decision by the Commission to impose trade restrictions regarding bigeye tuna and to maintain trade restrictions regarding bluefin tuna. He continued by suggesting that the existing trade restrictions be maintained.

*Honduras*

9.22 The Delegate of Honduras reviewed the various actions taken by his government regarding compliance with ICCAT measures and presented information that indicated a reduction in the number of Honduran-flag vessels authorized to fish from 269 in October 2000, to 18 in November 2001 (with seven of the latter being tuna vessels). The Delegate concluded his intervention by stating his request for a reconsideration of sanctions against Honduras.

9.23 The Delegate of China commented that the primary control and reporting responsibility falls upon the flag state, not that of the owner. The Delegate of Japan interjected that sanctions should be imposed upon all three Contracting Parties under consideration (Equatorial Guinea, Honduras and Panama) for trade restrictions for consistency.

9.24 The Delegate of Morocco suggested that although the flag state does have primary responsibility, the owners are not completely exempted from all responsibility.

9.25 The Chair, noting some hesitation among the delegates, queried whether Honduras was a special case. The Delegate of Japan admitted that the government of Honduras was making efforts to improve its compliance with ICCAT, but that it still has seven vessels fishing outside ICCAT recommendations and exporting bigeye to Japan. He stated that these problems indicated that it was premature to lift the sanctions against Honduras.

9.26 The Delegate of Japan agreed that the treatment of Contracting Parties in the bluefin tuna and swordfish Action Plans (Ref. 94-3 and Ref. 95-13) was unclear, but that the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* (Ref. 98-18) still applied. He suggested that the bigeye tuna sanctions be maintained and enter into force in January as planned, with a review of these actions at the 2002 Compliance Committee meeting.

9.27 The Delegate of Brazil suggested that the efforts of Honduras be recognized, and that a letter be sent requesting further information on the seven fishing vessels rather than the imposition of sanctions.

9.28 There was general agreement that a letter be sent to Honduras requesting this information, with a review of IUU fishing deferred to the next Compliance Committee meeting. The letter to Honduras is attached as **Appendix 2-2 to ANNEX 14**.

#### *Panama*

9.29 Several delegates noted that Panama became a member of ICCAT relatively recently, in 1999, but that it has not attended a meeting since joining. The Delegate of Japan noted the presence of Panamanian vessels in a Japanese paper that examined country-specific information relevant to the 1998 UJ Resolution (Ref. 98-18). Despite the initial efforts of Panama to de-register fishing vessels and comply with ICCAT recommendations, he continued, new information suggested that IUU vessels were beginning to re-register there and export bigeye tuna. Due to these concerns, he proposed identifying Panama as operating in contravention of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

9.30 The Delegate of the European Community noted that this is a complicated matter now that Panama is a Contracting Party to ICCAT. He stressed the need for transparency and caution when imposing such an important step as removing or imposing trade measures. The Delegate of Japan replied that this is a very important issue for the Japanese, and that there were IUU interests watching the outcome of these proceedings. He urged the Committee to send a strong signal against IUU fishing.

9.31 The Chair noted that there appeared to be consensus within the Committee that the Commission continue trade restrictive measures against Equatorial Guinea and send a letter of identification to Panama. These are attached as **Appendices 5-1 and 5-2 to ANNEX 12**, respectively. As there was no consensus within the Committee on how to handle the case of Honduras, the matter was deferred to the Commission.

#### *Interpretation of ICCAT Recommendations concerning compliance*

9.32 The Chair, in consultation with several delegations, recalled that existing recommendations often gave rise to many-fold problems of interpretation. After extensive discussion of possible remedies, the Committee focused on the following topics: (1) objections, (2) application of overages and underages, (3) 125% penalty, and (4) Non-contracting Parties.

9.33 The Delegate from Trinidad and Tobago noted that it was still reviewing its historical catch records, and therefore should not yet be bound by the numbers included in the compliance tables. The Delegate from the United States agreed with this, noting that the SCRS had reviewed the changes to the statistics from Trinidad and Tobago. There was general consensus with this view.

#### *Objections*

9.34 The Committee concurred that autonomous quotas or catch limits set following an objection fall outside agreed ICCAT measures and that, therefore, the objecting Contracting Party may not carry forward over- or under-harvests in accordance with relevant ICCAT recommendations. (One might expect, however, that in such a situation the objecting party would autonomously apply measures of equivalent effect.) By way of consequence, the Compliance Annex should only include quotas or catch limits that have been agreed upon by the Panels. Autonomous quotas or catch limits should be highlighted in the Compliance Annex (e.g., by way of a footnote).

9.35 The Committee noted that, in situations where a Contracting Party objects to a compliance recommendation (e.g. Recommendations 96-14 and 97-8), the year-to-year treatment of over- or under-harvests ("balancing") remains possible if permitted by the relevant quota recommendations or Recommendation 00-14.

#### *Application of overages and underages*

9.36 The Committee concurred that, under Recommendation 00-14, year-to-year treatment of over-harvest is required and under-harvest is, in principle, possible unless otherwise specified by relevant quota recommendations.

The Committee noted that Recommendation 00-14 entered into force on 26 June 2001 and that retroactive application of its provisions would not be appropriate.

#### *125% Penalty*

9.37 The Committee concurred that, pursuant to Recommendation 96-14, it was for the Commission to decide on the application of the 125% penalty for over-harvests in two consecutive harvest periods. On the basis of an improved Compliance Annex, the Compliance Committee may advise the Commission to this effect.

#### *Non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities*

9.38 This Committee concurred that only Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities may carry forward over- or under-harvests. Recommendation 00-14 only applies to Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities. Non-cooperating, non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities should not be shown as having an "adjusted quota" in the Compliance Annex.

9.39 The Delegate of Canada requested whether the agreement in the preceding paragraph should apply to the current compliance tables, which would then need to be changed. The Delegate of Japan replied that he could not agree because of the on-going negotiations regarding east Atlantic bluefin tuna, and that Chinese Taipei should be included in the tables. The Delegate of Canada noted that Chinese Taipei would not be affected by this change because it had a specific allocation of this stock. The Chair agreed that adjusted quotas for non-cooperating Non-contracting Parties, Entities, Fishing Entities would not be included in the final version of the compliance tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 12**).

9.40 The Chair invited the Delegate of Canada to introduce the proposed *Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission* with the United States. He noted that nothing in this proposed resolution was necessarily controversial, as it was simply compiling accepted ICCAT procedures within one document. This resolution has three provisions: (1) to note the July 31 date for data reporting suggested by the SCRS; (2) requiring the submission of reporting tables at least one month prior to the meeting; and (3), establishes general guidelines for the submission and review of submitted data.

9.41 The Delegate of the European Community commented that the Community included many fisheries under ICCAT purview, and that although the Community made every effort to comply with the traditional deadline, this was not always possible. He suggested that the word in operative paragraph three be changed from "shall" to "should" as to reflect this potential problem.

9.42 After consultation, the change was agreed upon and the revised version of the *Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission* (**ANNEX 9-4**) was subsequently accepted by the Committee to be forwarded to the Commission for approval.

### **10. Date and place of the next Compliance Committee meeting**

The Committee agreed to meet again in 2002 at the 13<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Commission.

### **11. Other matters**

There were no other matters discussed by the Committee.

### **12. Election of Compliance Committee Chairman**

The Committee re-elected Mr. Friedrich Wieland (European Community) as Chairman.

**13. Adoption of Report**

The 2001 Report of the Compliance Committee was adopted by correspondence.

**14. Adjournment**

The 2001 Meeting of the Compliance Committee adjourned on November 19, 2001.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 12****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of the Chairman for the 2001 Meeting
4. Nomination of the Rapporteur
5. Status of the compliance of the Contracting Parties as concerns statistics
6. National rules for the application of the ICCAT measures and the collection of catch data
7. Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures
8. Current ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme
9. Review of the application and compliance of the ICCAT conservation and management measures
10. Date and place of the next Compliance Committee meeting
11. Other matters
12. Election of Compliance Committee Chairman
13. Adoption of Report
14. Adjournment

## STATEMENTS TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

### Statement by Canada

On behalf of Canada, I would like today to again emphasize the high priority Canada places on the work of this Committee. ICCAT has adopted measures and processes to enhance the compliance by members and the cooperation by non-members of the Commission's conservation and management measures. These must be implemented and followed by all members; our actions must reflect and reinforce our commitment to compliance. Simply put, the implementation of our measures needs much greater diligence. Compliance must be improved.

Unfortunately it continues to be evident that a number of Contracting Parties are currently not meeting their most basic obligations of providing data and reporting these in a timely manner. Only six Contracting Parties submitted their reporting tables, for the year 2000 on time. Of these only four reported on minimum size requirements. While this is an improvement from last year, when only two Contracting Parties provided these tables, it is still not adequate nor should it be acceptable to any Party around this table. How can our decisions reflect conservation in the absence of basic information? This is even more problematic given that some Contracting Parties have not yet submitted any statistics to the SCRS for 2000. This compromises our stock assessment process, and undermines the integrity of the management decisions we must make. This outcome is unacceptable to Canada and should be unacceptable to all parties who are committed to the sustainable management of the fishery resources entrusted to this Commission.

Actions taken by ICCAT are very much under scrutiny. Fishermen in Canada – predominantly inshore fishermen operating small inshore vessels – are asking why their Government continues to strictly regulate their fishing activity, when it appears to them others are fishing without quota, setting unilateral quotas or continuing to fish when quotas have been exhausted. They ask why we are reporting dead discards and counting them against the Canadian quotas when others do not. They ask why we close our limited bigeye tuna fishery when the Canadian quota for northern swordfish as by-catch has been exhausted. What should my answer be?

Non-compliance and non-reporting continues to undermine the credibility of the Commission and compromises our ability to impose restrictions on non-Contracting Parties. This is an embarrassment to this organization and to each Party around the table. Our responsibilities with respect to ICCAT are collective. As such, the actions of each Party reflect on us all.

It is neither fair nor acceptable that fishermen from some Contracting Parties be expected to adhere to restrictive management measures when fishermen from other Contracting Parties are not similarly subject to the measures that are applicable to them.

### Statement by the United States

The United States commends the efforts of the Secretariat to develop the new compliance annex. We hope that the attendance at the Compliance Working Group on Sunday is indicative of a renewed willingness to solve the issues before the committee.

Timely data reporting is the foundation of future assessments and management measures. These data must also truly reflect annual harvests; incomplete or inaccurate reporting is also a form of non-compliance that strikes at the very heart of a management organization such as ICCAT. The SCRS cannot give biological guidance without accurate data for assessments, which we depend on for appropriately managing our common stocks sustainably.

We continue to be disappointed with the lack of participation in the compliance process. Only six Contracting Parties submitted their data to the Secretariat by the announced deadline. It is unfair to allow some members to evade their obligations while others have openly and honestly discussed their implementation of ICCAT management measures. We remind everyone that ICCAT membership has clear responsibilities.

This Committee must strive for consistency in the application of compliance recommendations, developing a clear methodology concerning past over- and under-harvests. The United States believes that these actions are applicable only where clearly identified within a compliance or management recommendation.

We must also address the challenging issue of the continued harvest of undersized fish. More than half of the total number of yellowfin and bigeye tuna caught are undersized, which far exceeds the 15% per trip tolerance levels. Continuing over-harvests of undersized bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic not only affects the long-term health of the eastern fishery, but also harms the rebuilding program in the west. Results from a recent SCRS workshop on bluefin mixing indicates the distribution of fish from the two known spawning areas overlaps for a large portion of the Atlantic. The very high catches of undersized fish in the eastern Atlantic have repercussions on the western fishery. It is evident that the 1997 recommendation to improve compliance with minimum size regulations is not working – high catches of undersized fish continue. It is time for the Commission to consider new approaches to reduce fishing mortality other than minimum sizes.

The role of this Compliance Committee becomes increasingly important as more ICCAT stocks come under quota or sharing arrangement management. However, we must have full compliance with the existing management measures or we forgo many of the economic and social benefits of rebuilt stocks. We look forward to working with the Committee on these issues.

### Appendix 3 to ANNEX 12

#### Compliance Tables - Explanatory Note

- The tables show the following acronyms:
  - CP = Contracting Parties
  - NCC = Cooperating non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities
  - NCO = Other non-contracting parties (other than NCC)
  - n/a = Not applicable
- All figures are in metric tons.
- The reference numbers of the pertinent Recommendations are shown in each table.
- In all tables, **figures in bold** indicate that the figure has been reported by the Contracting Party on a Reporting Table, in accordance with the Recommendation 98-14. Quotas/catch limits were taken from the Recommendations, with exceptions shown in **shaded cells**, where the catch limit was reported by the country. Balances and adjusted quotas were taken from Reporting Tables, when available, and are therefore not always the results of calculations.
- Where no Reporting Table was received, catch figures are taken from current Task I unless otherwise specified by the relevant Recommendation (s). Current catch refers to the latest reported catch for the year in question.

## North Atlantic Albacore Compliance Table for 2001

Quota type	Status	Party / Entity / Fishing Entity	Initial Catch limits / Quotas			Reference years	Current catches								Informative balance		
			1999	2000	2001		Avg (93-95)	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
TAC					34500												
CP Quota	CP	BARBADOS	200	200	200	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,7	0,7	0,0	199,3	200,0	
		BRASIL	200	200	200	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	3,7	200,0	196,3	
		CANADA	200	200	200	17,7	9,0	32,0	12,0	24,0	31,0	23,0	38,8	121,7	161,2	78,3	
		CHINA, PR	200	200	200	7,3	0,0	14,0	8,0	20,0	0,0	0,0	21,0	16,0	179,0	184,0	
		EC-Total	—	—	28712	30213,7	30503	27053	33085	23574	24253	20870	28081	25741	—	—	
		JAPAN	967*	955*			485,0	505,0	386,0	466,0	414,0	446,0	446,0	368,0	—	—	
		KOREA	200	200	200	2,7	8,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	200,0	200,0	
		FRANCE-OT	200	200	200	0,0								0,0	0,0	200,0	200,0
		TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	—	—	200	213,0	639,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,0	1,0	0,0	1,6	—	—	
		USA	—	—	607	598,0	508,0	741,0	545,0	472,0	577,0	829,0	314,0	406,5	—	—	
		UK-OT	200	200	200	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	198,0	198,0	
		VENEZUELA	—	—	200	268,9	246,2	281,6	278,8	314,6	49,0	106,8	91,0	1374,0	—	—	
Others Quota	NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI			4459,0												
		PHILIPPINES	—	—	4453,0	5562,0	6300,0	6409,0	3977,0	3905,0	3330,0	3098,0	5785,0	5299,0	—	—	
	NCO	GRENADA	200	200	6 MT Share	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	4,0	0,0	196,0	200,0	
		ST. LUCIA	200	200		0,7	0,0	0,0	2,0	1,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	0,0	194,0	200,0	
		ST. VINCENT	200	200		0,7	1,0	0,0	1,0	1,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	200,0	200,0	

Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)	98-8	00-6
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\*Japan will endeavor to limit its total north albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch. Japanese catches were 1.8% for 1999 and 1.5% for 2000

South Atlantic Albacore Compliance Table for 2001

Quota type	Status	Party / Entity / Fishing Entity	Initial Catch limits / Quotas								Reference Years Average (92-96)	Current catch									Informative balance					
			110% Average (92-96) (A)				4% of BET and/or SWO (At. South, longline) (B)														(A) - Current catch			(B) - Current Catch		
			1998	1999	2000	2001	1998	1999	2000	2001	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	
<b>Total</b>			28200	28200	29200																					

Active Fishers quota	Total		22000	27200	27200	27500												29365	25513	25076	-7365	1687	2124						
	CP	BRASIL	TAC share				n/a											n/a	2710,0	3613,0	1227,0	923,0	819,0	652,0	3418,0	1873,4	3365,2		
	NAMIBIA	TAC share				n/a											n/a	0,0	0,0	915,0	950,0	982,0	1199,0	1429,0	1162,0	2418,1			
	SOUTH AFRICA	TAC share				n/a											n/a	6360,0	6881,0	6931,0	5214,0	5634,0	6708,0	8412,0	5101,0	2072,0			
NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI	TAC share				n/a											n/a	23063,0	19400,0	22573,0	18351,0	18956,0	18165,0	16106,0	17377,0	17221,0			
Others quota	CP	CHINA.PR	0,0	0,0	0,0	100	27	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	39,0	89	0,0	-39,0	-89,0	26,7								
		EC-Total	1914,7	1914,7	1914,7	1914,7		1740,6	2451,0	2030,0	2188,0	1156,0	878,0	547,0	357,0	1040,0	791,0	1557,7	874,7	1123,7									
		JAPAN	—	—	—	—	396* 398* 422*	—	583,0	467,0	651,0	389,0	435,0	424,0	418,0	552,0	326,0	—	—	—	—	—							
		KOREA	9,5	9,5	9,5	100	7	8,6	5,0	20,0	0,0	0,0	18,0	4,0	7,0	0,0	18,3	2,5	9,5	-8,8	-0,5								
		PANAMA	119,7	119,7	119,7	120	43	108,8	129,0	168,0	213,0	12,0	22,0	0,0	3,0	14,0	0,0	116,7	105,7	119,7	40,1								
		USA	0,2	0,2	—	100	6	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,0	5,0	1,0	1,4	0,9	-0,8	0,0										
		UK-OT	44,0	44,0	44,0	100		40,0	28,0	38,0	5,0	82,0	47,0	18,0	1,0	0,58	58,0	43,0	43,4	-14,0									
		URUGUAY	43,8	43,8	43,8	100		39,8	31,0	28,0	16,0	49,0	75,0	56,0	110,0	78,0	90,0	-66,2	-34,2	-46,2									
	NCC	PHILIPPINES	0,0	0,0	0,0	100	33	n/a	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0			5,0	4,0	0,1	-5,0	-4,0	-0,1	27,6								
	NCO	ARGENTINA	67,8	67,8	67,8	100		61,6	306,0	0,0	2,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	67,8	67,8	67,8									
	BELIZE.SH.OB	0,4	0,4	0,4	100		0,4	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	8,0	1,7	0,4	-7,6	-1,2										
	CAMBODIA	0,0	0,0	0,0	100		0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	5,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	-5,0	0,0										
	CUBA	1,8	1,8	1,8	100		1,6	5,0	3,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,8	1,8	1,8										
	HONDURAS-OB.SH	0,4	0,4	0,4	100		0,4	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	0,0	7,0	1,0	6,0	0,0	-0,6	-5,6	0,4										

Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)	97-5	98-9	99-6	00-7	97-5	98-9	99-6	00-7
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\*Japan will endeavor to limit its total south albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch in South of 5 degrees North. Japanese catches were 5.1% in 1998, 5.5% in 1999 and 3.1% in 2000.



**Billfish (BUM, WHM) Compliance Table for 2001**

Species	Status	Party / Entity / Fishing Entity	Initial Catch Limits			Reference years		Current Landings				Informative Balance	
			1999	2000	2001	1996	1999 Land. (PS+LL)	1997	1998	1999	2000	1999	2000
WHM	CP	BARBADOS	11,25	11,25	8,35	15	25,3	40,8	33,5	25,3	25,0	-14,0	-13,8
		BRASIL	56,25	56,25	51,81	75	157	105,0	216,0	156,6	61,0	-100,4	-4,75
		CANADA	6	6	1,65	8	5	8,0	8,0	4,8	5,3	1,2	0,7
		CHINA, PR	6,75	6,75	9,9	9	30	11,0	15,0	0,0	0,0	6,8	6,8
		CÔTE D'IVOIRE**	0,75	0,75	0	1		2,0	1,0	5,0	1,0	-4,3	-0,3
		EC-Total	85,5	85,5	46,53	114	141	81,0	78,0	77,0	193,2	8,5	-107,7
		GABON**	304,5	304,5	0	406		0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	304,5	304,5
		GHANA**	0,75	0,75	0	1		3,0	7,0	6,0	8,0	-5,3	-7,2
		JAPAN	84	84	25,74	112	78	41,0	43,0	78,0	70,0	6,0	14,0
		KOREA	44,25	44,25	0	59		23,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	44,3	43,8
		SAO TOME & PRINCIPE**	0	0	0	0		45,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
		USA	2,5	2,5	0	7		2,0	2,0	1,6	0,2	0,9	2,3
		UK-OT	0,75	0,75	0	1		1,0	0,0	0,75	0,4	0,0	0,4
		URUGUAY	0	0	0	0		60*	22,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
		VENEZUELA	122,73	122,73	14,17	163,85	42,9	90,1	79,7	60,9	13,3	61,8	109,4
		NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI	424,5	424,5	153,45	566	465	441,0	508,0	465,0	437,0	-40,5
MEXICO	0			0	3,63	0	11	5,0	6,0	11,0	17,9	-11,0	-17,9
PHILIPPINES	0			0	3,96	0	12	0,0	1,0	12,0	0,0	-12,0	0,0
NCO	BELIZE, SH. OB	0	0	0,33	0	1	1,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	-1,0	0,0	
		CAMBODIA	0	0	0,33	0	1	0,0	0,0	1,0	0,0	-1,0	0,0

BUM	CP	BARBADOS	18,75	18,75	9,30	25	18,6	30,0	24,6	18,6	19,0	0,1	-0,3
		BRASIL	248,25	248,25	254,5	331	509	193,0	486,0	507,5	312,0	-259,3	-63,75
		CHINA, PR	46,5	46,5	100,5	62	201	78,0	120,0	0,0	0,0	46,5	46,5
		CÔTE D'IVOIRE**	117,75	117,75	0	157		222,0	182,0	275,0	208,0	-157,3	-88,3
		EC-Total	159,75	159,75	100	213	200	161,0	215,0	206,0	164,0	-46,3	-4,25
		GABON**	6	6	0	8		0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	6,0	6,0
		GHANA**	316,5	316,5	0	422		491,0	447,0	624,0	639,0	-307,5	-322,5
		JAPAN	1259,25	1259,25	569	1679	1138	897,0	915,0	1138,0	293,0	121,3	966,3
		KOREA	108	108	0	144		56,0	2,0	0,0	1,1	106,0	106,9
		PANAMA	0	0	0	0		0,0	0,0	0,0	40,6	0,0	-40,6
		SAO TOME & PRINCIPE**	0	0	0	0		35,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
		TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	8,025	8,025	9	10,7	18	76,6	70,0	32,5	9,1	-24,5	-1,1
		USA	26	26	0	43		46,0	50,0	37,0	24,0	-11,0	2,0
		UK-OT	11,25	11,25	0	15		3,0	5,0	1,0	2,0	10,3	9,3
		URUGUAY	0	0	0	0		0,0	23,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
		VENEZUELA	102,56	102,56	14,994	136,744	30,0	129,7	205,1	220,0	27,9	-117,4	74,6
NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI	495	495	243	650	486	1478,0	578,0	486,0	485,0	9,0	10,0	
		MEXICO	9,75	9,75	17,5	13	35	13,0	27,0	35,0	67,7	-25,3	-58,0
		PHILIPPINES	0	0	35,5	0	71	0,0	7,0	71,0	38,0	-71,0	-38,0
NCO	BENIN**	3,75	3,75	0	5		5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	-1,3	-1,3	
		CUBA**	32,25	32,25	0	43		0,0	12,0	0,0	0,0	32,3	32,3
		GRENADA	19,5	19,5	0	25		47,0	47,0	100,0	100,0	-80,5	-80,5
		NETHERLAND ANT	30	30	0	40		40,0	40,0	40,0	40,0	-10,0	-10,0
		SENEGAL**	3,75	3,75	0	5		0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	3,8	3,8

Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)	97-9	00-13	97-9	00-13
		98-10		98-10

\* WHM for Uruguay in 1997 includes other billfish species.

\*\* Countries assumed to have artisanal fisheries.

North Atlantic Swordfish Compliance Table for 2001

Quota type	Status	Party	Initial Catch limits / Quotas							Reference Years		Current Catch						Balance				Adjusted quota / catch limit				
			1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1993	1996 (SCRS-97)	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1997	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	2001	
TAC			n/a		11425	11027	10727	10800	10500																	
Discards allowance					n/a			400	300																	

Individual quotas	CP	Total	Initial Catch limits / Quotas							Reference Years		Current Catch						Balance				Adjusted quota / catch limit				
			1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1993	1996 (SCRS-97)	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1997	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	2001	
		CANADA	1500,0	1400,0	1130,0	1100,0	1070,0	1018,0	1018,0	2234	739	1610	739	1089,5	1115	1114,3	967,8	40,5	25,5	-18,8	31,4	1140,5	1095,5	999,2	1049	
		EC-Total	7827,0	6997,0	5805,8	5387,5	5221,3	5073,0	5073,0	8656	7255	8655	7387	6233	5105	4966	5483	-437,3	262,5	-182,0	-147,5	-	4784	5335,5	4891	
		JAPAN	1839,0	1762,8	706,3	687,5	688,8	638,0	636,0	1128	1451	1043	1494	1291	1338	1034	504	-584,8	-850,5	-385,3	132,0	-	-	-	-	
		USA	3970,0	3500,0	3277,0	3190,0	3103,0	2951,0	2951,0	3782	4148	4028	3558	2831	3112	2896	2864,3	446,0	524,0	731,0	817,7	3636	3627	3682	3369	
		UK-OT			26,0	27,3	28,5	24,0	24,0		1	1	1	5	43	12	3	23,0	7,3	21,8	42,8	50	34	46	87	
Others quota	CP	Total (excluding EC)			878	655,0	637,0	498,0	498,0		1137	814	1289,2	847,1	990,4	929,2	714,8									
		BRASIL				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0										0,0	0,0	-117,3		0	0	-117,3	
		CHINA, PR	n/a	55		0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	55	0	79	100	40	337	304	22		-337,0	-204,0	0,0		-237	-104	0	
		KOREA	19	19		18,0	19,0	14,1	14,1	18	19	18	18	15					18,0	38,0	52,1		38	52	68	
		MAROC	39	39		277,8	277,8	205,5	205,5	39	505	79	482	287	191	119	114		86,8	245,5	337,0		365	451	543	
		PANAMA				0,0	0,0	0,0								17			0,0	-17,0	-17,0		0	-17	-17	
		TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	n/a			0,0	0,0	0,0		11	0	106	68	43	75	82	41		-74,5	-156,8	1,0		-75	-115	1	
		VENEZUELA	73	73		85,0	85,0	62,9	62,9	73	85	54	85	20	35	30	30		50,0	105,0	137,6		135	188	201	
		BARBADOS				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0						16	16	12		-15,9	-28,0	-28,0		-16	-28	-28	
		NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI			n/a	288,2	288,2	213,3	213,3	127	524	489	521	509	286	285	347				-133,7				
		NCC	MÉXICO				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	8				14	28	24	37				-37,0				
		NCO	CUBA				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	16		88	7	7	7	7	4				0,0				
		NCO	FAROE-ISLANDS				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0							5	4				-4,0				
		NCO	GRENADA	n/a	n/a		1,0	1,0	0,7	0,7	13	1	1	4	15	15	42			n/a		0,7		n/a		
		NCO	ICELAND				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0							1					0,0				
NCO	SIERRA LEONE				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0								2				-2,2						
NCO	ST. LUCIA				0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0												0,0						
NCO	ST. VINCENT				3,0	3,0	2,2	2,2	23	3	4	3	1	1	1					2,2						

Dead discards	CP	CANADA	USA	JAPAN
			80	
			320	
				49,9
				488,9
				382
				504

Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)	94-14	95-11	96-7	99-2	98-7	98-14	98-13	00-3

## South Atlantic Swordfish Compliance Table for 2001

Quota type	Status	Party	Initial Catch limits / Quotas							Reference Years		Current Catch						Balance			Adjusted Quota / Catch limit				
			1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	2001	
TAC			14620 14620 14620 14620																						
CP with quotas	CP	BRASIL*	2013	2013	2013	2339,2	2339,2	2339,2	4720,0	2013	1571	1975,0	1892,0	4100,0	3846,8	4721,1	3409,1	-1069,9							
		EC-Total	7937	7937	7937	6233	6233	6233	6233	6974	7937	11670,0	10011,0	8902,0	6216,0	6139,0	6342,0	17,0	111,0	2,0	6233,0	6250,0	6344,0	6235,0	
		JAPAN	5256	5256	5256	3764,6	3764,6	3764,6	3764,0	5256	4899	3619,0	2197,0	923,0	1091,0	802,0	355,0	2573,6	2962,6	3409,6	3764,6	3764,6	3764,6	7173,6	
		URUGUAY*	260	260	260	694,5	694,5	694,5	800,0	260	165	499,0	644,0	760,0	886,0	650,0	713,0	-18,5			781,5				
CP combined quota		Total					419,1	419,1	419,1			290,0	558,0	479,0	631,0	1643,0	1330,9	-211,9	-1223,9	-911,8	419,1	207,2	-804,8	-911,8	
		CHINA, PR	250		250									29,0	534,0	344,0	-29,0	-284,0	-94,0	0,0	-29,0	-284,0	386,0		
		CÔTE D'IVOIRE	250	250	250	22,5	22,5	22,5	14 20		19,0	26,0	18,0	25,0	26,0	20,0	-2,5	-3,5	2,5	22,5	20,0	19,0	2,5		
		G. EQUATORIAL	250	250	250									2,0			0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0		
		GHANA	250	250	250	121,5	121,5	121,5	121 51		103,0	140,0	44,0	108,0	121,0	116,5	15,5	0,5	5,0	121,5	137,0	122,0	5,0		
		KOREA	250	250	250	85,5	85,5	85,5	198 164		164,0	7,0	18,0	7,0			9,7	76,5	85,5	75,8	85,5	164,0	171,0	75,8	
		NAMIBIA														730,0	468,7	0,0	-730,0	-468,7	0,0	0,0	-730,0	1531,3	
		PANAMA														105,0			0,0	-105,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	-105,0	0,0
		SOUTH AFRICA*	250	250	250	2,5	2,5	2,5	1500,0	4 1		4,0	1,0	1,0	169,0	76,0	230,0								
		UK-OT																							
USA	250	250	250	384,0	384,0	384,0	384,0			384,0**		398,0	295,0	51,0	142,0	89,0	333,0	242,0	384,0	384,0***	384,0***	628,0			
Other quota	NCC	Total					1169,6	1169,6	1169,6			3699,0	3034,0	2637,3	1149,3	1202,4	1311,2	20,3	-32,8	-141,6	1169,6	1189,9	1136,8	-141,6	
		CHINESE TAIPEI					2874,5	2874,5	2874,5	1169,6	846 2829	2878,0	2873,0	2562,0	1147,0	1188,0	1303,0	1727,5	1706,5	1571,5	2874,5	4602,0	4581,0	2741,1	
		ARGENTINA								14 24								0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	
		BELIZE SH.OB				1,0	1,0	1,0					1,0			17,0	8,2	1,0	-18,0	-7,2	1,0	2,0	-15,0		
		BENIN				24,0	24,0	24,0	26 25		24,0	24,0	10,3	0,3	3,4			23,7	20,6	24,0	24,0	47,7	44,6		
		CAMBODIA														8,0			0,0	-6,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	-8,0	
		CUBA				419,0	419,0	419,0	192 452		778,0	60,0	60,0					419,0	419,0	419,0	419,0	838,0	838,0		
		HONDURAS-OB.SH				5,0	5,0	5,0			6,0	4,0	5,0	2,0	8,0			3,0	-3,0	5,0	5,0	8,0	2,0		
		LITUANIA								794										0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	
		NIGERIA				9,0	9,0	9,0	857				9,0						9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	18,0	18,0	
TOGO				39,0	39,0	39,0	8 14		14,0	64,0							39,0	39,0	39,0	39,0	78,0	78,0			
Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)			94-14	96-6	97-7		00-4								97-7			97-7, 97-8							

\* Recommendation 97-8 objected

\*\* The USA 1996 catch figure (384 MT) is based on fishing year and was agreed at the Intersessional meeting of Panel 4 in 1997 (Brazil)

\*\*\* USA has not adjusted 1999 and 2000 quota according to 97-7 recommendation.

### East Atlantic Bluefin Compliance Table for 2001

Quota Type	Status	Party / Entity / Fishing Entity	Initial Catch Limits / Quotas							Reference Years (Current)								Balance				Adjusted Quota / catch limit					
			1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1993	1994	max(93-94) (SCRS 97)	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1997	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	2001	
TAC			32000 29500 29500																								
CP quotas	CP	ALGERIE					304	***	***	1097	1560	304	156	156	157	1947	2142	2432									
		CHINA.PR		97	97	72,75	82	76	76		97		137	93	49	85	103	77	48	36	-21	-1	121	118	55	75	
		CROATIA			1410	1057,5	950	876	876	1058	1410		1220	1380	1105	906	970	930	305	457	437	383	1363	1407	1313	1259	
		EC-Total	19943	14184	27748	20811	20165	18590	18590				27303	29805	28045	18230	16164	19475	-4029	2581	-28	1896	20811	16136	21171	18582	
		G. CONAKRY	330	330	330	247,5				330		282	240	1990	382	368			-32	-153			216	-153			
		G. EQUATORIAL (NEI)	0	0	0	0						0	300	71	804	267	76		-804	-1171			-804	-1171			
		JAPAN	3554	3554	3554	2668	3199	2949	2949	3277	2811		3310	3561	3631	3064	2793	3522	-77	-398	406	-741	2666	3122	2781	2949	
		KOREA	688	688	688	516	672	619	619		688		683	663	613	66		8	75	525	1197	1810	591	1197	1816	2429	
		LIBYA	1332	1332	1332	999	1300	1199	1570**	546	1332		1500	1308	1029	1331	1195	1549	303	-29			1302				
		MAROC	1812	1812	1812	1359	2430*	3028*	3028**	494	1812		1713	1621	2603	2430	2227	2923	-791	-1862			588				
		PANAMA				1125						1129	1517	3400	491		13			1125			1125				
		TUNISIE	2503	2503	2503	1877,25	2328	2144	2144	2132	2503		1897	2393	2200	1745	2352	2184	303	435	409	369	2180	2761	2553	2513	
Others quota	Total		2488 2291 2291															0 0 2488 4777				0 2488 4777 7088					
	NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI (spec.alloc.)	n/a							334	729		502	472	504	458	248	313			485	810			714	1123	1488
		Remaining quota of NC																									
	NCO	CYPRUS					14	14	14	14	10	14	10	10	10	21	31	61			-17	-84			14	-3	-50
		FAROE ISLANDS														67	104	118			-104	-222			0	-104	-222
		ICELAND														2	27				-27	-27			0	-27	-27
		ISRAEL												14							0	0			0	0	0
		MALTA					344	344	344	151	343	344	353	243	249	244	269	376			75	43			344	419	387
		NORWAY															5				-5	-5			0	-5	-5
		SIERRA LEONE																93			0	-93			0	0	-93
		TURKEY					1155	1155	1155	3084	3468	1155	4220	4816	5093	5899	1407				-252	903			1155	903	2058
	YUGOSLAVIA REP. FED.											2	4				4			0	-4			0	0	-4	

Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)	94-11	97-3 98-5	00-9	98-14 98-13	98-13
	95-5	98-5			

NOTE: Recommendation 98-5 objected by Libya and Morocco.

\* 1999 and 2000 figures for Morocco are autonomous catch limits (Recommendation 98-5 established catch limits of 820 MT and 756 MT for 1999 and 2000).

\*\* Recommendation 00-9 states that Morocco and Libya establish catch limits of 3028 MT and 1570 MT respectively, for 2001.

\*\*\* Algeria reported an autonomous quota of 4000 MT for 2000 and 2001. Current catches for 1995 to 1997 were taken from earlier reported Task I data.

## West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Compliance Table for 2001

Quota type	Status	Party / Entity / Fishing Entity	Initial Catch Limits					Current Catch				Balance				Adjusted Quota/Catch limit			
			1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1997	1998	1999	2000	1997	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000	2001
TAC			2354,0	2354,0	2500,0	2500,0	2500,0												
Total catch that can be retained					2421,0	2421,0	2421,0												
Individual quotas	CP	BRASIL								13,0									
		CANADA	552,6	552,6	573,0	573,0	573,0	504,5	596,0	576,1	549,1	48,1		1,6	20,4	600,7	577,7	569,6	553,0
		FRANCE-OT			4,0	4,0	4,0			0,6	0,4	0,0		3,4	7,0	0,0	4,0	7,4	11,0
		G.EQUATORIAL (NEI)								429,0						0,0			
		JAPAN	453,0	453,0	453,0	453,0	453,0	470,0	555,0	433,0	322,0	-17,0	-102,0	3,0	131,0	453,0	436,0	329,0	460,0
		USA*	1344,4	1344,4	1387,0	1387,0	1387,0	1334,3	1237,0	1226,0	1212,1	10,1	37,0	198,0	175,0	1354,5	1424,0	1585,0	1562,0
		UK-OT	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	4,0	2,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	2,0	3,0	3,0	6,0	6,0	4,0	7,0	10,0
Others	NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI						2,0											
		MÉXICO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,0	8,0	14,0	28,7		n/a						
	NCO	ST. LUCIA																	

Total discards allowance				79,0	79,0	79,0													
	CP	CANADA discards			5,6	5,6	5,6	6,0	16,0	10,7	46,0			-5,1	-40,4				
		JAPAN discards			5,6	5,6	5,6	8,0						5,6	5,6				
		USA discards			67,7	67,7	67,7	161,0	104,0	30,0	66,6			37,7	1,2				

Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)	96-4	98-7
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96-14
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\* USA In 1999 changed reporting to fishing year (June-May) and applied 37 MT of the left-over from 1998 to the 1999 fishing year

Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Compliance Table for 2001

Status	Party / Entity / Fishing Entity	Initial Catch limits / Quotas				Reference years				Current catches			Informative balance		
		1998	1999	2000	2001	Avg (91-92)	1991	1992	1999 (SCRS/00)	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
CP	BARBADOS					0	0	0		18	18				
	BRASIL					570	350	790		2024	2372,2				
	CANADA					46,5	25	67		263	327				
	CAP-VERT					128	151	105		1	2				
	CHINA, PR				7300**	0	0	0	7347	7347	6564				
	CÔTE D'IVOIRE					0	0	0		390	458				
	EC-Total				26672	26672	26004	27340	21970	22221	17989				
	GABON					0	0	0		184	150				
	GHANA				3478	3478	4090	2866	11460	11460	5586				
	JAPAN				32539	32539	30358	34722	23590	24184	23885				
	KOREA					834	802	866		124	43				
	LIBYA					254	0	508		400	400				
	MAROC					0	0	0		700	770				
	NAMIBIA					0	0	0		423	589				
	PANAMA					8724,5	7447	10002		318	995				
	RUSSIAN FED.					0	0	0		8	91				
	SOUTH AFRICA					57,5	72	43		41	225				
	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO					191,5	263	0		8	5				
	USA					893,6	974	813		1262	574				
UK-OT					6,5	3	10		6	8,29					
URUGUAY					38	20	56		28	25					
VENEZUELA					373,1536	476	270		140	226					
NCC	CHINESE TAIPEI	16500	16500	16500	16500	12698	13850	11546	16837	16314	16637	16795	186	-337	-296
	MÉXICO					0	0	0		6	2				
	PHILIPPINES					0	0	0		2113	975				
NCO	ARGENTINA					11	22	0							
	BELIZE.SH.OB					0	0	0				47			
	BENIN					8,6	10	7		11					
	CAMBODIA					0	0	0		32					
	CONGO					12	12	12		8	8				
	CUBA					45	34	56							
	FAROE ISLANDS					0	0	0		11	8				
	GRENADA					45	65	25							
	ICELAND					0	0	0		1					
	LIBERIA					27,5	13	42		57	57				
	NETHERLAND ANT.					0	0	0				2627			
	SENEGAL					5	6	6							
	SIERRA LEONE					0	0	0				6			
	ST. LUCIA					0,5	0	1							
	ST. VINCENT					0,5	0	1		1	1215				
	TOGO					4	6	2							

Recommendation(s) / Resolution(s)	97-15	98-3*	00-1*
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\* Limit the number of vessels fishing for the Atlantic bigeye tuna to the following:

China: 30 vessels [00-1]; Chinese Taipei: 125 vessels [98-3]; Philippines: 5 vessels [00-1]

\*\* China PR objected to resolution [00-1], which set a catch limit of 4000 MT and established an autonomous quota of 7300 MT for 2001.

## Compliance Table for Species with Size Regulations

	Species	2000 Catches						Size data provided						Tolerance limits & reported estimates over tolerance limits											
		BET		YFT		SWO		BFT		BET		YFT		SWO		BFT		BET		YFT		SWO		BFT	
		Area	ATL	ATL	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E +M	AT.W	ATL	ATL	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E +M	AT.W	ATL	ATL	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E +M	AT.W	ATL	ATL	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E +M
<b>Recommendations / Size limits *</b>	Number																								
	Min Weight (kg)													79-1	72-1	90-2 (95-10)		74-1	91-1						
	Min Size (cm)													3,2	3,2	25		6,4	30						
	Tolerance (% of total)													-	-	125 (119)		-	115						
	Tolerance Type (weight/number)													15%	15%	15% (0%)		15%	8%						
														number	number	number		number	weight						
<b>Contracting Parties</b>	ALGERIE						2432																		
	ANGOLA		35																						
	BARBADOS	18	155																						
	BRASIL	2372,2	4688,8	117,3	3409,1			yes	yes	yes	yes			0%	0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CANADA	327	105	967,8			549,1			yes			yes	0	0	0 (0.3%)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CAP-VERT	2	1851						yes																
	CHINA, PR	6564	1674	22	344		77							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	458	1560		20																				
	CROATIA						930															0	0	0	0
	G. CONAKRY																								
	G. EQUATORIAL																								
	EC-Total	17989	54854	5483	6342	19475		partial	partial	partial	partial	partial	partial												
	GABON	150	162																						
	GHANA	5586	17010		117			yes	yes		yes														
	HONDURAS																								
	JAPAN	23885	3448	504	355	3522	322							0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	KOREA	43	142		10	6																			
	LIBYA	400				1549																			
	MAROC	770		114		2923																			
	NAMIBIA	589	59		469																				
	PANAMA	995	1744																						
	RUSSIAN FED.	91	737																						
	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE		4																						
SOUTH AFRICA	225	353		230																					
S. PIERRE et MIQUELON						0,4																			
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	5	112	41																						
TUNISIE						2184																			
USA	574	7051	2864,3	144	1279		yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	0 MT	0 MT	0 (9.4MT)		0 MT	0 MT	0	0	0	0	0	0	
UK-OT	8,29	166,69	3		1																				
URUGUAY	25	45		713			yes	yes		yes			0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
VENEZUELA	226	10549	30				yes	yes																	

\* Figures in (brackets) represent alternative size limits

**Form for the Application of Overages/Underages**

Stock: \_\_\_\_\_

Units: MT

Year					
Limit					
Adjusted Limit (A)					
Formula <sup>1</sup>					
Catch (B)					
Balance (A) - (B)					
Adjustment Year <sup>2</sup>					

Describe the rationale used in the application of the overage/underage:

1. Enter the formula used to calculate the adjusted limit (A).
2. Enter the year used to adjust the balance (A) - (B)



### **Commission Chairman's Letters to Contracting Parties Regarding Compliance**

#### ***5-1 Letter to Equatorial Guinea Indicating Continuance of Trade Restrictions***

This is to advise you that, at its 2001 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the situation of Equatorial Guinea pursuant to its Resolution concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and its Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries. The Commission concluded that as the situation has not changed, the trade restrictive measures on Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products from Equatorial Guinea adopted at its 1999 meeting and the trade restrictive measures on bigeye tuna and its products from Equatorial Guinea adopted at its 2000 meeting should not be lifted. For your convenience, a copy of the above mentioned resolution and recommendation, the recommendation imposing trade restrictive measures on Equatorial Guinea, and our correspondence to you following both the 1999 and the 2000 meetings are attached.

The Commission strongly encourages Equatorial Guinea, as a member of ICCAT, to fulfill its obligations to the organization and rectify the activities of fishing vessels flying its flag. The Commission would also be pleased to provide such further information and clarification as you may require.

#### ***5-2 Letter to Panama Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area***

At its 2001 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective action, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions.

The information available to ICCAT at its 2001 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered to Panama. In addition, trade data available to ICCAT indicates that Panama has exported a significant amount of Atlantic bigeye tuna to Japan in 2001, and other trade data indicates that large-scale longline vessels of Panama may be fishing in a manner that undermined ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Panama under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Panama to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Panama do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale vessels concerned.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

**REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 - 4****REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1****1. Opening of the meeting**

In the absence of a delegate from Cape Verde (Panel Chairman), Mr. John Barnes (United Kingdom-Overseas Territories) agreed to Chair Panel 1, and opened the meeting.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was reviewed and item 6 was modified. The Agenda, as adopted, is attached as Appendix 1 to ANNEX 13.

**3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Mr. Julien Turenne (EC-France) was appointed Rapporteur of Panel 1.

**4. Review of Panel membership**

4.1 The Panel is comprised of 21 members: Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Russia, Sao Tome and Principe, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America and Venezuela. All were present except Cape Verde, Panama and Sao Tome and Principe.

4.2 South Africa and France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) participated in the meeting as observers.

**5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)****5.a Yellowfin tuna**

5.a.1 There was no stock assessment carried out in 2001 and the Chairman of the SCRS reiterated the major results of the stock assessment carried out in 2000. The estimate of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) based on sustainable production models is between 144,600 MT and 147,300 MT. The estimated average catches of yellowfin tuna has averaged 142,000 MT for the last three years. The current (2000) yield (135,000 MT in 2000) is slightly less than the level of MSY, and the replacement yield is close to the level of current yield.

5.a.2 In this context, the SCRS reiterated its support for the 1993 Commission recommendation according to which the level of effective fishing effort on yellowfin tuna should not surpass the level observed in 1992 (Ref. 93-4), that is, above the current observed level of effort, which is slightly below the 1992 estimate.

**5.b Skipjack**

5.b.1 No skipjack tuna stock assessment was carried out in 2001. The Chairman of SCRS indicated that the Atlantic skipjack stocks have some characteristics that make it difficult to evaluate the state of the stock and to estimate the major biological parameters (MSY, replacement yield, biomass). He pointed out that the estimated level of catches varies considerably from one year to another. Catches were high in 2000, at 111,283 MT for the East Atlantic stock and 26,040 MT for the West Atlantic stock.

5.b.2 In this context, Dr. Powers indicated that the SCRS had not made any management recommendation.

### **5.c *Bigeye tuna***

5.c.1 No new assessment on the state of the bigeye tuna stock was carried out in 2001, but one is scheduled in 2002. On the other hand, the catch statistics and the catch per unit of effort were updated.

5.c.2 The production model analyses indicated that the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is between 79,000 MT and 94,000 MT, and the replacement yield is between 72,000 MT and 85,000 MT. The current yield (2000) is estimated at 99,000 MT, with 15,000 MT attributed to IUU fishing, which was the subject of a new estimate. Their estimated value declined by 40% as compared to the previous estimate (25,000 MT in 1999), but the SCRS noted that the estimate of 15,000 MT is a minimum, due to the difficulties concerning the use of conversion factors and the identification of the origin of the products. The SCRS Chairman pointed that the annual catch for 1998-2000 still surpassed the upper limit of estimated MSY and that it is likely that a level of catches higher than or equal to 99,000 MT cannot be maintained over the long-term. However, he noted that although no assessment has been carried out, one of the longline indices indicate some recovery since 1999. It is also encouraging to note that catches in 2000 were the lowest since 1993, and that major fishing countries applied the new quota in 2001.

5.c.3 The SCRS proposes maintaining the recommendation of the previous year, which allows for the adoption of an individual quota for the major parties and fishing entities limiting their catches to the average of 1991 and 1992. If this new measure is respected, the annual catch will be between 90,000 MT and 100,000 MT and, according to the SCRS evaluation, this level of catches will not be sufficient to rebuild the stock to the MSY level. Besides, the Committee is still concerned about the proportion of under-sized fish, which continues to be very high.

### **5.d *Evaluation of the impact of the time-area closure of the surface fishery under floating objects***

5.d.1 According to the recommendations of the SCRS on the need to reduce bigeye tuna fishing mortality, particularly on juvenile bigeye, the European purse seiners implemented a voluntary time-area closure of the fishery on floating objects. This closure was applied for the months of November and December 1998, and January, 1999. In 1998, the Commission adopted a recommendation (Ref. 98-1) that extended this moratorium to the period from November, 1, 1999, to January 31, 2000, for the purse seiners of the Contracting, Cooperating non-contracting Parties, entities and fishing entities. In 1999, the Commission extended this moratorium to all the surface fleets for an indefinite period (Ref. 99-1), and requested the SCRS to analyze its impact. The Committee carried out the necessary studies in 2000. Following a substantial revision of the data after the 2000 meeting of the SCRS, these analyses have been redone, and were updated during the 2001 meeting of the Committee to include the data for the year 2000.

5.d.2 The Committee at first recognized that, for bigeye tuna, a species that should benefit most from the moratorium, the impact of the overall increase in effort from 1997 to 1997 has been higher than that of the moratorium, and has implied an increase in selectivity on juveniles and a decline in yield per recruit and the spawning biomass per recruit. In spite of this, the situation in 2000 seems to be close to that before the moratorium in terms of yield per recruit, and shows an increase in spawning biomass per recruit. A constant conclusion of the analyses is that the situation could be worse if the moratorium had not been in place.

5.d.3 As regards, yellowfin tuna, for which the moratorium was not designed since recruitment of this species takes place essentially outside the period of the moratorium, it was noted that fishing mortality of juvenile yellowfin has increased, but it is very possible that this increase is not more than an increase in yellowfin recruitment. Lastly, with regard to skipjack tuna, it was observed that the part of the catches associated with floating objects has declined considerably during this period (-48%).

### **5.e *Questions raised by the delegations to the SCRS Chairman***

5.e.1 Dr. Powers responded to several queries on the effects observed in fleet strategy. If the moratorium had affected all the surface fleets, it is likely that the fishery indicators would have improved slightly, particularly a slight increase in yield per recruit. However, the increase in catches and effort of the Ghanaian fleet during this period, as compared to that prior to the moratorium, has prevented any benefit for the stock. The level of catches

of bigeye tuna by Ghana observed during the moratorium years is also considerably above the reference level of 1991-1992.

5.e.2 Dr. Powers then responded to a question on the assessment that is scheduled for 2002, and on the possibility of proposing a recovery program. The Committee recognized the need for a new assessment, in order to take into account the changes made with respect to the estimate of the level of catches per unit of effort and the catches from IUU fishing. The Committee will therefore attempt to conduct projections which could serve as a base for a recovery program.

5.e.3 Dr. Powers, in response to a question on the application of the minimum size limit for yellowfin and bigeye, indicated that the Committee recognized that it is practically impossible to eliminate the catches of small fish in the multi-species fisheries. The Committee also noted the interest towards alternative measures similar to the moratorium current in effect on bigeye tuna.

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities**

### **6.a Yellowfin tuna**

No comments were made on the current regulations for the yellowfin tuna fishery, which include a minimum size limit and a moratorium during certain months on the use of floating objects by surface fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea.

### **6.b Bigeye tuna**

6.b.1 Japan presented a "Report on the Actions Taken According to the Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Recommendations on the Bigeye tuna Conservation Measures". These include administrative actions such as not purchasing tuna caught by IUU vessels, the creation of the Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), as well as cooperation with Chinese Taipei and China. Japan's report is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.2 With regard to bilateral cooperation, Japan indicated that the construction of IUU fishing vessels continued in Chinese Taipei. The majority of the boat owners are residents of Chinese Taipei and they have longliners licensed to Chinese Taipei. It is believed that they use these vessels to conceal IUU catches. Japan also pointed out that the bigeye catches reported by China in 1999 (7,300 MT) are in contradiction with their imports from China in 1999 (1,074 MT). While China maintains its position of having an autonomous quota of 7,300 MT, Japan is of the opinion that this will give rise to IUU fishing operations being carried out under Chinese flag. Furthermore, Japan pointed out that the crews on board IUU tuna longliners are from China. In concluding, Japan noted the efforts made were being counteracted by the construction of new vessels in Chinese Taipei, by the continuation of IUU fishing activities, and by the fact that the IUU fishing vessels change their name and the flag frequently, making it possible to evade the Japanese administrative actions on non-purchasing. Japan also indicated that all the Parties concerned, including China and Japan, should adopt, as soon as possible, all the necessary measures to put an end to the commercial relations among their nationals and the owners of IUU fishing vessels of Chinese Taipei.

6.b.3 China recalled that it had objected to the 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* and had set an autonomous catch limit of 7,300 MT in 2000. This limit was necessary for the survival of its fleet. At the same time, observers were placed on board Chinese vessels, a coordination group was formed of companies that own the vessels fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, the annual reporting system was changed to a monthly reporting system, and the vessels that have exhausted their quotas had to leave the Convention area immediately. China also observed that in the case the total catches exceeded MSY in 1999, a estimated level of IUU fishing should be taken into account (25,000 MT) and the excess of an ICCAT member's overage of the catch limit of 7,100 MT. In the absence of these two elements, the total catches would be less than MSY, taking into account China's catch limit. Thus, in 2000, the level of legal catches, eliminating the catches considered as NEI and IUU fishing, were less than MSY, thus permitting China to catch 7,300 MT.

6.b.4 With regard to IUU fishing, China indicated that it had already taken measures in place to combat such activities and that it supported international initiatives in this sense, in particular the FAO Plan of Action, aimed at preventing, combating, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing. For this, the Chinese Authorities have temporarily prohibited the import of second-hand vessels starting in March 2001, and were studying the implementation of a policy of scrapping old fishing vessels, in order to guarantee safety at sea through this measure. China also continues to intensify the monitoring of high seas tuna longliners fishing by putting in place satellite monitoring systems (VMS) on the vessels. Commercial relations were verified among the owners of the longliners fishing on the high seas and the fishers who have been or are engaged in IUU fishing activities is verified and measures to avoid such relationships will be adopted. Lastly, the issue of the crews of IUU fishing vessels should be dealt with within the framework of the International Maritime Organization (OMI/ILO). The statement by China on bigeye tuna conservation is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.5 Chinese Taipei indicated that it was very difficult to prevent the construction of fishing vessels, and it is equally difficult to prevent the export of engines for fishing vessels, and that it was prepared to cooperate with the Contracting Parties of ICCAT in combating IUU fishing.

6.b.6 The United States recalled that the Commission had taken an important step in 2000 in establishing, for the first time, a catch limit on Atlantic bigeye tuna, which should be between 90,000 and 100,000 MT. The United States declared that further efforts were necessary to halt the over-fishing of the stock and supported a reduction in catches to a level of 80,000 MT, the level recommended by the SCRS as necessary to halt the decline in the spawning biomass. The United States expressed concern about the level of 55% of small-sized bigeye tuna caught, and hoped that the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea would be maintained, and even extended. This moratorium should be followed efficiently since if so it will prove beneficial for the conservation of the resource. The U.S. statement on the Atlantic bigeye conservation measures is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.7 Mexico noted that while the SCRS Report recognized the positive effects of the moratorium, there were also record levels since 1996 of the percentage of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas. With regard to IUU fishing, she recalled the FAO Plan of Action on this subject.

6.b.8 After consultation with the Parties concerned, Japan presented a proposal for a *Recommendation by ICCAT on the 2002 Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (attached as **ANNEX 9-5**). Japan pointed out that this proposal extends the measure adopted in 2000, which established a bigeye catch limit. This extension is explained by the need to wait until the next SCRS meeting when the effects of this measure will be evaluated. Taking into account the request by China and the problem of IUU fishing activities, Japan proposed deleting the phrase relative to the China's fishing effort, considering that this issue should be addressed in the future. Japan thanked China for their cooperation and that as concerns the commercial relations between the Chinese fishing vessels and the owners of the IUU vessels as concerns the review of the catch reports, in order to exclude IUU catches from the reports. The results were presented during the working group on IUU fishing scheduled for May 2002. Japan also indicated that it did not find any justification for the increase in the catch limit authorized by China over 4,000 MT. However, it was prepared to consider the possibility of transferring a part of the Japanese unused quota to China, in consideration of the joint efforts made in the fight against IUU fishing. The statement by Japan is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.9 China indicated that the 4,000 MT limit did not satisfy the demands of the Chinese fleet. However, taking into account the state of the bigeye tuna stock, China is considering to accept a reduction in catches for a year, accepting the limit of 4,000 MT. China appreciated Japan's intention to transfer a part of its unused quota to China. China has undertaken various actions to verify the relations between Chinese companies and the owners of IUU vessels, and the fishing authorities of China have requested these companies to end these relations within a reasonable period of time. In this context, China hopes that Panel I will review the increase in its catch limit, at the next meeting of Panel I in 2002.

6.b.10 The EC and the United States supported the Japanese proposal, and congratulated the two parties concerned.

6.b.11 The United States proposed a modification to the Recommendation to the effect that the carry over of over/under harvest provided in paragraph 4 not be applied to the Parties mentioned in paragraph 3 of the

Recommendation. Brazil expressed some doubts on this proposal, pointing out that the Parties mentioned in paragraph 3 did not have a catch limit. Japan indicated it shared the doubts expressed by Brazil, indicating that this proposal was aimed at achieving consensus, while noting that if a reduction in catches was expected in the future. The EC considered that, given the need to reach a consensus, the discussions on this subject, and the absence of a written text, the United States proposal could not be accepted.

6.b.12 The United States reiterated its concern, noting that paragraph 1 of the Recommendation establishes bigeye tuna catch limits for 2002. Paragraph 3 of the Recommendation exempts those Parties with reported catches in 1999 of less than 2,100 MT from the catch limits in paragraph 1. While such an exemption is a means of facilitating catch allocation schemes when a small number of minor harvesters are engaged in the fishery, there is an expectation that these harvesters will not increase their catches above 2,100 MT. Because no specific catch limit is established for these exempted parties, it is clear that the under/overage carry-over provisions of paragraph 4 do not apply.

6.b.13 Following these discussions, the Panel adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the 2002 Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures*, which is attached as ANNEX 9-5. The Chairman congratulated the delegations involved in producing such an innovative approach with a view to accommodating the needs of Contracting Parties while still maintaining total allowable catch limits and attempting to address the vexatious problem of IUU fishing. He noted he had no hesitation in recommending that the Commission support this approach as it is totally in keeping with the objectives of ICCAT, allowing the harvest of the TAC of the bigeye tuna stock while maintaining a fair and equitable approach to all Contracting Parties in a manner that is fully transparent and which, most importantly, assists in the effort to address the issue of IUU fishing.

6.b.14 As regards the question of compliance by the Contracting Parties with the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea (Ref. 99-1), the EC recalled the history of the fishery in this area. In the 1990s, the EC established a voluntary and autonomous moratorium on their fishing vessels in the Gulf of Guinea. This had involved certain costs, linked to the monitoring of the moratorium and to the loss of fishing possibilities of objects fishing during the closure of the fishery in the area. This moratorium was later formally adopted by ICCAT in 1998 and the SCRS had noted the considerable positive effect which it had had on the conservation of stocks. Nevertheless, the EC had great difficulties in explaining the continuance of the moratorium to their fishermen, given that other Contracting Parties did not respect this ICCAT management measure. The EC asked the members of Panel 1 to note that Ghana and other Contracting Parties were not respecting the moratorium. Despite this, the EC is prepared to continue with the moratorium, and with other relative monitoring measures, on the understanding that other Contracting Parties undertake to fulfil their obligations at the same time.

6.b.15 The EC indicated that the technical difficulties encountered by some Contracting Parties to respect this conservation measure could be dealt with within the framework of bilateral cooperation. He pointed out that one of the responsibilities of the Contracting Parties was to exert influence on the processing industry, so as to assure that these obligations are fulfilled, particularly in the case of Ghana.

6.b.16 Ghana reiterated difficulties his country had to apply the moratorium, and regretted the lack of bilateral consultations on this matter with the EC. Ghana further promised to apply the moratorium and expressed the willingness to put it into effect. Taking these difficulties into account, Ghana intended to maintain consultations with the EC and the ICCAT Secretariat in order to establish a cooperative plan.

6.b.17 Russia supported the continuation of the moratorium and thanked the Contracting Parties for their efforts in this sense.

6.b.18 The United States expressed support of the moratorium and indicated that this year, for the first time, they became aware of the matter of arrangements established with the canneries of Ghana, and that they intended to review this matter with the canning sector and inform the Panel next year.

### 6.c Skipjack

No comments were made on the current regulations or the moratorium on objects fishing.

**7. Research**

The SCRS Chairman noted that the scientific committee supported the continuation of the BETYP, whose financing depended on the contributions of the members. No comments were made and Panel 1 approved the continuation of the program.

**8. Date and place of the next Panel meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next Panel meeting at the same time and place as the next Commission meeting.

**9. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

**10. Election of Panel Chairman**

At the proposal of the United States, the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) was unanimously elected Chairman of Panel 1.

**11. Adoption of report**

The Report of Panel 1 was adopted.

**12. Adjournment**

The 2001 meeting of Panel 1 was adjourned.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of Panel 2, Mr. Christian Ligeard (EC-France).

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was revised and item 6 was modified. The adopted agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 13**.

### **3. Appointment of the Rapporteur**

Dr. Antonio Di Natale (EC-Italy) was appointed rapporteur for Panel 2.

### **4. Review of Panel membership**

Panel 2 currently includes 13 Contracting Parties: Algeria, Canada, China, European Community, Croatia, France-St. Pierre et Miquelon, Japan, Libya, Morocco, Panama, Tunisia, United Kingdom-Overseas Territories, and the United States of America. All the members are present, except Libya, Panama and Tunisia.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

#### **5.a Bluefin (North)**

5.a.1 Dr. J. Powers, SCRS Chairman, referred to all the items included in the 2001 SCRS Report that are of concern to Panel 2. Further to information provided in the SCRS Report concerning the stocks in 2000, the SCRS Chairman referred to three major issues that were discussed in response to a previous request by the Commission: (1) the bluefin tuna stocks mixing problem, (2) the conversion factors, and (3) bluefin tuna statistics. After his presentation, several delegations raised questions concerning the bluefin tuna stocks.

5.a.2 In response to a question raised by the Delegate of Japan, Dr. Powers replied that according to the available scientific information, western bluefin tuna are assumed to be mostly of western origin, although there is insufficient information available to the SCRS to reach a definitive conclusion. The effectiveness of the conservation measures is to be considered taking into account the overlapping situation of the stocks and as well as several limiting factors and the two different scales that exist concerning the two current management units. Notwithstanding, it seems that a major component of western Atlantic bluefin tuna is present in the central Atlantic catches.

5.a.3 Following this statement, a long discussion was held. The Delegate from the United States pointed out that, according to satellite archival tag data, the West-East movements appear significantly higher (+30%) than previously known and asked about future research needs. The Delegate from Canada pointed out that a new distribution of the fishing patterns was evident relative to the last 40 years, possibly related to fish distribution as an effect of environmental factors, and requested regular scientific monitoring of the fisheries. He also said that the current boundaries are not appropriate, even if no adequate information is available. Therefore, the Bluefin Year Program (BYP) should be continued and supported.

5.a.4 The Delegate from the European Community pointed out that further research is needed to determine the origin of bluefin tuna that are tagged in the west and are recovered in the central and eastern Atlantic, while



the tagging effort in the western Atlantic was much higher than in the east. He also stated that, due to numerous uncertainties, more research is needed, particularly because the continuous contraction and expansion of the fishery implies movements of the boundaries. The next assessment should provide a better basis for the discussion. The Delegate from Morocco suggested that projects such as COPEMED should be further supported and more efforts should be devoted to improving scientific knowledge on Atlantic bluefin.

5.a.5 Dr. Powers noted that more complex research, linked to the more complex management hypothesis, a higher number of electronic archival tag returns, and much more basic research (catch data, size frequencies, genetic analysis, etc.) are required to better address the issue. He confirmed that the current situation is quite unclear and reiterated that any management boundary is an approximation, due to the fact that fish constantly cross these boundaries, with movements changing from time to time.

5.a.6 Concerning the conversion factor issue, the Delegate from the European Community asked the ICCAT Secretariat to use the conversion factors provided by the SCRS, even though there are still some problems concerning some categories ("others") and the possible duplication of data for separate products originating from the same fish. It is also clear that single fish certification would be extremely onerous. Furthermore, due to fattening in cages, it appears impossible to find a quick solution. The EC has already started to study possible solutions to this problem. The Delegate from Croatia referred to several problems regarding the fattening of fish in cages, particularly those concerning undersized fish.

5.a.7 Dr. Powers confirmed that the conversion factors and cage fattening are parts of the same problem.

5.a.8 The Delegate from Japan proposed that discussion on the increasing problem of cage fattening take place in the PWG, when the statistical document is discussed.

5.a.9 Concerning bluefin tuna statistics, the Delegate from the United States asked for clarification about the lack of NEI catch estimates for 2000.

5.a.10 Dr. Powers responded that there are still a number of unreported catches, particularly those related to the comparison of import data in Japan, while there is still a real underestimate of the catches.

### **5.b *Albacore (North)***

The SCRS Chairman referred to the pertinent items in the 2001 SCRS Report concerning North Atlantic albacore, and pointed out that the biomass appears to be 30% less than it should be, while fishing mortality in 2000 was 10% more than in 1999.

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and Implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities**

6.1 The Chairman referred to the results of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria that have already been distributed to the delegations. The stocks of concern to Panel 2 are already defined and it is now necessary to decide how to apply the criteria.

6.2 The Delegate from the European Commission pointed out that the EC is the major party involved in this fishery, following the fishing level established by the quota decided by ICCAT, while other Parties have already established their own catch limits. Several factors have to be taken into account for the application of the allocation criteria, while there is a need to develop an approach for an equitable share of the new quota. It is a challenge for the Panel to arrive at a proper allocation key, after an intense discussion, with stability not based on annual revision.

6.3 The Delegate from the United States shared the EC's view, but pointed out that the over-harvesting of the eastern bluefin tuna stock continues well over 29,500 MT. The conservation of the stocks must be the goal. There is also a need to discuss the situation of the north Albacore stock, since the sharing arrangement expires at the end of 2001. The Delegate from Canada reiterated the need to reach a solution for the east Atlantic bluefin tuna stock,

establishing the quota and applying the allocation criteria. 25000 MT is the level to prevent the decline of the biomass. A challenging task for the Panel will be to define a proper TAC, since the mixing of the two stocks could influence it. New arrangements are necessary for the north albacore stock. The statement by the United States to Panel 2 is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 13**.

6.4 The Delegate from Algeria requested that the new official catch data provided by the Algerian Government to the ICCAT Secretariat (see Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research) be used as the base for the calculation of the quota. He also asked for clarification about the allocation criteria to be used.

6.5 Mr. Kebe, on the behalf of the ICCAT Secretariat, confirmed the availability of the Algerian data, which has been examined by the SCRS according to the usual procedure. According to the procedure, only the data for the most recent three years have been considered.

6.6 The Delegate from Morocco confirmed that the allocation key should have a conservation goal. The new allocation criteria are applicable to all the stocks, while only the base for the application is to be defined.

6.7 The Observer from the Ocean Wildlife Campaign pointed out the importance of reducing mortality, particularly for the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock, by adopting the precautionary approach on the base of 25,000 MT to rebuild the stock. The management decision adopted in 2000 is diminishing the credibility of the ICCAT. The statement by OWC to Panel 2 is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 13**.

6.8 The Observer from Mexico pointed out that each component of the criteria has a separate importance and no preference is to be attributed to the historical data. No catch limits can be set for a fish stock if the allocation criteria are not applied and this fact cannot be a pretext not to assign quota. She also required for her country a level higher than the actual declared catches, due to the revision of the current statistical system.

6.9 Following consultation among the delegates, the Chairman informed that a consensus had been reached to wait for a new assessment to decide how to apply the allocation criteria to the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock, and that, in the meantime, the terms of the 1998 rebuilding program would continue to apply.

6.10 The Chairman examined all the documents presented to Panel 2 by various Parties for the discussion.

6.11 The Delegate from United States presented a proposal for an ICCAT resolution regarding the SCRS mixing report on Atlantic bluefin tuna.

6.12 After some discussion, with interventions by the Delegates from Canada, European Community, Japan and Morocco, the Delegate from the United States proposed to amend the original proposal. Then, as amended, the *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the SCRS Mixing Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*, was adopted by consensus and is attached herewith as **ANNEX 9-7**.

6.13 The Delegate from Croatia introduced a draft proposal for a recommendation on bluefin tuna conservation and asked if it was necessary to adopt a new approach about the minimum size regulation, because the current system to catch small juvenile bluefin tuna for fattening in cages for three years poses new problems.

6.14 After the interventions of the Delegates from Canada and Japan, the Chairman confirmed that the proposal would be discussed in the PWG in the framework of the cage problem.

#### **6.a Bluefin tuna**

6.a.1 The Chairman referred to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Catch Limits for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and the Mediterranean*, proposed by the EC, Morocco and Algeria and asked the Delegate from the EC to present the document (see **ANNEX 17.3.a**).

6.a.2 The Delegate from the European Community confirmed that the bluefin tuna stock is one of the most important fish stocks in which the EC is interested. Besides the fact that the EC worked together with the ICCAT

to maintain the catches within the recommendation made by the SCRS, it is clear that the real catches in the area were different. This fact makes it necessary to revise the system and use the new allocation criteria for a medium-term allocation key, with the purpose of providing stability to the Contracting Parties and to the fishermen, so as to allow everyone to plan their activities within a proper framework.

6.a.3 The Delegate from Japan supported, in principle, the EC statement, pointing out that it is clear that a sacrifice was asked mainly to distant water fisheries, particularly from Korea and Chinese Taipei, that are not members of Panel 2, in addition to the conservative nature of the catches in the last three years. The Delegate from Korea (as an observer to Panel 2) announced his Delegation's intention to join Panel 2 next year.

6.a.4 The Delegate from the United States of America requested to maintain a conservation responsibility, expressing concerns about the level of recommended catches being well above those suggested by the SCRS, while the countries fishing for the western stock have kept the fisheries at the level recommended by the SCRS. The Delegate stated that the USA cannot accept any proposal that undermines the understanding that management must include a final objective to attain MSY, mentioned the availability of a US-Senate resolution that was copied and distributed to all the Parties, and noted that the current proposal called for a catch that was more than 135% of the catch level recommended by the SCRS.

6.a.5 The Delegate from Morocco pointed out that the distribution of the bluefin tuna stock is still unclear and that the effort to implement an allocation key to face the problems and the needs of each Party should be appreciated.

6.a.6 The Delegate from the People's Republic of China expressed his disappointment about the proposal, due to the different criteria used between Panel 1 (where catches are reduced to a level lower than the MSY) and Panel 2 (where the opposite happens). He stated that it appears that Parties that object to a quota and then establish high catch levels are awarded, while distant water fisheries are discriminated against.

6.a.7 The Delegate from Canada shared disappointment in the proposal, expressing that the high catch level in the east has a direct impact on the western stock, and that the proposed TAC is higher than the SCRS recommendation. He stated that the high catches of juveniles, the lack of large specimens and the current catch level indicate that it might be necessary to reduce the catches well below MSY, while the proposal suggests 9,000 MT over the SCRS advice, remaining quite higher for the next years, all this without considering that the stock will be re-assessed next year. The statement by Canada to Panel 2 is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 13**.

6.a.8 The Delegate from Korea (Observer to Panel 2) expressed his gratitude to the Delegate from Japan for reporting his feeling about the severe adjustment of the quota. According to the proposal, it appears that Korea was penalized because it enforced the ICCAT rules and its domestic laws. He stated that Korea is seriously considering to raise an objection if the proposal should be adopted.

6.a.9 The Delegate from Mexico (Observer) supported the position of the United States and Canada, particularly because of the current level of catches, and the allocation keys.

6.a.10 The Delegate from Chinese Taipei (Observer) supported the statement made by Japan, noting that it was not clear why their quota was reduced so much. The high variability of catches, due to natural factors, does not allow to take this low catch level into consideration. The statement by Chinese Taipei to Panel 2 is attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 13**.

6.a.11 The Delegate from Turkey (Observer) stated that the current proposal cannot be accepted, because it does not take into any consideration the historical importance of the bluefin tuna fishery for the Turkish State.

6.a.12 The Delegate from Iceland (Observer) declared strong disappointment, because the proposal excluded Iceland from aspiring to any quota until 2005. A clarification about the criteria adopted to propose the quota is necessary, as well as for the procedure to adjust the quota if Iceland becomes a member. There is no distinction between distant water fishing and coastal countries. This position was supported by the Delegate from Faroe Islands (Observer).

6.a.13 The Delegate from Brazil (Observer in Panel 2) expressed strong disappointment about the proposal, because it is clear that there is a misunderstanding of the results of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria.

6.a.14 The Delegate from Japan stated that a reduction of the total catch might be necessary for a conservation measure. Worries are due to a lot of new comers in the bluefin tuna fishery, the new catch data reported, and to the possibility of having new Contracting Parties next year, automatically implying that new TACs should be allocated.

6.a.15 The Delegate from the European Community stated that the proposal is an exercise of transparency and not a high figure. Non-contracting parties can cooperate, but it is important to consider their very low level of catches in the last year. Bluefin tuna intensively occur in the Community's waters, with a high historical interest. It is implicit that the next SCRS advice after the 2002 assessment would be taken into consideration. There is a basic interest to provide stability and it is an interest of the Parties to decide if the allocation criteria were correctly interpreted or not, because the key is important. In the absence of any other proposals, it should be necessary to think about the future situation from a management point of view.

6.a.16 The Delegate from Canada suggested to give priority to ensuring the conservation of the bluefin tuna stock, according to the statement made by Canada already in 2000.

6.a.17 The Delegate from Korea (Observer in Panel 2) asked for more transparency, due to the discrepancy between the data on the tables used in the Compliance Committee and the statement by the Delegate of the EC. The link between transparency and the allocation criteria is not clear.

6.a.18 After other comments by the Delegates from Iceland and Turkey, the Delegate from the EC proposed to take into account the modification concerning the issue of new contracting parties.

6.a.19 The Delegate from Morocco reiterated support for the proposal, which provides stability to the fishery. Due to the fixed position expressed by several delegates, it should be the only alternative to maintaining the *status quo*. Further support was expressed by the Delegate of Algeria.

6.a.20 The Delegate from the United States of America stated that he could not support the proposal, because the TAC was 8,942 MT above the level recommended by the SCRS and the management should be guided by the science.

6.a.21 The Delegate from the European Community pointed out sources of uncertainty indicated by the SCRS, which were the reason for not carrying out an assessment in 2001, as reflected in the SCRS Report. He stated that the EC was not happy with the last proposal by Morocco to maintain the *status quo*, because this idea would undermine the efforts and go back to the previous arrangement for 2001.

6.a.22 The Delegate from Canada expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the EC but, at the same time, pointed out again the concerns for the level of catches that could affect the conservation of the species.

6.a.23 The Delegate from Japan supported the idea by Morocco to use the same figure adopted for 2001, adding the catches from Algeria. The Delegate from Korea (Observer in Panel 2) and the Delegate from the Republic of China supported the same position.

6.a.24 After the discussion, a new amended proposal was forwarded by the EC. The new amended proposal received the support by the Delegates from Algeria, France (on the behalf of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, and Morocco, while the Delegate of the Republic of China expressed a reservation on paragraph 1. The Delegates from Canada and the United States expressed their opposition to the amended proposal.

6.a.25 The Chairman summarized the situation, stating that the amended proposal received the approval of the majority of the members of Panel 2, with the reservation from the People's Republic of China on paragraph 1, and the opposition of Canada and the United States. In this situation, he suggested to present the proposal to the Commission.

6.a.26 The Delegate from United States suggested that consensus was needed to refer a proposal to the Commission, or if a quorum were present, a vote could be taken. He noted that, under the circumstances, the United States must oppose presentation of any proposal on the management of eastern bluefin tuna to the Commission.

6.a.27 The Chairman reiterated his proposition to present the amended proposal to the Commission.

6.a.28 The Delegate from the European Community stated that two members of Panel 2, not taking part in the fishery in question, were blocking the agreement, without providing any alternative solution and thus creating a management problem, and not taking the responsibility of this fact.

6.a.29 The Delegate from Canada proposed a reduction of the TAC to 29,500 MT, while the Delegate from United States of America reiterated the necessity to adopt a conservation approach that would result in TAC reductions to scientifically supportable levels of 25,000 MT and that would begin to contemplate rebuilding.

6.a.30 Due to this situation, the Chairman suspended the discussion.

#### 6.b *Albacore (North)*

6.b.1 The Chairman introduced two proposals on northern albacore catch limits, one by the USA, and one by the EC, and asked the Parties to discuss these documents together, with the purpose of having a single recommendation.

6.b.2 Following a long discussion, with the intervention of several delegates (Canada, European Community, Morocco, United States and Venezuela), the U.S. proposal was withdrawn, while the *Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits* was adopted with a few modifications (see ANNEX 9-6). Regarding the latter proposal, the Delegates of the United States and Canada expressed concern about single year agreements indexed to replacement yield rather than agreements that will begin to address rebuilding. They also noted the need for more flexibility for minor harvesting nations that experience highly variable catches from year to year due to the availability of albacore to their fishermen and suggested this matter be revisited at the 2003 ICCAT meeting.

### 7. Research

7.1 Dr. Powers, the SCRS Chairman, reported the activities of the Bluefin Tuna Year Program and pointed out that the scientists continue to stress the need for more reliable data on catches and CPUEs, while more research is needed on larval surveys, mixing, spawning site fidelity, electronic tagging, regional projects like COPEMED, the increase in fish farms, etc.

7.2 The Chairman introduced a joint proposal by Canada, Japan, UK-Overseas Territories and the USA and asked the Delegate from United Kingdom-Overseas Territories to present and introduce the proposal.

7.3 The Delegate from United Kingdom-Overseas Territories explained that the current proposal is a follow-up of the 2000 *Recommendation on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean* (Ref: 00-08), with the difference that it includes the request for a monitoring research quota of bluefin tuna of 15 MT plus 15 MT of tuna-like species. The UK-Bermuda will ensure the coordination of the activities and the landing control. The Delegates from Canada and the European Community supported the proposal.

7.4 After discussion and consultations, the proposal for a *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean* was adopted (see ANNEX 9-8).

7.5 The Delegate of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) introduced the "Report by the United Kingdom on Behalf of the Overseas Territory of Bermuda to the 2001 Commission in Accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean*", which is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 13**.

**8. Date and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held during the next ICCAT Commission meeting.

**9. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

**10. Election of Panel Chairman**

After discussion, the Chairmanship of Panel 2 was renewed to a candidate from the European Commission by consensus. Mr. Ligard stated that the EC shall chose another person, because he will not be available for the position in the future.

**11. Adoption of the Report**

Due to the situation and to the very late hour, it was decided to adopt the Report of Panel 2 by mail.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting of Panel 3 was opened by the Chairman, Dr Johan van Zyl (South Africa) who welcomed all the delegates and observers.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

After introducing a change to item 6, the Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 13**.

### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Mr. Trevor Perfect (EC-United Kingdom) was asked to serve as Rapporteur.

### **4. Review of Panel Membership**

Panel 3 currently comprises seven members: European Community, Japan, Korea, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), and the United States. All the members were present.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics**

5.1 Dr. J. Powers, Chairman of the SCRS, summarized the findings of the SCRS relevant to the Panel.

5.2 He stated that current total world catch of southern blue fin tuna is around 15,000 MT, noting that there was a global management plan in place.

5.3 No new assessment was conducted for southern albacore in 2001, and the next assessment was planned for 2003. The total reported catch for southern albacore in 2000 was 26,310 MT while the total allowable catch (TAC) was 29,200 MT for 2001. Based on past assessments, this corresponds to the current estimated replacement yield (RY) for the stock.

### **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and the implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities**

6.1 The Chair summarized the current management measures for the southern albacore stock. The total catch limit had been set at the same level of the replacement yield, which was below the estimated maximum sustainable yield (MSY) of 30,200 MT. Catch rates to September 2001 suggest that the 2001 catch was unlikely to exceed this catch limit. However, it was noted that existing fleets have the capacity to exceed the replacement yield, and the Chairman requested suggestions regarding how the monitoring arrangement could be improved to ensure that catches are timeously reported.

6.2. South Africa noted that, notwithstanding the problems with timeous reporting, the established annual TACs had not been exceeded since implementation of the current monitoring arrangement. The southern albacore resource was also currently assessed to be above MSY, and was therefore being effectively managed. South Africa proposed that the existing monitoring arrangement, TAC (29,200 MT) and catch limit for actively fishing countries (27,500 MT) be retained for 2002. Further progress should be made during 2002 with consideration of options for implementing the revised allocation criteria, with a view to possibly considering a sharing arrangement at the next meeting.

6.3 With regard to catch reporting, South Africa proposed that catches be reported directly to the ICCAT Secretariat within two months of having been made, rather than to one of the active fishing countries. The Secretariat should then be responsible for notifying actively fishing countries when the 80% warning catch level is reached. It was agreed to revise the 2001 albacore arrangement proposal accordingly.

6.4 In response to a reported under-harvest of albacore by the EC in the Compliance tables, South Africa expressed the view that the concept of under-harvest should not apply to the southern albacore arrangement, as a sharing arrangement with actual quotas had not yet been negotiated. The EC stated that it was of the opinion that the Recommendation 00-14 on compliance with defined quotas and catch limits for carry-over of under- or over-harvests of species under quota/catch limit management applies to the non-active albacore fishing limit of 110% of average 1992-1996 catches and any underage be carried over. The Secretariat was requested to clarify whether the concept of under-harvest was applicable to the non-active albacore fishing limit of 110% of average 1992-1996 catches.

6.5 The Secretariat noted that recommendation 00-14 on compliance with defined quotas and catch limits allowed for carry-over of under- or over-harvests of species under quota/catch limit management, unless a specific recommendation with alternate overage/underage provisions had been accepted for a particular species. However, this recommendation only entered into force on 26 June 2001, and did not apply to 2000 catches.

6.6 Brazil, Namibia and South Africa proposed that the question of albacore over- and under-harvests be specifically considered at the next Panel 3 meeting in 2002.

6.7 After some discussion it was agreed to continue the current albacore TAC and catch monitoring arrangements during 2002, with the agreed amendments related to reporting of catches to the Secretariat.

6.8 South Africa proposed that the measures for 2002 include a clause indicating that no provision shall be made for carry-over of any under-harvests under the 2002 sharing arrangement. Brazil, China, Namibia, Uruguay, Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) supported the South Africa proposal. The EC reserved their position until they could review the written text. Following review of the draft text, the EC continued to believe it was inappropriate that no provision be made for carry-over of under-harvests, but that they would accept the recommendation as it stood for 2002.

6.9 The revised *Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit* was adopted (see ANNEX 9-10).

## 7. Research

Dr. Powers noted that albacore research efforts focused on improvement of CPUE indices for input into stock assessments, and that various initiatives were underway in this regard. Improvements in CPUE indices were expected to reduce the level of uncertainty in albacore assessments.

## 8. Date and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of panel 3 would be held at the same time and place as the next Commission meeting.

## 9. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

## 10. Election of Panel Chairman

Namibia proposed Japan as Chairman of Panel 3. The proposal was seconded by the United States and supported by the Panel members.

## 11. Adoption of Report

The Report of Panel 3 was adopted.

## 12. Adjournment

The 2001 meeting of the Panel was adjourned.



## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting of Panel 4 was opened by the Chair, Ms. Mariam McCall (United States of America) who then welcomed all the delegates and observers.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Chair proposed amending agenda item 6 to read "Measures for the conservation of stocks and the implementation of ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities". There were no objections and no further proposals to amend the agenda that was then adopted as amended and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 13**.

### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Mr. Julian Willock (UK-Overseas Territories) was asked to serve as rapporteur. Mr. John Barnes (UK-Overseas Territories) also served as co-rapporteur.

### **4. Review of Panel Membership**

4.1 The membership of Panel 4 in 2001 comprised: Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

4.2 The delegates of Côte d'Ivoire, and France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) indicated that they wished to become members of Panel 4 and would be making the necessary representations to the Secretariat. The Chair welcomed Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire and France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) as new members.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

5.1 Dr. J. Powers, the Chairman of the SCRS, summarized the findings of the SCRS relevant to the Panel.

5.2 It was noted that no stock assessment was conducted for Atlantic bonito in 2001.

5.3 The SCRS Chairman reported that North Atlantic swordfish catches, inclusive of discards, were 11,210 MT in 2000. This value is less than the estimated replacement yield and maximum sustainable yield, and in line with the stock recovery plan. The SCRS is concerned about small swordfish mortality, but there appears to have been good recruitment from 1997-2000. The next assessment of North Atlantic swordfish is scheduled for 2002.

5.4 The SCRS Chairman reported that South Atlantic swordfish catches were 14,340 MT in 2000, which is greater than the estimated maximum sustainable yield of 13,650 MT. The SCRS is concerned with the reported catch limits for this stock, which totaled more than 20,000 MT for 2001. The SCRS is also concerned about the lack of information on catch at size for South Atlantic swordfish.

5.5 There has not been a new assessment of Mediterranean swordfish for several years. There is concern over the number of small fish taken from the stock. It was noted that Mediterranean swordfish have different growth rates and size at maturity than North and South Atlantic swordfish. The SCRS noted the need to collate data on size frequencies before the next assessment.

5.6 Blue marlin and white marlin were last assessed in 2000 and are scheduled to be assessed in 2002. The SCRS recommended that assessments of both species be postponed until 2003 due to a lack of new data and the heavy work load scheduled for the SCRS in 2002. It was noted that catch reporting is incomplete for both blue marlin and white marlin.

5.7 The SCRS Chairman reported that an assessment of eastern and western Atlantic sailfish was undertaken during 2001. This was the first SCRS assessment in which sailfish were assessed independently, and not as sailfish/spearfish. There was some difficulty fitting the sailfish data to population models. In general, the western Atlantic stock experienced an original decline in CPUE, but there has been no trend over the past 20 years. There has been a trend of decreasing CPUE values in the eastern Atlantic. The Chairman of the SCRS noted that there was incomplete reporting of landings and dead discards. The SCRS recommends that catches of western Atlantic sailfish not exceed current levels, and reduced catch levels should be considered in the eastern Atlantic.

5.8 The SCRS Chairman reported that there were more than ten species of small tunas, of which five account for about 85% of the total reported catch. Many of these species are of importance to artisanal fisheries. He stated that current information did not allow for an evaluation of the stock status by SCRS.

5.9 The Commission had asked the SCRS to provide advice on methods to reduce catches of juvenile Mediterranean swordfish. The SCRS Chairman reported one method would be to have closed areas between the months of September and February. It was noted that a closed season of at least two months would be needed to see an effect. Due to the different size at maturity it was suggested that a minimum size of at least 110 cm LJFL with 15% tolerance be considered. Closing of nursery areas in national jurisdictions could also be used to reduce juvenile swordfish mortality.

5.10 The Chairman of the SCRS noted that IUU catches of swordfish were not included in the reported catch of South Atlantic swordfish.

5.11 The Chairman further noted that a decreased minimum size for Mediterranean swordfish could cause socio-economic upheaval and that time and area closures might be more acceptable.

5.12 There was discussion on the assessments of blue marlin and white marlin currently scheduled for 2002. Delegates had different views on postponing one or both assessments, and the continuation of current management measures. The Panel Chair encouraged the different parties to try to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

## **6. Measures for the Conservation of the Stocks and the Implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities**

### **6.a Atlantic bonito**

No comments were presented with regard to measures for Atlantic bonito conservation.

### **6.b North Atlantic swordfish**

6.b.1 The delegate of Japan addressed three concerns of the SCRS regarding swordfish by-catch monitoring in the Japanese longline fishery for bigeye tuna, and provided details of their research on swordfish stock structure around 5°N. The statement by Japan is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.2 The delegate of the United States made an opening statement regarding the positions the U.S. would be taking on Panel 4 species. The U.S. statement is attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.3 The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago made a statement outlining the partial revision of their swordfish catch data and its acceptance by the SCRS. The statement is attached as **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.4 The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago introduced a proposal requesting that Trinidad and Tobago be allocated a quota of 68.2 MT of north Atlantic swordfish for 2001 and 2002.

6.b.5 The delegate of the United States put forward a proposal on the evaluation of management alternatives in order to reduce the number of dead discards of swordfish. He noted the concerns that had been raised with regard to the high levels of discards of small swordfish and the impact that this had on conservation, with consequent economic loss and what was an ineffective management measure. The proposal called for innovation and asked that Contracting Parties evaluate their respective time/area closures and measure the level of implementation. The findings are to be reported to the SCRS. The ultimate objective of this proposal was to evaluate the potential for modifying or eliminating the minimum size recommendations, if other effective means of addressing small fish mortality can be practically implemented (e.g. time/area closures)..

6.b.6 The delegate of the EC queried the intent of the proposal and noted that the minimum size recommendation was unrealistic for the swordfish in the Mediterranean. He reiterated that it would be for the individual Contracting Parties to evaluate their respective temporal and spatial closures. The EC supported the *Resolution by ICCAT for Evaluating Alternatives to Reduce Dead Discards of Swordfish* and the measure was adopted (see ANNEX 9-11).

6.b.7 The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago introduced a modified joint proposal with Japan titled *Resolution on Interpretation of the Recommendation to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish*. She advised that this was an amendment of an earlier proposal and stemmed from a partial review of the catch data for Trinidad and Tobago that had been reviewed by the Secretariat and subsequently accepted by the SCRS.

6.b.8 The delegate of the EC queried the intent of the proposal, noting that the EC had no objection to it in principle but would like to have the rationale behind it.

6.b.9 The delegate of the United States confirmed that the data for Trinidad and Tobago's landings of swordfish had been reviewed and accepted by the SCRS. As a result he was in support of the proposal.

6.b.10 The delegate of France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) expressed a wish for a quota for northern Atlantic swordfish similar to that of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories). He pointed out that France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) had only joined ICCAT after the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) had obtained a quota share. The intention of obtaining a quota was to allow diversification of the St. Pierre and Miquelon fishery. It was hoped that France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) could share the quota on the same basis as Trinidad and Tobago until the next allocation process and they would fish under the "others" quota. There were no objections to this proposal. The statement by France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) is attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 13**.

6.b.11 The delegate of the EC supported the proposal. The delegate of Morocco also spoke in support of the *Resolution on Interpretation of the Recommendation to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* which was adopted and is attached (see ANNEX 9-12).

### **6.c South Atlantic swordfish**

6.c.1 The delegate of Japan stated that his delegation had worked very closely with other Contracting Parties in a serious effort to make progress with respect to the management measure for South Atlantic swordfish but that it had not proved possible to reach consensus. He noted that next year's stock assessment might well lead to a new sharing arrangement. For the present, however, there was no choice other than *status quo*.

6.c.2 The delegate of Brazil stressed the importance of the outcome of the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. He said that this marked a new time for ICCAT, based on an understanding of the needs of the various parties. Several meetings had been held to try and achieve an acceptable outcome but he was disappointed that not all the Parties involved had shown a spirit of commitment to the new allocation criteria. He went on to commend Japan for trying to achieve consensus and he feared the negative consequences for both the stocks and the credibility of ICCAT. He went on to comment on the lack of implementation of the Law of the Sea and other international fisheries instruments relevant to this process. He then requested that the draft proposal be attached to the report of the panel.

6.c.3 On the latter point, consensus could not be reached and the Brazilian delegation gave notice that a statement would be produced and appended to the record. The statement by Brazil is attached as **Appendix 15 to ANNEX 13**.

6.c.4 The delegate of South Africa shared the sentiments of Brazil and expressed his thanks to Japan. He further proposed that a TAC of 14,620 MT be fixed and that each Contracting Party declare a precautionary catch limit not exceeding those set in 2000 and preferably less than those levels.

6.c.5 The delegate of the European Community said that it was regrettable that consensus had not been reached and expressed his appreciation for the Japanese efforts. He noted that despite attempting to reach agreement on a long-term arrangement, there was one party that would not agree to anything beyond two years. The EC would apply the graduality referred to in the allocation criteria to allow concessions to be made. He stated that the automatic transfer of quotas was not feasible at this time and that there was no alternative other than to maintain the 2000 recommendation. Of the TAC of 14,620 MT the EC would be fixing a responsible level of 6,233 MT with no increase in effort. He further stated that his delegation would be willing to renew discussions next year.

6.c.6 The delegate of the United States acknowledged the Herculean effort of Japan to reach a final agreement. He stated that the United States shared the views of Brazil on this issue. He queried the "rollover" provisions and asked if there would be any country responsibility with respect to the sharing arrangement. He supported the suggestions made by South Africa.

6.c.7 The delegate of Uruguay thanked Japan. She went on to say that Uruguay had come with optimism but that the exercise had largely been a waste of time. She cited the effect of short-term personal interests at the expense of the long-term future of ICCAT. Uruguay would make an effort to comply with the difficult catch levels that were set by the present arrangement.

6.c.8 The delegate of Namibia thanked Japan. He, too, was disappointed and shared the feelings of Brazil. He supported the South African proposals and stressed the importance of coming together and agreeing the application of the allocation criteria. He proposed that the parties strive to agree on a sharing arrangement as soon as possible, preferably before the next Commission meeting.

6.c.9 The delegate of the EC reiterated his position that the Brazilian statement had no status and should not be in the report.

6.c.10 The delegate of the People's Republic of China was disappointed that there had been no agreement. He noted that the PRC had been the only Contracting Party to reduce their catch and agreed with the comments made by the delegate of the United States. He stated that China would set a limit that was not in excess of that set in 2000.

6.c.11 The delegate of Brazil likewise supported the South African proposal and stated that it would form part of the Brazilian statement.

6.c.12 The delegate of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) supported the South African proposal and stated that the UK, in respect of the Overseas Territories, would be setting a precautionary catch limit.

6.c.13 The delegate of Canada expressed disappointment that the Panel was unable to come to agreement on south Atlantic swordfish. Although he generally agreed with the South African proposal he suggested that the word "precautionary" be deleted as this was a perversion of the use of the word. "Catch limits" would be more suitable.

6.c.14 The delegates of the United States asked South Africa if there were to be any carry over provisions.

6.c.15 The delegate of South Africa confirmed that there should not be any carry over provisions for this one-year agreement.

6.c.16 The delegate of Japan agreed with the proposal made by South Africa but disagreed with the United States' suggestion with regard to carryover. He felt that the 2000 recommendation should be adjusted and the dates changed accordingly.

6.c.17 The delegate of Namibia supported the United States proposal with a degree of uncertainty, noting that there were specific reasons that might apply to certain Contracting Parties.

6.c.18 The delegate of Japan pointed out the underage of Japan in 2000. He felt that the underage was legitimate and should be applicable to the draft recommendation.

6.c.19 The delegate of the People's Republic of China stated that this was a complicated issue and, in view of the fact that autonomous catch limits were to be set, could not accept the U.S. proposal. He noted that it involved complex language and the exigencies of time precluded the circulation of a draft.

6.c.20 The delegate of the United States said that in recognition of Japan's efforts to broker a solution and the ramifications of the proposed amendment regarding carryover, he would withdraw the proposal. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish* was adopted (see ANNEX 9-13).

#### 6.d Billfish

6.d.1 The Chair introduced three proposals on billfish made by Japan, The United States and the European Community respectively. She asked delegations for general comments relating to this issue.

6.d.2 The delegate of Japan stated that the Japanese proposal was simple and looked to establish a more equitable reference level in relation to landings of blue and white marlins as regarding those parties that complied with the requirement to reduce landings consistent with the 1997 recommendation.

6.d.3 The delegate of the European Community noted that there were difficulties with the recommendation presently in force as it acted primarily as a disincentive to the collection of data. Inasmuch as billfish were primarily a by-catch, it was difficult to obtain sufficient data and that additional research was required. The EC proposal encouraged Contracting Parties to do research and to collect additional data for use in assessments in 2004 and 2005.

6.d.4 The delegate of Japan asked if the EC proposal was intended to replace the present recommendation. The delegate of the EC agreed that certain elements found in the present recommendation were missing but those were open to negotiation. It was, however, the intention of the EC to replace the present recommendation.

6.d.5 The delegate of the United States noted that the U.S. proposal was two-fold. The first looked to redress the inequities raised by Japan while the second element called for a white marlin assessment in 2002 and a blue marlin assessment in 2003. His delegation was also concerned over the effect of the removal of any of the measures in the present billfish stock-rebuilding program.

6.d.6 The delegate of Canada asked for clarification on the EC proposal. The delegate of the EC stated that the EC proposal was intended to optimize the collection of data for the assessments. He also stated that his delegation was open to fixing catch levels rather than landing levels and also remained open to other management measures for the conservation of the stocks.

6.d.7 The delegate of Brazil reminded the Panel that the present recommendation was the result of a very difficult negotiation process in Morocco. He stated that Brazil could support the U.S. proposal as it made it fairer for some Contracting Parties but was unable to support either of the other proposals.

6.d.8 The delegate of the People's Republic of China stated that his preliminary opinion was that the United States proposal was preferable to the other two.

6.d.9 The delegate of Canada noted the data collection issues in the EC version but stated that Canada would be unable to support such a proposal if it resulted in abandoning the measures of the present recommendation. He gave support to the U.S. proposal as it maintained the existing measures for the management of the stocks.

6.d.10 The delegate of Japan agreed with the merits of the EC proposal but noted that this failed to replace the management elements contained in the present recommendation. He stated that the U.S. proposal was very difficult as it imposed unfair treatment on certain committed Contracting Parties. He indicated that the catch limits for Japan were very small due to the reduction element but that some parties had actually had their respective catch limits enhanced. He asked for something other than the U.S. proposal.

6.d.11 The delegate of the EC reiterated that it was very difficult to implement the present recommendation and that it was incumbent on the Commission to be practical. He noted the lack of catch records from the past and the need for accurate data for the forthcoming assessment.

6.d.12 The Chair gave the floor to the delegate of Korea who was present in an observer capacity. He stated the U.S. proposal was clear and fair and did not understand why Japan found it unfair.

6.d.13 The delegate of Japan suggested that the Japanese proposal might be combined with one of the other proposals. It would be necessary to include a provision that exempted those parties that had complied with the catch limits set by the 1997 recommendation so that they would not be penalized by overages in years 2002 – 2004.

6.d.14 The delegate of the European Community stated that the EC draft text was intended to replace the 2000 recovery plan. He noted that failure to agree a new recommendation would result in the maintaining the *status quo*.

6.d.15 The delegate of Japan presented a proposal that provided exemptions for some Contracting Parties. He also noted that the preambular paragraph had been amended to include the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) as those Parties that had complied with the recommendation.

6.d.16 The delegate of Canada informed the panel that Canada had also complied with the recommendation and wished the record to reflect this.

6.d.17 The delegate of Japan indicated that the present recommendation required that a stock assessment be carried out in 2002.

6.d.18 The delegate of the United States stated that the U.S. proposal attempted to correct the inequities in the recommendation and that it established assessment dates for both white and blue marlins.

6.d.19 The delegate of Japan indicated that his delegation was willing to show flexibility and was prepared to withdraw its proposal in support of that put forward by the United States. The *Recommendation by ICCAT To Amend the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* was adopted (see ANNEX 9-14).

6.d.20 The delegate of Brazil reiterated support for the U.S. proposal and thanked Japan for proving to be flexible with respect to this matter.

### **6.e Sharks**

6.e.1 Discussion ensued on the proposal on sharks put forward by the European Community. The delegations of the People's Republic of China and Japan both stated that the proposal was unacceptable.

6.e.2 The delegate of Venezuela stated that he believed that sharks were beyond the mandate of ICCAT and should be dealt with elsewhere.

6.e.3 The delegate of Morocco reminded the panel that sharks were the subject of an FAO International Plan of Action and that, in time, would be the most suitable means of addressing this issue. The delegate of Uruguay concurred with this approach, noting that the other international agreements should be applied rather than instituting new instruments.

6.e.4 The delegates of the United States and Canada both stated that their respective countries already had domestic legislation prohibiting the finning of sharks.

6.e.5 The delegate of South Africa noted that Article 4 of the ICCAT Convention provided for the inclusion of other species of fish encountered by the tuna fisheries. He agreed with the EC that we should not have to wait for the FAO IPOA for sharks.

6.e.6 Having heard the various delegations speak on this matter, the delegate of the EC withdrew the proposal.

6.e.7 The delegate of Brazil put forward an amended proposal that was co-sponsored by Brazil, People's Republic of China, Japan and the United States<sup>1</sup>.

6.e.8 The EC had also tabled a proposal on a resolution for shark management.

6.e.9 The delegate of Japan noted that the amendments to the earlier proposal took into account the substance of the EC draft resolution. He stated that although the EC proposal included three species of shark, (shortfin mako, porbeagle and blue sharks), the joint proposal called for stock assessments for only two species as the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) would be conducting an assessment of porbeagle shark.

6.e.10 The delegate of the EC stated that there were difficulties as the proposal doesn't go far enough and doesn't take into account the realities of the fishery. There were problems with encouraging the release of live sharks within the shark fisheries and the selective quotation from the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing was incomplete as other aspects of that instrument were certainly relevant. It was also felt that the opportunity to collect data should not be limited to just three species.

6.e.11 The delegate of the United States stated that the proposal was a non-binding resolution intended to signify what parties should be doing to improve conservation such as the release of live juvenile sharks. There was a clear need to minimize waste and his delegation remained open to comments on the limitation of effort.

6.e.12 The delegate of Brazil asked that Brazil be associated with the intervention of the United States. He stated that Brazil already had a ban on finning and he hoped that consensus could be reached on a weaker document that took into account the circumstances of some Contracting Parties.

6.e.13 The delegate of Canada noted that shark populations were in decline and that it was ICCAT's responsibility to address this issue. He stated that the proposal was non-binding even though certain parties would like to make it somewhat stronger. He agreed with Brazil that it was better than no action at all. It was apparent, he said, that there was great value to the collection of additional data and that in view of the increasing need for such information this was an important first step.

6.e.14 The delegate of Uruguay supported the proposed resolution.

6.e.15 The delegate of the EC stated that although his delegation had had input into the proposal the approach was well below expectations. He noted that it seemed inadequate but that his delegation was willing to accept it.

6.e.16 The delegate of the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) very much agreed with the proposal and noted that it was an important step forward.

6.e.17 The delegate of the People's Republic of China suggested amending Paragraph 2 to include all "cooperating" Non-Contracting Parties, etc. and this was agreed. The proposed *Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks* was adopted (see ANNEX 9-15).

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1. Korea was an active supporter in the drafting of the resolution but could not be a co-sponsor as Korea was not a member of Panel 4.

## **6.f Small tunas**

There were no discussions on possible management measures for small tunas.

## **7. Research**

The Chairman of SCRS provided an overview of the research proposed for 2002 for the species included in Panel 4.

### **7.a Billfish**

Dr. Powers said that emphasis would be placed on the collation of historical catch data and biological investigation of habitat requirements. Studies would also be made on the behavior of longline gear and its interaction with marlins. Improvements would also be made to the estimates of dead discards and estimates of mortality. The Enhanced Research Program for Billfish would be concentrating on shore-based sampling, at sea sampling and post-release mortality studies using pop-up tags. There would also be additional work with conventional tags.

### **7.b Swordfish**

7.b.1 Dr. Powers stated that it was hoped to improve catch per unit effort data, especially that for deep longline gear. Better size sampling was also planned with an emphasis on south Atlantic swordfish.

7.b.2 The delegate of Morocco reminded the panel of the important biological studies carried out under the auspices of the COPEMED Project.

7.b.3 The delegate of the EC thanked Morocco for the comments on COPEMED and noted that much of the assistance with fisheries research development had been funded by the Government of Spain.

## **8. Date and place of the next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of Panel 4 would be held during the next meeting of the Commission.

## **9. Other matters**

There were no other matters.

## **10. Election of Chairman**

The delegate of Canada nominated the United States. This was seconded by the delegates of Japan, Namibia, Morocco, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, U.S.A. and the European Community. The United States was unanimously re-elected.

## **11. Adoption of the Report**

It was agreed that the Report of the Meeting of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence.

## **12. Adjournment**

The Chairman declared the meeting of Panel 4 adjourned.



**Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

<i>Panel 1</i>	<i>Panel 2</i>	<i>Panel 3</i>	<i>Panel 4</i>
a Yellowfin	a Bluefin (North)	a Southern bluefin	a Atlantic bonito
b Skipjack	b Albacore (North)	b Albacore (South)	b Swordfish
c Bigeye			c Billfishes
			d Other species

7. Research
8. Date and place of next Panel meeting
9. Other matters
10. Election of Panel Chairman
11. Adoption of Report
12. Adjournment

**Report on the Actions Taken According to the Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT  
Concerning the Recommendation on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures  
(attached to Report of Panel 1)**

**1. Actions taken by Japan**

*1.a Non-purchase administrative guidance of IUU caught tunas*

The major target species of IUU tuna longline fishing vessels (TLVs) is bigeye tuna. Japan continued and strengthened its non-purchase administrative guidance according to the ICCAT resolutions on elimination of IUU fishery. A detailed results of the guidance is reported separately (see Document COC-011).

*1.b Import of Atlantic bigeye tuna from China*

Import of Atlantic bigeye tuna from China from January 1 to July 31, 2001 is 4,035 MT (product weight), which exceeds the recommended catch limit of 4,000 MT for China's 2001. Taking account of time lag of shipment (usually it takes about three months after catch before import), Japanese import of Atlantic bigeye tuna caught in 2001 by Chinese TLVs would exceed 4,000 Mt by the end of 2001.

China lodged and confirmed its objection to the Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures (hereinafter referred to as the "Recommendation") and notified the Commission of its intention to set an autonomous quota of the same catch level as that in 1999, namely 7,300 MT. Japan, Canada

and the United States, jointly conducted a diplomatic contact to China to call for withdrawal of its objection because China's sharp increase of bigeye catch was achieved through accepting many IUU vessels and abusing a leeway of the 1998 ICCAT recommendation on bigeye tuna conservation for the countries having catches of less than 2,000 MT. It was also pointed out that it is not appropriate or fair for China to lodge an objection to the recommendation worked out after the long negotiations, where China actively participated.

### *1.c Establishment of OPRT*

The Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries was established in December 8, 2000 in Tokyo, Japan. The organization consists of the representatives from fishermen, importers, distributors, processors and consumers. One of the main tasks of OPRT is to compile and analyzes the import data of tunas and provide them to OPRT member flag states as feedback for their verification of the reported catch data. OPRT's other task is to inform Japanese retailers and consumers of the products caught by IUU fishing vessels. For this purpose, OPRT studies possible introduction of labeling to differentiate the catches of duly licensed and controlled vessels from IUU fishing vessels in the Japanese market. The representatives from the fishermen of Japan and Chinese Taipei are the founding members of OPRT.

## **2. Cooperation with Chinese Taipei**

### *2.a Conclusion of agreement*

To implement the Chinese Taipei-Japan Joint Action Plans to Eliminate IUU Fishery, the representative from OPRT and the representative from Kaohsiung Foreign Registered Fishing Vessel Association signed the Basic Agreement for scrapping and re-registration of IUU vessels on February 15, 2001 at Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei. Major components of the Agreement are the following:

- a) Implementation of scrapping of 62 Japan-built IUU TLVs by the end of 2003.
- b) Implementation of re-registration of 67 Chinese Taipei-built IUU TLVs by the end of 2005.

### *2.b Scrapping*

According to the Basic Agreement, OPRT concluded contracts of scrapping with 43 vessel owners by October 30, 2001. OPRT will complete scrapping of twenty-six IUU vessels by the end of 2001.

<u>Number of vessels listed in the Basic Agreement</u>	<u>62</u>
Number of vessels that concluded contract for scrapping	44
of which, Year 2001	26
2002	6
2003	9
Sunk, Wrecked	3
<hr/>	
Balance	18

### *2.c Re-registration to Chinese Taipei*

None of the 67 vessels listed in the Basic Agreement re-registered to Chinese Taipei as of October 30, 2001. One vessel sank and another vessel shifted its flag to China.

<u>Number of vessels listed in the Basic Agreement</u>	<u>67</u>
Sunk	- 1
Shifted to China	- 1
<hr/>	
Balance	65

*2.d Construction of new IUU TLVs*

While effort was being made by both Japan and Chinese Taipei to materialize the Joint Action Plans, 41 large-scale TLVs were newly built in Chinese Taipei after January 28, 2000, the date the Fisheries Administration of Chinese Taipei issued a rule on re-registration of the Chinese Taipei-built IUU vessels. The IUU vessel owners built them for the purpose of continuing and expanding IUU fishing operations. Of the 41 vessels, eleven of which have been included in the 2000 ICCAT IUU List. Seventeen of them were notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as IUU vessels by Chinese Taipei as of August 3, 2001, and ten of them was notified to Japan as of October 22, 2001 through the bilateral talk.

Number of newly built IUU after Jan. 28, 2000	41
Vessels obtained Chinese Taipei's fishing license	- 2
Vessel having sunk	- 1
<hr/>	
Number of vessels continue IUU fishing operations	38

*2.e Balance of the IUU TLVs*

The number of IUU vessels was increased in 2001 because of construction of new vessels.

Decrease by scrapping program(scrapping)	- 26
"          (sunk, wrecked)	- 3
Decrease by re-registration program (sunk)	- 1
Increase by IUU vessel constructions in Chinese Taipei	+38
<u>Increase by IUU vessel constructions in China</u>	<u>+2</u>
Balance	+10

*2.f Amendment of the rule on re-registration*

The Fisheries Administration of Chinese Taipei informed Japan that they promulgated an amended rule for the re-registration of Chinese Taipei-built IUU vessels on October 17, 2001. This amended rule expands the scope of vessels from original 67 IUU vessels to all IUU vessels. The deadline for the application of re-registration is December 31, 2001. Every IUU vessels wishing to re-register Chinese Taipei is required to obtain Chinese Taipei fishing license, the number of which is controlled and limited by the Administration. Various source of information indicates that about 20 vessels will make applications and the rest of out of the original 67 will escape from the re-registration program and they are vigorously searching for new developing countries that provide vessel registry to them. ICCAT granted exemption of non-purchase sanction measures to these 67 vessels in 2000 since they participated in the re-registration program. Out of the 67 IUU vessels, 38 vessel owners are said to have Chinese Taipei tuna longline fishing licenses while operating IUU vessels. Some Chinese-Taipei TLVs show extraordinary large amount of export to Japan in a year, which indicated possible fish laundering operations.

Remaining major problems

- a) There still continue unlimited construction of IUU vessels in Chinese-Taipei.
- b) Most of IUU vessel owners are Chinese Taipei's residents. Many of them own Chinese Taipei's licensed TLVs and are believed to use those licensed vessels to conceal IUU catches.

**3. Cooperation with China**

*3.a Increase of Chinese TLVs*

China has increased its TLVs from 3 in 1997 to 98 in August 2001 by mainly accepting IUU vessels. Many Chinese TLVs have strong business relations with IUU related people in Chinese Taipei. Both Chinese and Chinese Taipei's officials also admitted that there are connections between Chinese vessels and IUU owners in Chinese Taipei. Some Chinese TLVs show an extraordinary large amount of export to Japan in a year. One

Chinese TLVs used other country's flag in exporting its catch to Japan. 20 Chinese TLVs submitted bogus documents to conceal their previous records.

### *3.b Consultation between China and Japan*

In order to improve catch data, management and control of Chinese TLVs as well as to work jointly for elimination of IUU fishing, fishery management authorities of China and Japan held a series of consultations after February 2001 and reached the following mutual understandings;

- Exchange of list of licensed TLVs,
- China will investigate thoroughly business relations of Chinese fishing companies with IUU related people, and when a relation is found, take necessary and strong measures to cut off such relations,
- After the investigation, China will issue a certificate to prove and assure that a vessel has no business relations with IUU fishing vessels,
- Through notification to ICCAT, Japan will exempt the Chinese vessels with the certificates from the non-purchase guidance even though they had past records of IUU fishing,
- China prohibited import of second hand TLVs for the time being after March 2001,
- China will consider adoption of policy on scrapping old TLVs,
- Both sides will meet at least twice a year.

### Remaining major problems

- As was reported to the 2000 ICCAT meeting (see Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9 of the Proceedings), the Chinese reported catch of Atlantic bigeye of 7,300 MT in 1999 contradicts the Japanese import of only 1,074 MT of Atlantic bigeye tuna from China in 1999 (1999.4 - 2000.3 : 1,911 MT). As far as China maintains its position of having autonomous quota of 7,300 MT, a room must be created for IUU to sneak into the Chinese flag. Extraordinary large export of some Chinese LTVs indicates an occurrence of fish laundering operations.
- China supplies a majority of crew onboard the IUU TLVs.
- At least, two vessels were constructed in China to be IUU vessels under flags of Bolivia and Cambodia in 2001.

### 4. Conclusion

- The commission supported and urged implementation of Japan and Chinese Taipei's joint action program to eliminate IUU fishing vessels to conserve bigeye tuna. However, this effort is severely undermined by the new vessel constructions and continuation of active IUU fishing.
- IUU vessels change names and flags quite often and try hard to escape from the Japanese non-purchase administrative guidance. There are data that indicate fish laundering of IUU caught tuna being conducted under the disguise of Chinese Taipei, Chinese and other countries' licensed TLVs.
- It is needed for all the concerned Parties including China and Japan to take every possible action promptly for termination of business relations between their nationals and the IUU vessel owners in Chinese Taipei, while joint effort by China and Japan to eliminate the IUU fishing is a significant step toward the solution to this problem.

### Appendix 3 to ANNEX 13

#### **Statement by China on Bigeye Tuna Conservation** (attached to Report of Panel 1)

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Special meeting, my delegation made a statement that we would not join the consensus for the adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures*. We stated that further decision on the recommendation would be made by the Government of China. After returning to China, we decided

to object to the recommendation after careful study. I had explained the reasons for objecting to the recommendation, that is, why China could not accept the 4000 MT of catch limit. Therefore, the objection made by the government of China was based on the position of the delegation at the last meeting.

We decided the autonomous catch limit through careful study. We established the 7300 MT of autonomous catch limit. We believe that the total catch of bigeye in the ICCAT area was 124,659 MT, of which the IUU vessels took 25,000 MT and one member was over its catch limit by 7,100 MT. That means the appropriate catch in 1999 should be 94,350 MT. If China has the autonomous catch limit of 7,300 MT, the total catch of bigeye in the area will remain at the level of MSY suggested by SCRS if the member of ICCAT can jointly deter the IUU fishing activity in the area. The catch limit established by China does not impair the population of bigeye regulated by ICCAT. In addition, the bigeye catch in 2000 was 98,608 MT, of which the catch of not elsewhere included was 19,288 MT. If we deem the catch is IUU catch, the legal catch was 79,320 MT, which is lower than the 94,000 MT of MSY level. That means China takes 7,300 MT of catch limit in 2001, the MSY level in 2001 will not be over MSY level if the IUU fishing activity can be deterred by ICCAT through joint efforts.

At the time of establishing an autonomous catch limit, the fishing authority decided on the following measures to monitor the catch:

- Deploy 3 observers on board;
- Set up a coordinating group consisting of the companies that have fishing vessels operating in the ocean;
- Changing the annual reporting system to a monthly reporting system;
- Mandatory requesting the fishing vessel to leaves the Convention area when it reaches its quota.

The objection put forward by China is to keep the survival level of the Chinese fleet. We have 60 vessels registered in the ICCAT. We all know the economic catch level for each vessel. However, we did not establish the autonomous catch limit at that level. In other words, we did not establish the catch limit at 12,000 MT. We understand that would be irresponsible and unsustainable. We also have much concern over the resources. The lives of our fishermen also rely on the resources. We must ensure sustainability of the fishery resources.

Regarding the IUU issue, China supports the international actions to deter and eliminate IUU fishing, including active participation in the consultation and final adoption of FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate the IUU Fishing. China will continue to join the international effort to reach objectives of deterrence and elimination of IUU fishing.

We also conducted bilateral consultation with Japan to reach understanding on the cooperation of tuna fisheries management.

In order to reach the objective of deterring the IUU fishing and ensuring the sustainable tuna fishery development, China took and is taking and will take the following measures with positive attitude:

- Although under the great pressure from society and enterprises for purchase second-hand LSTLV, the fisheries authority of China has temporarily prohibited import of second-hand fishing vessels since March 2001.
- China is seeking to establish a policy of scrapping of old fishing vessels, and legalizing scrapping LSTLV older than a certain age to ensure safety on the sea through this measure.
- In order to strengthen the management, China has already deployed observers on the vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean and continues to intensify management of Chinese high seas tuna longline fishery through installation of VMS (AGOS).
- China is investigating whether there is any business relation between the present LSTLV owners of mainland of China and the fishermen having been or being engaged in IUU fishing activities (hereinafter referred to as "IUU fishermen"). China will take measures to avoid the business relations between the fishermen of mainland of China and the IUU fishermen. China will take strict measures including revocation of their fishing licenses and de-registration of the vessels against the fishermen who are found maintaining business relations with the IUU fishermen and disregard the order of the fisheries authority of China. China will issue to each LSTLV with deeper freezing capacity that authorized by government

of China a document showing that no business relation exists between its present owner and the IUU fishermen. When business relation is found after the issuance of the document, China will take strong measures against the owner.

One week before we came here, we obtained information some Chinese fishing vessels involved in alleged activities of helping to export tuna products for IUU vessels. We made immediate investigation and decided that the vessels involved in the alleged activities must leave ICCAT area for next year as punishment, and the company engaged in the activity must cut down the relationship with IUU owners within time limit.

#### Appendix 4 to ANNEX 13

#### Statement by the United States to Panel 1 (attached to Report of Panel 1)

At its 2000 meeting, this panel and the Commission established the first-ever catch limits in the Atlantic bigeye tuna fishery. The bigeye tuna conservation measures adopted in 2000 were an important first step towards conservation, but more must be done to end overfishing of bigeye tuna.

The recommendation adopted last year should limit 2001 catches to 90,000 to 100,000 mt. This is above both replacement yield and the estimate of MSY. The SCRS Report states that: "...the total catch (of bigeye tuna) has been larger than the upper boundary of the likely range of MSY since 1991, causing the stock to decline considerably..".

The SCRS has recommended, and the United States supports, a catch reduction towards 80,000 mt, which is necessary just to prevent further stock decline; a further catch reduction is necessary to rebuild the stock to levels that would support MSY. The United States also supports the development of a long-term rebuilding program for bigeye tuna.

ICCAT has attempted to manage the bigeye fishery primarily through a minimum size regulation of 3.2 kg, adopted in 1980. In recent years, ICCAT has added limitations on fishing effort and capacity, and adopted a time/area closure in the Gulf of Guinea. However, these measures have not been effective in halting the declining stock trend. Further, the United States remains extremely concerned that an estimated 55 percent of the bigeye tuna harvested are below the ICCAT minimum size limit.

The time/area closure in the Gulf of Guinea must be continued, and its expansion should be considered. The time/area closure must be effectively monitored, as increased conservation gains would be realized if compliance were improved.

The quota recommendation adopted in 2000 was only for 2001, and the United States urges this panel to adopt a recommendation that will limit total catches to an amount that will stop overfishing and allow rebuilding to begin. We join Japan in its expressions of concern about the recent rapid growth of bigeye fisheries by new entrants such as China, and are especially troubled by China's objection to the bigeye quota recommendation adopted last year.

Regarding yellowfin and skipjack tuna, the U.S. supports further research by the SCRS to identify spawning grounds and investigate and propose possible measures to protect these areas in order to reduce the catch of undersized fish. The United States is extremely concerned that nearly 70 percent of yellowfin tuna caught in 1999 were below the ICCAT minimum size, up from 54 percent in 1998.

While the United States accounts for a relatively small portion of total bigeye and yellowfin landings, these species are very important to the U.S. economically, supporting both commercial and recreational fisheries.

We must make progress in conserving tropical tuna stocks, especially with regard to protecting juvenile fish, which would result in benefits for all Contracting Parties.

**Statement by Japan on Agenda Item 6 of Panel 1**  
*(attached to Report of Panel 1)*

With respect to the management measures on Atlantic bigeye tuna, Japan would like to make the following comments.

Japan would like to express its appreciation to China for the cooperative work both sides engaged in and will develop for effective conservation of the tuna resources. We particularly welcome the decision of the Chinese government to cut off the business relations between their fishing vessels and the IUU fishing business entities. Japan will cooperate with China to scrutinize the catch records and exclude the IUU catches from them, while providing China with information on the business relations between the Chinese fishing vessels and the IUU fishing vessel owners. The results will be submitted to the Working Group meeting scheduled in May, 2002.

As I stated earlier this week, Japan and China will jointly work to prevent the IUU catch from being mixed with the legitimate Chinese catch in exporting to Japan. Both countries are making and will make utmost effort to combat the IUU fishing.

Unfortunately, this year, we could not find the justifiable basis to accept the Chinese request for an increase of their catch limit of Atlantic bigeye tuna from 4,000 MT. Japan would, however, like to make in advance notification of its intention to make an in-season transfer of an unused portion of the Japanese catch limit around 1000 MT to China upon successful exercise of the above joint effort of Japan and China and in consideration of the use of the Japanese and Chinese catch limits of Atlantic bigeye tuna in 2002. This transfer will, if it happens, be proposed to the Commission by mail or to its 2002 meeting for the approval with the reasons and justification for it.

**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 13**

**Opening Statement of the United States to Panel 2**  
*(attached to Report of Panel 2)*

Members will recall that the Commission adopted a Resolution at last year's meeting in Marrakech requesting SCRS examine the effects of mixing of bluefin between west and east for stock assessment and management in light of the latest information coming from electronic satellite tag research programs. This exciting research has been ongoing for several years now in the west and recently electronic tagging has begun in the east as well.

The U.S. would like to congratulate all of the scientists from the east and west who participated in the research and hard work to produce the Report from the September meeting in Madrid. We hope that all members of this Panel have had an opportunity to study this important document now adopted by SCRS. Importantly, research reviewed in the report identifies greater mixing of eastern and western bluefin than previously believed. In response to the findings, SCRS has made a number of significant recommendations that the United States believes should be supported by the Commission with a Resolution that we will introduce to this Panel.

Specifically, the SCRS recommends a long-term research plan to allow development of better models to conduct stock assessments to take into account the extensive mixing of fish. Development of these models will provide the Commission with greater flexibility to consider alternative management programs accommodating more biological realism coming from a better understanding of the complex migration patterns of bluefin on the feeding and spawning grounds. The United States supports the SCRS recommendation for an interim approach and their plan to provide further advice on the three interim management options for the west and east for the Commission's consideration at the Plenary meeting in the Fall of 2002.

I will repeat here our most serious concern about the continuing situation in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. We continue to view the adoption of a total allowable catch (TAC) thousands of tons above

the SCRS advice of 25,000 MT to be irresponsible and contrary to the ICCAT mandate to achieve maximum sustainable catch. We must insist that the base quota for the 2002 fishing year be set at the level recommended by SCRS to reduce overfishing and we believe a rebuilding plan similar to the western plan be adopted. This is made even more critical by the SCRS findings in the Mixing Report concerning the likely damage to the western conservation program by overfishing in the east.

A final point on bluefin is that the United States continues to be gravely concerned about the lack of effective regulation to control the catch of fish below the minimum size and we encourage eastern states to propose more effective protective measures such as closed areas and seasons.

Finally, with respect to northern albacore, we note the need to renegotiate a catch sharing agreement for 2002 and beyond; the United States intends to seek some measure of flexibility for minor harvesting nations given the year to year variation in catches due to availability of fish.

#### Appendix 7 to ANNEX 13

##### **Opening Statement by the Observer of the Ocean Wildlife Campaign** *(attached to Report of Panel 2)*

The Commission must move toward a more realistic management regime for Atlantic bluefin tuna, particularly with regard to eastern bluefin.

It must reduce mortality for bluefin tuna throughout the Atlantic, especially the excessive catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, to levels that will ensure sustainability and allow rebuilding of depleted stocks. In this regard, and given the uncertainties in the data, which stem in part from inexcusably poor reporting practices, the Commission must adopt a precautionary approach to ensure that management actions do not make the current situation worse.

As such, the Ocean Wildlife Campaign strongly recommends against any quota for eastern bluefin tuna above 25,000 MT in light of the clear and unequivocal SCRS advice that catches of 25,000 MT, or less, are necessary to halt the decline of the population. The Commission must make use of the newly agreed upon allocation criteria to fairly and equitably divide a scientifically defensible quota, not a politically expedient one. To once again establish a quota above the level recommended by the SCRS would be to demonstrate a callous disregard for ICCAT charter mandates and the resource itself.

Such action, as was taken last year, irreparably damages the credibility of this institution and is grossly inconsistent with the Commission's management mandate of maintaining populations at levels that permit achievement of the maximum sustainable catch (MSC).

Additionally, it should be noted that we support a new assessment for east and west Atlantic bluefin tuna evaluating the three management options in the mixing report. Importantly it would be a great benefit to the Commission for the SCRS to perform a decision analysis to accompany the new assessment. This analysis would provide the Commission with information regarding the risks associated with each management option. An understanding of the risks in our opinion is essential for making a wide decision on how best to manage Atlantic bluefin tuna.

#### Appendix 8 to ANNEX 13

##### **Statement by Canada on Eastern Bluefin Tuna** *(attached to Report of Panel 2)*

Over the past few years, Canada has made it clear that while we fish the western bluefin stock, we have a direct and compelling interest in the management of the eastern bluefin stock. We have debated the issues of mixing between the two stocks and there is a growing base of data that substantiates our view that the western stock



is influenced by what happens in the east. Over-harvesting of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic can have a direct effect on fisheries in the west.

The proposal put forward today is cast as being an effort to set a TAC based on scientific advice. We need to remind ourselves what the SCRS has told us. Our scientists have repeatedly advised us that we are fishing at too high a level, and that catches of juveniles are excessive. In the most recent report of the SCRS, they advised us that the assessment indicates a strong decline in the number and biomass of older fish, which corresponds with an increase in fishing mortality rate. They told us that catches of 33,000 MT or more are not sustainable, and that catches of 25,000 MT or less would be necessary to halt declines in biomass. That advice was based on the 1998 assessment, and since then, catches have been in excess of 33,000 MT. It is not unreasonable to conclude that the reductions necessary to halt declines may be even lower than 25,000 MT.

We were hopeful that the agreement to reduce catches that was implemented in 1998 would begin a progression toward a more sustainable fishery. Regrettably, this progress has not only stalled, but has been reversed. That is why we cannot support this proposal on eastern bluefin – neither this quota, nor the length of the management plan.

I acknowledge that it proposes a gradual, modest reduction in quota levels; but to a level that is nearly 9,000 MT above the level recommended by the SCRS. And this proposal would keep catches well above the 25,000 MT limit necessary to halt the decline of the stock, until 2005. This proposal will ensure that catches remain well above a sustainable level for the next four years.

In 2002, the SCRS will do a new stock assessment for eastern bluefin. We have consistently fished above the levels recommended in the last assessment. Surely, this should tell us that a new stock assessment is vital for our management decisions. Should we not wait for it? This proposal appears to lock in quotas for the next four years and, as such, makes next year's assessment rather pointless. It implies that no matter what the assessment concludes, we will ignore their advice. This should not be acceptable to this Commission.

The preamble of the Convention text, signed in 1966, 35 years ago, states that we "resolve to conclude a convention for the conservation of the resources of tuna and tuna like species." This proposal for eastern bluefin, now before us, does not meet this resolve.

#### Appendix 9 to ANNEX 13

##### **Statement by Chinese Taipei to Panel 2** *(attached to Report of Panel 2)*

I appreciate that our Japanese friend has spelled out some of our concerns. However, we still want to say something in this respect. We are astonished to note that our allocation on eastern bluefin tuna has been reduced, to such a drastic extent, down by some 50%. Our government has permitted a number of vessels to catch eastern bluefin tuna, and for your information, in 2001 a catch of 632 MT has been reported.

We all realize there are ups and downs in all fisheries due to various reasons. Low levels of our catch of eastern bluefin tuna in some years do not mean we will not require the quota level in future years. Therefore, it is difficult for us to accept the allocation as proposed. Even if we are going to make a sacrifice, every body around the table would agree that it should be done in a gradual manner, in order that the industry may undergo the necessary adjustment.

## Appendix 10 to ANNEX 13

**Report by the United Kingdom on Behalf of the Overseas Territory of Bermuda  
to the 2001 Commission in Accordance with the Recommendation by ICCAT  
on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean**  
*(attached to Report of Panel 2)*

Pursuant to the Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna research in the central north Atlantic Ocean [Ref. 00-8], made at Marrakech in 2000, a co-operative research program was embarked upon.

A Steering Committee involving scientists from the United States, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom Overseas Territory of Bermuda solicited bids for longline vessels to conduct this research and received seven proposals. Two Canadian-flagged commercial fishing vessels were awarded the charter to fish for bluefin tuna in the central north Atlantic Ocean during June and July 2001.

Daily reports of catch and effort were required of each vessel and these were filed electronically. In addition to a chief scientist aboard each vessel, there was also an independent observer employed by the Steering Committee to verify catches. Oceanographic data were collected and biological samples were also made from these vessels.

Logbook inspections were conducted and copies of the fishing logs of both vessels made as further verification of the accuracy of the reporting of catch and landings.

Landings were made at Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada and the catches made by the two longliners were inspected and verified by Dr. B. Luckhurst (Bermuda) as agreed to in Recommendation 00-8. There were no catches of bluefin tuna and this was attributed both to much reduced fishing effort as envisaged in the original proposal and to unusual oceanographic conditions during the fishing period. (Please refer to SCRS/01/31-rev for details.)

Although there had been no provision for the catch of other species under ICCAT management programs, it was agreed through correspondence by the head delegates of the Contracting Parties involved it was an oversight that there was no exemption for non-target species also under quota (e.g. swordfish).

In order to address this issue, the United Kingdom, through the Overseas Territory of Bermuda, also monitored catches of other species and have reported them to ICCAT. It is recommended that these non-target catches be considered under the same provision as the bluefin tuna, and thus not be counted against the quota or cap of any Contracting Party, Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.

Future plans for this project include a major research cruise by the Japanese Fisheries vessel R/V *Shoyo Maru* that will devote two legs of the cruise (mid-June to July 2002) to longlining for bluefin tuna in the central north Atlantic. This cruise will also include oceanographic observations and sampling for bluefin larvae. The Steering Committee also hopes to have additional research vessel support for the May-June period, as well as concurrent commercial charter fishing to catch spawning size bluefin.

The United Kingdom on behalf of the Overseas Territory of Bermuda encourages the Commission to continue to support this important research which was again endorsed by the 2001 SCRS. Bermuda will again be willing to undertake to assign exemption, in accordance with Paragraph 3 of the 2000 Recommendation to participants in the research and to report back to the Commission in 2002.

**Statement by Japan on Northern Swordfish**  
(attached to Report of Panel 4)

We appreciate Dr. Powers' kind and succinct explanation of the SCRS Report on the Japanese by-catch of northern Atlantic swordfish and the monitoring measure of the fishery. I would like to make some comments on these.

Japan sincerely received criticism by SCRS on Japanese monitoring of dead discards of northern swordfish. We noted the three points of criticism: (a) insufficient size sampling, (b) low observer coverage, and (c) lack of dead discard inclusion in the logbook.

As I mentioned at the 2000 Commission meeting, Japan made a very hard decision to require our fishermen to release all swordfish incidentally caught regardless of alive or dead because we used up the block quota. This is a very severe measure. Japan is the only Contracting Party that takes a measure of 100% release of swordfish by-catch. No other Contracting Parties take this severe measure. As a result of this measure we faced difficulty in collection of sampling data.

Even before hearing criticisms of SCRS, we already engaged in improvement of data collection;

– *Observer Coverage*

We decided to increase observer coverage according to the Commission's decision made last year and we already deployed seven observers for the first half of this fishing year, and we are aiming at deploying additional seven observers during the latter half of the fishing season. The number of the vessels operating in the tropical area targeting bigeye tuna is 120-140. Thus the 10% coverage would be achieved or nearly achieved in 2001 fishing season. The deployment of observer will be implemented in consultation with our scientists for better coverage of our fishing activities.

– *Sampling*

In addition to the observer data collection, we selected five vessels dedicated for size sampling. These vessels are allowed to take dead swordfish onboard for checking its size, sex and other data and then return those fish to the sea. They will conduct sampling of swordfish for genetic studies, too. We believe that the sample size will be increased by this measure.

– *Logbook*

We have already changed the regulation to include a column for Swordfish dead discard in the logbook. We are also urging our fishermen to submit data collected on dead discard as a matter of priority.

We sincerely try to meet the advice of SCRS.

On this occasion I would like to call the attention of all the delegation to one point in the SCRS Report. That is the SCRS Report section 15.5. We conducted preliminary sampling in the tropical area. The result of the genetic analysis suggested that a very large fraction of the Japanese catch is composed of fish with a south Atlantic stock-signature. This means that the origin of most of the swordfish caught in the tropical area north of 5°N is the South Atlantic. This finding justifies the decision made by the Commission last year. At the 2000 meeting, the Commission granted Japan a remedial measure that covers 2001 and 2002. This measure is correct in view of the biological fact that the swordfish Japan is catching in the North Atlantic area close to the boundary is of South Atlantic origin. We highly appreciate this remedial measure.

## Appendix 12 to ANNEX 13

**Statement by the United States to Panel 4**  
*(attached to Report of Panel 4)*

The United States is looking forward to a productive meeting of Panel 4 at the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission. We hope to make significant progress with the conservation and management of north Atlantic swordfish, south Atlantic swordfish, white marlin, and blue marlin. We are also interested in arranging for an assessment of pelagic sharks.

The United States is pleased that the Commission adopted a rebuilding program for north Atlantic swordfish in 1999. We note that catch levels of north Atlantic Swordfish for 2000 were below replacement yield, but we are concerned that they exceeded the TAC. We are disappointed that a Contracting Party with no quota allocation of north Atlantic swordfish reported a catch of 117 MT in 2000. Such catches, in addition to high catches of swordfish below the minimum size and in excess of ICCAT tolerances, will negatively impact the rebuilding program. We hope that the stock assessment scheduled for 2002 indicates that the stock rebuilding has progressed to the reference point on schedule.

The United States has implemented time/area closures to reduce small swordfish catch and dead discards, and we plan to present an analysis of our actions at the 2002 SCRS Meeting. We are committed to reducing dead discards of swordfish, and are interested in exploring alternative management actions to reduce fishing mortality on small swordfish that will reduce discards. To that end, the United States will propose a resolution to allow flexibility in addressing mortality of small swordfish through alternatives to the minimum size.

The United States was extremely disappointed with the catch sharing arrangement for south Atlantic swordfish adopted at the 2000 Commission meeting. The establishment of voluntary catch limits that exceed replacement yield by 50% is not fisheries management—it is an abuse of the resource. It is imperative for the credibility of ICCAT that we adopt a catch sharing agreement based on a sustainable TAC. We realize that to achieve such an arrangement, some parties will have to reduce their catches, and we are willing to accept a proportional reduction of our previously agreed base level of 384 MT. We hope other parties are equally flexible.

White marlin are the most severely over-fished stock under ICCAT's purview. The SCRS assessment of white marlin in 2000 estimated the current biomass to be 15% of that necessary to support MSY. We await the assessment scheduled for 2002 to evaluate the impact of the conservation and management measures adopted at last year's Commission meeting, and, if warranted, to develop a stock recovery program for white marlin. We are aware of the many demands the Commission has placed on the SCRS for 2002, and we support the SCRS's recommendation to postpone the assessment of blue marlin stock from 2002 to 2003, providing the current conservation and management measures for the blue marlin are similarly extended for one year.

In closing, the United States would like to acknowledge the work of the SCRS Sub-committee on By-catch Data Preparatory Meeting for Atlantic Shark Stock Assessments. We fully support the Sub-committee's recommendation for an assessment of shortfin mako and blue sharks, and will forward a resolution to this Panel calling for an assessment in 2004.

## Appendix 13 to ANNEX 13

**Statement by Trinidad and Tobago to Panel 4**  
*(attached to Report of Panel 4)*

As indicated in the opening statement from Trinidad and Tobago to the Commission, under the guidance and assistance of the ICCAT Secretariat, Trinidad and Tobago in April, 2001, undertook a partial revision of its statistics and our revised statistics were accepted by the SCRS at the October 2001 Meeting and are now incorporated in the ICCAT database.

Trinidad and Tobago has therefore done a partial adjustment of its allocated swordfish catch limit, from 42 MT to 68.2 MT based on the "true" catches of its locally owned locally flagged longline fleet in accordance with prevailing regulations concerning swordfish and wishes the Commission to note and to endorse this adjustment.

Further, Trinidad and Tobago wishes the Commission to note that our fishery for large pelagics has suffered over the last 2-3 years because of under-reporting. We feel assured that the revised statistics would help to stabilize the industry until such time when swordfish stocks have recovered, and further development of Trinidad and Tobago's swordfish fishery can be accommodated.

Trinidad and Tobago also wishes to inform the Commission that many of our locally owned longline vessels, were foreign flagged and engaged in trans-shipment due to the absence in the past of a National Registry for fishing vessels. This situation was rectified in the year 2000 and these foreign flagged vessels have now been accommodated under our National Registry. Verification as to whether or not these catches have already been included in reports of the flagged countries has to be undertaken by ICCAT Secretariat to avoid the possibility of double counting before these catches can be attributed to Trinidad and Tobago to justify a further adjustment in our catch limit. Trinidad and Tobago has therefore undergone a process that now facilitates more accurate data collection and monitoring and greater compliance with ICCAT by our national longline fleet.

#### Appendix 14 to ANNEX 13

##### Statement by France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) to Panel 4

France has already indicated its wish to obtain a quota of 24 MT of north Atlantic swordfish.

We are exactly in the context that led to the allocation of an identical quota to the United Kingdom (in respect of its Overseas Territory of Bermuda).

This concession took place during the meeting of the Commission November, 1997. The adherence of France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) did not occur until December 30, 1997.

In its opening statement to the 1998 Commission meeting, France explained the reasons that it had led to presenting the candidacy of St. Pierre and Miquelon for ICCAT membership

- Problems of decline in the bottom fishing resources (mainly cod) in the areas adjacent to St. Pierre and Miquelon.
- The need to diversify the fishing activities to assure the survival of the only producing activity of the archipelago.

The situation has not improved since then. I might add that the narrowness of our exclusive economic zone has obliges us to extend our fishing activities towards the high seas.

Taking into account the in-depth discussions of these past days, I believe there are few who can think of initiating a new discussion on northern swordfish.

France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, postpones its request for a quota so that it will be taken into account at the next ICCAT meeting.

In the meantime, we hope to be authorized, next year, to fish under the "others" quotas.

**Statement by Brazil to Panel 4**  
*(attached to Report of Panel 4)*

In my Delegation's opening statement, made at the beginning of this meeting, I stressed more than once the paramount importance that Brazil attaches to the outcomes of the work on allocation criteria. My Delegation very much appreciated to notice that the majority of the Commission, if not its entirety, highlighted the constructive spirit in which we worked to achieve such outcomes. This situation made us believe that a new time had finally come to ICCAT - a time for understanding and confidence building. In this regular meeting, following your suggestion, Madam, the members of Panel 4 met several times in order to reach consensus on the issue of South Atlantic swordfish quota sharing.

Sincerely, Brazil was expecting to find the same level of understanding and flexibility proved in the Working Group on Allocation Criteria. Unfortunately, we were highly disappointed to notice that not all participating delegations were eager to work in such a spirit. Despite the political will to reach compromise shown by most of those involved in the negotiations - by the way, Brazil wholeheartedly commends Japan's remarkable efforts to build a positive ground to consensus - it was not possible to move forward. This circumstance is deeply regrettable taking into account that its negative consequences will be spread over a large range of fronts. From the sustainability of the relevant stocks to the overall credibility of ICCAT, the implications of not reaching a consensus for the second consecutive year may be disastrous. But what upset my Delegation the most, was the lack of commitment to the results of the exercise we finished last week so successfully - the establishment of the new criteria for the allocation of quotas. The list we achieved here in Murcia seems to be a mirage that fades away and vanishes the more we get close to it.

We are presently living a change in the relationship between developed and developing fishing states. This Commission has efficiently and courageously driven its members states into a new scenario which now requires a more fair and equitable participation of all states in the high seas fisheries. This new scenario, however, is being negatively affected by the intransigence of some delegations that refuse to accept the changes of times and insist to ignore three years of time and financial resources consuming efforts spent in the development of new criteria for the quota allocation. This attitude not only critically endangers the sustainability of highly migratory fish stocks but, mainly, it implies the disrespect of the new legal framework which emerged from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as from others relevant international legal instruments related to fisheries. The Convention and the referred legal instruments guarantee the rights of developing coastal states to develop their fisheries in the high seas.

We live once more a serious moment in ICCAT. Again the credibility of the Commission is at stake. The agreement to roll over the present situation regarding South Atlantic swordfish sharing arrangement is regrettable. This "déjà vue" situation could have been avoided specially taking into account that some commendable proposals, based on equity and fairness, have been put on the table.

We will go back home again in the shadows of deception and of deterioration of hope.

*Proposal by Brazil for a  
Recommendation by ICCAT On south Atlantic swordfish catch limits*

Recalling that the Recommendation on South Atlantic Swordfish adopted at the 2000 Commission meeting required the Commission to negotiate and adopt a sharing arrangement for the TAC for South Atlantic Swordfish in its 2001 meeting;

Further recalling that the Working Group of Allocation Criteria developed the Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibility;

Recognizing the special nature of swordfish by-catch by the Japanese tuna longline fishery and the disproportionately large reduction of Japanese quota for this stock;

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommends that:

1. For 2002 TAC and the catch limits are as follows:

TAC	16,700 MT	National shares
Brazil	3,590 MT	21.5%
EC-Total	6,000 MT	35.9%
Japan	2,000 MT	12.0%
South Africa	1,250 MT	7.5%
Namibia	1,250 MT	7.5%
Uruguay	900 MT	5.4%
United States	290 MT	1.7%
China	360 MT	2.2%
Chinese Taipei	890 MT	5.3%
Others	170 MT	1.0%

2.a For 2003, 2004 and 2005, TACs are as follows, subject to a review in light of the stock assessment by SCRS in 2002.

	TAC
2003	15,950 MT
2004	15,300 MT
2005	14,600 MT

2.b Notwithstanding paragraph 2A, and based on the 2002 stock assessment, the TACs for 2003, 2004 and 2005 shall be modified to achieve replacement yield by 2005 or sooner.

3. The national shares in 2002 shall be applied to the TAC of 2003.

4. The application of these shares may continue for 2004 and 2005, while such application is subject to the approval by the Commission at its 2003 meeting. The Commission shall endeavor to establish a long term sharing arrangement by 2003, taking full account of the new allocation criteria agreed upon in 2001.

5. At its 2002 meeting, the Commission shall consider and, if appropriate, adopt a management measure (such as percentage limit as against the total catch of Japan) for the Japanese by-catch of South Atlantic swordfish so that such by-catch will be treated outside the above sharing arrangement. If such by-catch management measure is not adopted, the catch limits for Japan shall be maintained at 1,910 MT in the remaining period of this sharing arrangement. When a new sharing arrangement is developed, due account shall be taken of the Japanese original share 25.75%.

**REPORT OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT  
OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) met at the Hotel Melia 7 Coronas in Murcia, Spain, on the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission. In the absence of the PWG Chairman, the meeting was opened by the Commission Chairman, José Ramón Barañano.

**2. Election of the Chairman for the 2001 PWG meeting**

Ms. Kimberly Blankenbeker (United States) was elected to serve as the PWG Chairperson for the 2001 meeting.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

After altering the Agenda to include election of the 2001 PWG Chair as new Agenda item 2 and adjusting the numbering of Agenda items accordingly, the Agenda was adopted with one additional change. The point "Other matters" was added to agenda item 7(c), under which new approaches to addressing IUU fishing activities would be discussed. The revised Agenda is attached as **Appendix I to ANNEX 14**.

**4. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Holly Koehler (United States) served as Rapporteur.

**5. Status of implementation of ICCAT recommendations adopted by the Commission relative to the Bluefin Statistical Document**

5.1 A representative from the ICCAT Secretariat referred to document COM/01/026 and informed the PWG that the Secretariat does not currently have the most up-to-date information on the validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents (BTSDs) from Contracting Parties. He noted that the Commission needs to consider ways to improve the exchange of this information. In this regard, he reported that the issues of applying the BTSD program to farmed tuna and the utility of using the ICCAT web site to facilitate the exchange of validation information were discussed during the Meeting of Technical Experts to Develop Statistical Document Programs for Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish, held in Silver Spring, Maryland (USA) July 16-18, 2001.

5.2 The Representative of the United States noted that the United States strongly supported using the ICCAT web site to facilitate exchange of validation information. The Representative of Japan concurred.

5.3 The Representative of Japan then briefly reviewed its BTSD records from 2000 and the first half of 2001. During this period, Japan imported 15,863 MT in 2000 and 7,222 MT in the first half of 2001. The quantity imported from Contracting Parties in 2000 was 13,578 MT and 6,072 MT in 2001. The quantity imported from non-Contracting Parties was 2,285 MT in 2000 and 1,150 MT in 2001. The share from Contracting Parties is about 85 percent. There were no imports recorded from Sierra Leone until 2001 when Japan imported 249 MT. Imports from Malta increased to 598 MT in 2000 and imports for 2001 equaled 66 MT. Imports from Turkey have increased with Japan importing 534 MT in 2000 and 417 MT in 2001. Japan imported bluefin tuna from Iceland from 1999 (32 MT), 2000 (34 MT) and 2001 (5 MT). Japan first imported bluefin tuna from Denmark (in respect



of the Faroe Islands) in 1998. Japan imported 128 MT in 2000 and 38 MT in 2001. Japan has had no imports from Belize, Honduras, or Equatorial Guinea since the import bans were implemented for those nations in 1997 (Belize and Honduras) and 2000 (Equatorial Guinea).

#### **6. Consideration of the Report of the Meeting of Technical Experts for the Development of Statistical Document Programs, including any draft Recommendations**

6.1 In referring to the Report of the Meeting of Technical Experts to Develop Statistical Document Programs for Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish (attached as ANNEX 15), the PWG Chair, who also chaired the Experts meeting, noted that the meeting was quite successful and that representatives from six contracting parties attended the meeting. She summarized the issues that were left pending, which included: (1) the date of implementation for the proposed bigeye tuna and swordfish statistical document programs; (2) whether to include an exemption in the bigeye tuna statistical document for purse seine and bait boat catch that is destined for canneries; (3) whether to apply these programs to all oceans or limit their scope to just the ICCAT Convention Area; (4) if a 5 % tolerance between the weight listed on the statistical document and the actual weight at importation should be included; and (5) whether to adopt a standardized reporting form for transmitting government validation information to the ICCAT Secretariat on government validation—which would apply to any and all of the statistical documents adopted by ICCAT.

6.2 The Representative of the United States stated that the United States was pleased to host the July 2001 Technical Experts Meeting on Statistical Documents for Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish and that the United States was hopeful that differences could be addressed at this meeting to allow adoption of both programs at the 2001 ICCAT meeting.

6.3 The Representative of Japan explained that it was proposing to drop its proposal for a five percent tolerance, as it could cause some problems in implementation and that it caused concern for other parties. Japan indicated it understood the need to find accommodation for the difficulties associated with applying the bigeye statistical document program to purse seine and baitboat catches destined for canneries and indicated Japan could be flexible on this point.

6.4 Regarding the area of coverage, the Representative of Japan explained that the documentation program should apply worldwide or there would be a loophole. As an accommodation, Japan stated that the information requirement for bigeye tuna taken from areas outside the Convention area should be less than for Atlantic product.

6.5 The Representative of EC explained that it had misgivings in two aspects. First, because the bigeye tuna statistical document (BETSD) program is meant to combat the IUU activities of large-scale longline vessels, the BETSD program should only apply to longline caught fish. The exception clause for purse seines and bait boats is too vague. The EC expressed a willingness to work with Japan on language, but indicated that arriving at a suitable accommodation could be difficult. Second, the representative of the EC stressed that the statistical document programs must apply only in the ICCAT Convention area given the terms of the Convention. The representative of the EC noted that programs that addressed the biological unity of a stock such as that for toothfish in CCAMLR were a special case; therefore, it was acceptable for a trade tracking program to extend to fish outside the Convention area. This was less clear in the case of ICCAT.

6.6 The Representative of the EC also explained that the EC would need the flexibility afforded in the BTSD program that allows government validation among its member states.

6.7 There was some discussion of the above points, with several parties expressing the need to implement the program as soon as possible with worldwide coverage for all gears, but with a specific exemption for purse seine and bait boat caught bigeye tuna destined for canneries. Some noted the need for establishing a date certain for implementation of the programs. These parties felt that implementing only in the Convention area and only for longline vessels would create too many loopholes. These parties felt that worldwide coverage would not be necessarily be extending ICCAT regulations beyond the Convention area, but would simply be collecting information in a way necessary to allow effective implementation of the statistical document programs.

6.8 There was some discussion as to whether or not the bigeye statistical document program would cover all bigeye from its start, or if only frozen product would be covered in the beginning. Some parties noted the difficulty of implementing programs for fresh product right away. Similar to the start of the BTSD, it was pointed out that the proposed recommendation for bigeye tuna only called frozen product to be covered at this time.

6.9 The representative of Brazil expressed concern about the wording of the validation section, saying that the exporting country should be able to validate the BETSD instead of the flag state of the vessel. This is important because of chartered vessels. There was general agreement that this concern could be addressed.

6.10 There was some discussion of harmonizing statistical document programs, and the Secretariat explained that it had received several informal positive responses from other regional fishery management organizations about implementing worldwide coverage of the bigeye tuna and swordfish statistical document programs. In addition, he noted that there would be an FAO meeting on harmonization of statistical programs in the United States in early 2002.

6.11 After additional consultations on the issues of concern, the PWG adopted the *Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program* (see ANNEX 9-16) and the *Recommendation Establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program* (see ANNEX 9-17). In addition, the PWG agreed to adopt a *Supplemental Resolution Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program*, which allows vessels covered by the Japan-Chinese Taipei scrapping and re-registration program to be covered by the bigeye tuna statistical document program (see ANNEX 9-18).

6.12 Although supportive of the bigeye tuna statistical document recommendation, the United States expressed concern that the operational language of the recommendation produced an illogical result in that an ICCAT documentation requirement would apply to Pacific origin fish delivered to Pacific canneries but not to Atlantic origin fish delivered to Atlantic canneries. The United States requested review of implementation of the program and, in particular, of the provisions dealing with purse seine and baitboat catches destined for canneries at the 2002 meeting of ICCAT or as soon as feasible thereafter. The United States also noted that, like the Swordfish Statistical Document Program, it would have preferred establishment of a data certain for implementation of the Bigeye Statistical Document Program. Finally, the United States reiterated its hope that the ICCAT web site could be used to make the information relevant to both the bigeye and swordfish documents more accessible to importers and exporters in real time.

6.13 Japan supported the adoption of the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program and noted for the record that ICCAT may need to review the issue of charters vis a vis the program in the future.

6.14 The Chair of the PWG recognized the participation as an observer by the Republic of Togo and asked if the Delegate would like to make any remarks. The Delegate from the Republic of Togo noted that it was participating as an observer in this meeting, but that the Republic of Togo was interested in acceding to the Convention in the near future.

6.15 The Chair of the PWG noted that two additional issues under this Agenda item merited some discussion: (1) improving the application of farmed tuna in the BTSD program and (2) issues related to the use of conversion factors. The SCRS Chairman was asked to report on the conversion factors issue.

6.16 The SCRS Chairman reported that the Commission requested the SCRS to update the five different conversion factors currently in use. To do this the SCRS examined recent scientific studies and ascertained that these studies did not result in any conclusions that were significantly different from the older studies, upon which the current conversion factors are based. However, the SCRS Chairman did note one exception and that was that the new information suggested that the current "others" category ought to be broken out into "others" and "loins." Therefore, the SCRS Chairman recommended that the Commission continue to use the existing conversion factors and separate the "others" category into "others" and "loins."

6.17 The Delegate of the United States indicated a desire to have further discussions on how to enhance the BTSD program by incorporating farmed fish in some manner, although they did not have a specific proposal on this issue at this time.

6.18 The Delegate of Japan reminded the PWG that at the Technical Experts Meeting the European Community indicated that it would present some information to clarify the farmed fish issue. The delegate of Japan noted that this issue is of concern to them because Japan buys this product and is conducting research. The Delegate further noted that Japan was planning to present information on the issue at a later time.

6.19 The Delegate of the European Community noted that it intended to present some information regarding the farmed fish issue in due course.

## **7. Review of cooperation by Non-Contracting parties/entities/fishing entities and determination of needed actions**

The PWG agreed to examine this agenda item instrument by instrument and country by country. The Chair drew the attention of the Working Group to Commission document COM/01/025 and its addenda which summarized correspondence between various countries/entities/fishing entities and ICCAT since the 2000 Commission meeting

### **7.a Bluefin Tuna Action Plan**

7.a.1 **Belize.** The Delegate of Belize summarized the information submitted to ICCAT regarding the actions it has undertaken to address this issue. Given these efforts, Belize requested that the PWG suspend the trade sanctions, emphasizing that to do so would send a powerful and positive signal to the Government of Belize that it is on the right track. Many PWG members expressed appreciation for the efforts of Belize to address this issue, but it was noted that these efforts are still in their preliminary stages and therefore there are many steps that remain to be implemented. Japan also expressed the concern that to lift the sanctions now could result in the IUU vessels returning to Belize. Canada emphasized that it would like to see further progress and concrete results from Belize's efforts before the sanctions are lifted. The PWG agreed to maintain trade sanctions but also agreed that the Commission should send a letter to convey its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by Belize, encourage continued progress in these efforts, and emphasize that the Commission will revisit this issue next year. The combined letter to Belize pursuant to both the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans is attached as **Appendix 2-1 to ANNEX 14.**

7.a.2 **Honduras.** The Chair of the PWG noted that Honduras is a new member of ICCAT and therefore suggested that discussions concerning Honduras and the Action Plans should be held by the PWG and that concurrence with any recommendations should be sought from the Compliance Committee, as needed. A response by Honduras was submitted, which indicated a number of actions taken to reduce the number of vessels on its registry. The PWG agreed to recommend that bluefin and swordfish trade sanctions be lifted and that a letter of encouragement be sent to Honduras which affirmatively notes their progress but also emphasizes that tangible results will be very important in the review of this issue next year in the Compliance Committee. The letter to Honduras concerning sanctions is attached as **Appendix 2-2 to ANNEX 14.** The *Recommendation Concerning the Importation of Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish and Their Products from Honduras* is attached as **ANNEX 9-19.**

7.a.3 **Turkey.** The PWG agreed that the Commission should send Turkey a letter encouraging continued progress regarding the steps it has taken to address the concerns of ICCAT, to encourage Turkey to become a member of the Commission and to inform Turkey that ICCAT will continue to monitor the situation. The Delegate from Turkey presented the information contained in their response letter to the Commission, which indicates a significant reduction in the number of purse-seine vessels operating as well as its catch, but also noted that it did not understand why it received a warning letter last year. The statement by Turkey responding to the letter of warning of January 2001 is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 14.** The letter to Turkey is attached as **Appendix 2-3 to ANNEX 14.**

7.a.4 **Malta, Iceland, Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands), and Norway.** The PWG agreed to take no further action relative to Malta, Iceland and Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) other than to send letters to encouraging these states to make continued progress to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures. The PWG agreed to take no further action regarding Norway given its response to the letter sent by the Commission in 2000 and that there was no evidence of continued fishing. The Delegate from Malta noted that it

had reviewed the data and that some of it was not correct, so new information was submitted. The letters to Malta, Iceland, and Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) are attached as **Appendices 2-4, 2-5, and 2-6**, respectively, to **ANNEX 14**.

**7.a.5 Guinea Bissau.** The PWG agreed to take no further action regarding Guinea Bissau given that there is no evidence of fishing in 2001 but agreed to continue to monitor its activities.

**7.a.6 Sierra Leone.** The Chair of PWG reviewed the actions taken in respect to Sierra Leone. In 1998 a warning letter was sent pursuant to both the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans; in 1999 no further action was taken under the Action Plans but Sierra Leone was identified under the 1998 UJ Resolution; and in 2000 no further action was taken pursuant to the 1998 UJ Resolution. Based on import data that 249 MT of western Atlantic bluefin tuna was harvested by Sierra Leone in the first half of the 2001 and that several vessels flagged to Sierra Leone and operating in the Atlantic are on the IUU vessels list, the PWG agreed to identify Sierra Leone under the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan. The combined letter to Sierra Leone regarding the identifications under the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans and the 1998 UJ Resolution is attached as **Appendix 2-7 to ANNEX 14**.

### **7.b Swordfish Action Plan**

**7.b.1** The Chair noted that the import data provided by the United States in its 2001 National Report and by Japan as well as the transshipment information provided by the EC and the working IUU vessel list provided by Japan formed the basis for the PWG's deliberations on this Agenda item.

**7.b.2 Belize.** The PWG agreed to recommend the same action relative to Belize as was decided under the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan, which was to continue the trade sanctions and to send Belize a letter of encouragement regarding their efforts to address these issues. The Observer from Belize expressed the view that it was unfortunate that they could not get greater consideration in this body; however, he noted that they now had a number of vessels that could be removed from the IUU vessel list. Belize also noted that it needed detailed information on those vessels still on the IUU vessels list in order to enforce further registry delctions. The Delegate from Japan noted their appreciation for Belize's efforts and indicated that they would get the detailed information requested. The combined letter to Belize pursuant to both the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans is attached as **Appendix 2-1 to ANNEX 14**.

**7.b.3 Honduras.** The PWG agreed to recommend the same action relative to Honduras as was decided pursuant to the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan, which was to lift the trade sanctions and to send a letter of encouragement that also informs Honduras that their situation would be reviewed next year in the Compliance Committee under the 1996 Compliance Recommendation. The Delegate of Japan noted that the inconsistencies in the Action Plans and Compliance Recommendation that prevents the PWG from maintaining trade sanctions on a new member of the Commission should be addressed. Canada agreed with Japan and expressed a willingness to work with Japan on how to enhance or clarify the application of the Action Plans. The Delegate from the European Community sympathized with Japan but noted that there was a clear legal situation here and this case must be addressed in the Compliance Committee. The combined letter to Honduras pursuant to both the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans is attached as **Appendix 2-2 to ANNEX 14**. The *Recommendation Concerning the Importation of Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish and Their Products from Honduras* is attached as **ANNEX 9-19**.

**7.b.4 Vanuatu.** The PWG agreed to continue to monitor the situation and take no further action. The Delegate of Japan noted that it does have information that Vanuatu has harvested bigeye tuna in the Atlantic, which it will raise under the relevant agenda item.

**7.b.5 Barbados, Iceland, Argentina, Liberia, and Mozambique.** The PWG agreed that there was no evidence to warrant taking any further action with respect to Barbados, Iceland, Argentina, Liberia, or Mozambique. The PWG noted that Barbados had recently joined the Commission and matters of compliance should be addressed by the Compliance Committee in the future. The activities of the other four countries should continue to be monitored. In addition, the PWG requested the ICCAT Secretariat to continue to liaise with Mozambique in order to clarify the data it submitted to the Commission in 2001 and asked the Secretariat to report back to the PWG in 2002.

**7.b.6 Grenada.** The Observer from CARICOM made a statement on behalf of Grenada in order to explain the economic circumstances and conditions that surround its multi-species fishery, stressing that the catches are primarily for local subsistence consumption. This statement was submitted and is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 14**. The United States and Canada expressed the view that this situation should be monitored and that the Commission would be concerned with a developing fishery on already over-exploited stocks. The Delegate from Canada noted concern about sending a signal that the Commission sees the current catches by Grenada as acceptable when, in fact, Grenada is fishing for stocks for which it does not have a quota. Notwithstanding the current economic situation in Grenada, in the past, ICCAT has viewed such actions as undermining ICCAT conservation and management measures. Japan also emphasized the need for Grenada to collect and submit data to the Commission for stock assessments. The PWG agreed that the limited information available did not warrant any action at this time, but the Commission should send a letter to Grenada to ask for its cooperation on data collection and to inform Grenada of the potential actions ICCAT could take if its swordfish harvests increase. The letter to Grenada is attached as **Appendix 2-8 to ANNEX 14**.

**7.b.7 Netherlands Antilles.** The PWG agreed that no action was needed at this time but that this situation should be monitored and the Netherlands Antilles should be encouraged to provide catch data. The Observer from the Netherlands Antilles informed the PWG that it was very near to becoming a member of the Commission.

**7.b.8 Sierra Leone.** Based on import data that 11 MT of swordfish was harvested by Sierra Leone in the first half of the 2001 and that several vessels flagged to Sierra Leone that are operating in the Atlantic are on the IUU vessels list, the PWG agreed to identify Sierra Leone under the Swordfish Action Plan. The combined letter to Sierra Leone regarding the identifications under the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans and the 1998 UU Resolution is attached as **Appendix 2-7 to ANNEX 14**.

**7.b.9 Republic of Togo.** The European Community informed the PWG that it has data on catches from the Republic of Togo that were turned away from European Community ports. The PWG agreed to send a letter to the Republic of Togo requesting information on its catches and to encourage it to cooperate with ICCAT. The letter to the Republic of Togo is attached as **Appendix 2-9 to ANNEX 14**.

**7.c Activities relative to the Resolution on unregulated and unreported catches of tuna by large-scale longline vessels in the Convention area**

**7.c.1** The Delegate of Japan introduced a document comparing relevant information on countries vis a vis the 1998 UU Resolution. The Delegate noted it should be used as a reference for these discussions. The Chair of the PWG also noted that the bigeye tuna import data, the information on IUU business relations, and the working vessel list provided by Japan were also relevant to discussions under this Agenda item. The bigeye tuna import data and the information on IUU business relations can be requested from Japan. Japan's working vessel list is available for reference from the ICCAT Secretariat.

*2001 IUU vessel list*

**7.c.2** A number of delegations (Iceland, Denmark on behalf of the Faroe Islands, the Republic of Korea, and Belize) noted that the working IUU vessels list included specific vessels flagged to those states. These delegations requested that those vessels be deleted from the list.

**7.c.3** Several PWG members raised concerns with the IUU vessels list submitted by Japan, noting that this list still included vessel names that had been agreed to be deleted from the list in 2000. Brazil, the European Community, the Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, South Africa, and the Observer from Belize commended Japan for their efforts to compile the IUU vessels list; however, a number of these delegations also noted that there needs to be a clear set of criteria developed regarding when to place a vessel on the IUU list. It was noted that clear criteria and a process is necessary to improve the legitimacy of the list and to make it more useful for governments when taking action against those vessels. It was further noted that the proposed 2002 working group suggested by Japan to consider IUU fishing issues (see Agenda item 7.c - Other matters) would be the appropriate place to make progress on establishing such criteria.

7.c.4 The Delegate from the People's Republic of China noted that it had some questions regarding the information that is contained in Japan's working IUU vessels list, but emphasized that such a list is still a valuable tool. China requested that three of its flag vessels be deleted from the current vessel list, and it was agreed to move them to the reference vessel list. The Observer from the Philippines made a statement regarding Philippine vessels fishing in the Atlantic and to express concern over the method and criteria used to develop the list. The Philippines also requested that the 14 Philippine vessels that are on the list and suspected of IUU business relations be deleted. The statement made by the Delegate from the Philippines was submitted and is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 14**.

7.c.5 Based on these discussions, the PWG agreed to merge into one document Japan's working IUU vessel list with the list approved by ICCAT in 2000 (in *Report for Biennial Period, 2000-01, Part I, 2000, Vol. 1* as Appendix 10 to Annex 10). The merged list is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 14**. The PWG also agreed to attach to its report an historical IUU list as a reference document. The historical list is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 14**.

#### *Identifications and other actions*

7.c.6 **St. Vincent and the Grenadines.** The Observer from St. Vincent and the Grenadines presented information on the actions it has taken to address ICCAT's concerns. Trinidad and Tobago noted that given the actions taken by St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the PWG should give further consideration to suspending the sanctions. Japan, Canada, and the United States commended St. Vincent and the Grenadines for their efforts and encouraged the completion of the remedial action plan, but noted that many steps of this plan remained to be implemented. The PWG could not support the immediate lifting of the bigeye tuna sanctions agreed at the 2001 ICCAT meeting. In view of circumstances, however, the PWG supported adoption of a measure that would lift the sanctions as of January 2003, pending satisfactory review of the situation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the 2002 ICCAT meeting. The *Recommendation Concerning the Importation of Bigeye Tuna and Bigeye Tuna Products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines* is attached as **ANNEX 9-20**, and the accompanying letter from the Commission to St. Vincent and the Grenadines is attached as **Appendix 2-10 to ANNEX 14**.

7.c.7 **Belize.** Japan and the United States commended Belize for the progress it has made in recent months to address problem fishing, but noted that Belize has a long record of IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention Area so its situation was fundamentally different from that of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The PWG agreed to maintain the current trade sanctions against Belize but to also send a letter encouraging continued progress. The combined letter to Belize pursuant to both the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans and the 1998 UU Resolution is attached as **Appendix 2-1 to ANNEX 14**.

7.c.8 **Cambodia.** The PWG agreed to maintain trade sanctions against Cambodia given that it had not responded to the 2000 letter, there is import data showing harvests of bigeye tuna by vessels flagged to Cambodia, and several vessels flagged to Cambodia appear on the IUU vessels list. A letter notifying Cambodia of this information is attached as **Appendix 2-11 to ANNEX 14**.

7.c.9 **Sierra Leone.** Based on import data that 152 MT of bigeye tuna was harvested by Sierra Leone in the first half of the 2001 and that several vessels flagged to Sierra Leone that are operating in the Atlantic are on the IUU vessels list, the PWG agreed to identify Sierra Leone under the 1998 UU Resolution. The combined letter to Sierra Leone regarding the identifications under the Swordfish and Bluefin Tuna Action Plans and the 1998 UU Resolution is attached as **Appendix 2-7 to ANNEX 14**.

7.c.10 **Philippines.** The PWG recognized that the Philippines was taking action to delete IUU vessels from its register and agreed that no action under the 1998 UU resolution was warranted. The statement of the Philippines is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 14**.

7.c.11 **Bolivia and Indonesia.** The PWG agreed to identify both Bolivia and Indonesia under the 1998 UU Resolution based on bigeye tuna import data presented by Japan and the presence of vessels flagged to both countries on the IUU vessels list. Canada and the European Community both noted for the record some concern with this approach. Both delegations expressed some misgivings with the level of information available to make these identifications, specifically, as well as generally with the lack of specific criteria and procedures by which

ICCAT identifies a country or imposes or removes trade sanctions pursuant to the 1998 IU Resolution and the Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish Action Plans. Canada and the European Community both emphasized their commitment to addressing IUU fishing activities, but stressed that any actions taken by ICCAT must be beyond reproach. Both Parties recognized, however, that identification of these countries in 2001 was not a recommendation for the application of trade restrictions. Rather, a second identification would have to be made by the Commission in 2002 before such sanctions could be recommended. The letters of identification to Bolivia and Indonesia are attached as **Appendices 2-12 and 2-13 to ANNEX 14**, respectively.

**7.c.12 Seychelles.** The PWG agreed to send a letter to the Seychelles requesting information on its catch levels in the Atlantic given that 65 MT of bigeye was exported by the Seychelles to Japan in 2000. The letter to the Seychelles is attached as **Appendix 2-14 to ANNEX 14**.

**7.c.13 Vanuatu.** The PWG agreed to identify Vanuatu based on evidence of increasing harvests of bigeye and the presence of several vessels flagged to Vanuatu on the IUU vessels list. The PWG also noted that any information Vanuatu could provide to clarify its catches in the Atlantic would be helpful. The letter of identification to Vanuatu is attached as **Appendix 2-15 to ANNEX 14**.

**7.c.14 Chinese Taipei.** Japan raised the question of whether the Commission could identify Chinese Taipei under the 1998 IU Resolution because of their IUU business networks, although Japan noted it was not seeking to identify Chinese Taipei at this meeting. The Observer from Chinese Taipei made a statement (attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 14**) regarding its progress to address IUU and willingness to continue to work with ICCAT. Chinese Taipei pointed out that additional information on its progress to address IUU fishing has been circulated to the PWG members, which is attached as **Appendix 9 to Annex 14**.

#### *Other matters*

**7.c.15** The Delegate of Japan introduced several documents relating to the efforts of Japan to address IUU fishing activities, including (1) actions taken pursuant to the *Supplemental Resolution by ICCAT on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures* (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 13**); (2) a scrap vessel list (see **ANNEX 9-18**); and (3) a report of non-purchase administrative guidance on IUU-caught tunas (attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 14**). The Delegate of Japan also referred to the new information Japan provided to the PWG regarding the kind and extent of business relationships and networks involved in IUU fishing activities. The Delegate of Japan highlighted that these kinds of business networks between buyers, importers, and vessel owners are used to "launder fish" to import to Japan in contravention of trade sanctions. Japan urged the Commission to consider taking counter measures to address this aspect of IUU fishing activities and introduced a proposal on this topic. After some debate, the PWG adopted Japan's proposed resolution concerning more effective measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by tuna longline vessels. The proposal calls for an inter-sessional meeting in the spring 2002 in Japan. The agreed *Resolution Concerning More Effective Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing by Tuna Longline Vessels* is attached as **ANNEX 9-21**. Although supportive of the resolution, the representative of China noted a reservation to the penultimate preambular paragraph, noting that it was unclear that this was a correct statement. In addition, the representative of Canada noted Canada's support of a working group meeting as proposed in Japan's resolution but also noted for the record that Canada would be unable to implement paragraph 6b of the resolution requesting parties to instruct their residents to refrain from engaging in activities that support IUU fishing due to the requirements of Canada's domestic laws.

**7.c.16** The representative of the United States introduced a proposal to further define the scope of IUU fishing. Canada noted that although it would not block consensus on the proposal, it must state for the record that Canada would not be able to implement this resolution because it is not in line with its domestic laws. The Observer from Mexico noted that in regards to its future accession to the Commission, Mexico could not legally implement this Resolution domestically. Canada also requested that the report note its reservation to paragraphs 73 and 74 of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing, which were cited by the United States as the basis for part of its proposal. The PWG adopted the U.S. proposal for a *Resolution Further Defining the Scope of IUU Fishing*, which is attached as **ANNEX 9-22**.

**7.c.17** The observer from Belize requested that Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, and the Commission provide vessel information and trade data as well as any other evidence that

will be used in the PWG in advance of the yearly meeting in order to allow small delegations sufficient time to review the information and provide a reasoned response.

7.c.18 The representative of Greenpeace International submitted a statement to the record concerning ways to address IUU fishing. This statement is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 14**.

#### **7.d Consideration of applications for Cooperating Status**

7.d.1 The PWG considered the applications for Cooperating Status by Mexico, Chinese Taipei, and the Philippines.

7.d.2 **Mexico.** The Observer from Mexico clarified its intention to seek Cooperating Status for 2002 and noted both that Mexico has been a Cooperating Party for the last three years and that it was very near to acceding to the Convention. Mexico's request was enthusiastically supported by many members of the PWG. The United States, in welcoming Mexico as a Cooperating Party, did note its concern over Mexico's increase in bluefin tuna catches in recent years and reminded Mexico to be mindful of its obligation to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures while it enjoys Cooperating Party status. The Commission's letter to Mexico is attached as **Appendix 12-1 to ANNEX 14**.

7.d.3 **Chinese Taipei.** The Observer from Chinese Taipei summarized its contributions to ICCAT since it began attending as an observer in 1972. China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States all voiced support for Chinese Taipei's request for continued cooperating status. The PWG agreed to grant Chinese Taipei's request and to note in its acceptance letter that Chinese Taipei should continue its efforts to address IUU fishing. The letter to Chinese Taipei is attached as **Appendix 12-2 to ANNEX 14**.

7.d.4 **Philippines.** The Observer from the Philippines summarized its actions to comply with ICCAT measures. China and Japan supported the Philippine request. The PWG agreed to grant Cooperating Party status to the Philippines. The letter to the Philippines is attached as **Appendix 12-3 to ANNEX 14**.

7.d.5 The PWG agreed to a proposal to amend the 1997 Resolution concerning becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, originally submitted by China at the 2000 meeting and reconsidered in 2001. The adopted *Resolution on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* is attached as **ANNEX 9-23**. The United States noted its view that Cooperating Status should be considered transitory for those who can become parties to the Convention.

### **8. Repercussions of the various international fishery agreements on the work of the PWG**

The Chair of the PWG noted the importance of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and the 1995 United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which has or will very soon enter into force, on the work of the PWG and ICCAT.

### **9. Measures to improve fishery statistics requested by ICCAT**

9.1 Japan introduced a resolution proposing that a data issues workshop be held just prior to the 2002 ICCAT meeting. This proposal was originally introduced in 2000 but consideration of it was deferred to the 2001 meeting given concerns that the Commission workload in 2001 could not accommodate another meeting. For reference, the "Draft Resolution on a Joint SCRS, Compliance Committee, and PWG Workshop Concerning Data Issues" is attached as **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 14**.

9.2 While the PWG noted general support for such a workshop, concern was again expressed about the number of intersessional activities of the Commission scheduled for 2002; thus, the PWG decided to defer this proposal for another year. It will be reconsidered at the 2002 ICCAT meeting. The representative of the EC suggested that the parties consider the need to include the Compliance Committee in the proposed joint workshop given that the Committee does not have a data collection mandate and the concern by some with regard to using scientific data for compliance evaluation purposes.



#### **10. Election of Chair**

The Working Group unanimously elected Ms. Kimberly Blankenkemper (United States) as the Chair of the PWG for the next biennial period.

#### **11. Future work and meetings of the PWG**

The PWG agreed to meet at the time and place of the next Commission meeting.

#### **12. Other matters**

The Representative of Canada introduced document outlining some views on the use of trade measures to promote conservation. He stressed that trade measures can serve a useful purpose; however, they should be applied consistently and in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. Canada noted its document, which is attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 14** was designed to assist the working group to be held in Japan in 2002 in its effort to develop criteria to improve ICCAT's decision making concerning the use of trade sanctions.

#### **13. Adoption of the Report**

The PWG agreed to adopt its 2001 meeting report by mail.

#### **14. Adjournment**

The Chair thanked the members of the Working Group for their hard work over the last week. She also noted the excellent work of the Rapporteur and the exceptional support provided by the ICCAT Secretariat and the interpreters during the meeting. The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PWG was adjourned on Monday, November 19, 2001.

## Appendix 1 to ANNEX 14

## Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Chairman for the 2001 PWG Meeting
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Appointment of Rapporteur
5. Status of implementation of ICCAT recommendations adopted by the Commission relative to the Bluefin Statistical Document
6. Consideration of the Report of the meeting of Technical Experts for the development of statistical document programs, including any draft Recommendations
7. Review of Cooperation by Non-contracting parties /entities /fishing entities and determination of needed actions
  - a) Bluefin Tuna Action Plan
    - Responses to the Commission's letters
    - Estimates of unreported catches (including catch and trade information), vessel sighting reports, and other information
    - Actions
  - b) Swordfish Action Plan
    - Responses to the Commission's letters
    - Estimates of unreported catches (including catch and trade information), vessel sighting reports, and other information
    - Actions
  - c) Activities relative to the Resolution on unregulated and unreported catches of tuna by large-scale longline vessels in the Convention Area
    - Responses to the Commission's letters
    - Review of additional data and information
    - Actions
    - Other matters
  - d) Consideration of applications for Cooperating Status
8. Repercussions of the various international fishery agreements on the work of the PWG
9. Measures to improve fishery statistics requested by ICCAT
10. Election of Chair
11. Future work and meetings of the Permanent Working Group
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of Report
14. Adjournment

### Commission Chairman's Letters to Non-Contracting Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities

#### *2.1 Letter to Belize regarding maintenance of BFT and SWO sanctions and maintenance of BET sanctions*

Each year, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviews the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998, (the 1998 Resolution). That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions in place.

During its 2000 annual meeting, the Commission examined available information that indicated that large-scale longline vessels of your country continued to operate in the Convention Area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Available information also indicated that bigeye tuna was the primary species targeted by these vessels. In light of this information, ICCAT adopted a recommendation to require action by Contracting Parties resulting in a prohibition on the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Belize (Ref: 00-15). In addition, the Commission decided at this meeting to maintain previous recommendations requiring Contracting Parties to prohibit the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna (Ref: 96-11) and Atlantic swordfish (Ref: 99-8) and their products in any form from Belize.

At its most recent meeting in 2001, the Commission again reviewed available information on the activities of large-scale longline vessels flying the flag of Belize. ICCAT took particular note of the new information presented by Belize on new efforts to initiate a broad program of reform to achieve full compliance with ICCAT measures. The information reviewed this year continues to indicate that vessels registered to Belize persist in engaging in activities that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, and accordingly, the Commission decided to maintain previous recommendations regarding import bans of bluefin tuna, swordfish, and bigeye tuna and their products in any form from Belize, as specified above.

Nonetheless, ICCAT is very encouraged by the efforts that Belize has recently undertaken to begin to reduce substantially the activities of its fishing vessels that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, to adopt revised registration standards, and to develop and implement effective monitoring, control and surveillance methods to its fleet. The Commission urges Belize to continue this initiative, including review and possible cancellation of fishing licenses. ICCAT specifically calls upon Belize to implement ICCAT's conservation and management measures including reporting to ICCAT all catches of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas by vessels under its flag. The Commission also exhorts Belize to formalize its cooperation with ICCAT by becoming a Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to ICCAT.

Information received by ICCAT from Belize will be communicated to all Contracting Parties for a decision, on the basis of documentary evidence, as quickly as possible that the activities of Belizean fishing vessels meet the points in the above paragraph, and, thus, no longer diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation program. Such decision will be communicated to the Contracting Parties by the ICCAT Executive Secretary with a request that actions with the effect of prohibiting import of bigeye tuna be lifted immediately.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith a *Compendium of ICCAT Management Recommendations and Resolutions*, including the 1998 Resolution (Ref: 98-18), the 2000 Recommendation that called for the import

prohibition on bigeye tuna from Belize (Ref: 00-15), and other relevant Recommendations and Resolutions of the Commission. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

## ***2.2 Letter to Honduras regarding lifting of BFT and SWO and Maintenance of BET sanctions***

Based on information available at its 1999 meeting, ICCAT identified Honduras as a nation whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. This action was taken pursuant to ICCAT's 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. At the following Commission meeting in 2000, ICCAT considered information indicating continued fishing by vessels of Honduras that diminished the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. This, coupled with the lack of any response to our earlier correspondence, led ICCAT to adopt a recommendation that had the effect of requiring Contracting Parties to prohibit the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Honduras as of January 1, 2002. I refer specifically to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*.

Also at the 2000 Commission meeting, ICCAT Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities agreed to maintain import restrictions on Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish and their products from Honduras through 2001. These trade measures were originally agreed in 1996 and 1999, respectively. I refer you to the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Tuna Action Plan Resolution* and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the 1995 Swordfish Action Plan Resolution*.

At the 2002 ICCAT meeting, the Commission noted the significant efforts Honduras has recently taken to initiate a broad program of reform to achieve full compliance with ICCAT measures, including substantial reductions in the number of Honduran-flagged tuna vessels and other initiatives to institute effective monitoring and control of its fishing fleet. The Commission also noted that there is no evidence that Honduran flag vessels are harvesting bluefin tuna or swordfish and that Honduras has become a Contracting Party to ICCAT as of January 2001. Given these circumstances, ICCAT adopted a recommendation to lift the import prohibitions on Atlantic bluefin tuna and Atlantic swordfish referred to above. These recommendations will enter into force as soon as possible, unless objections are received from the Contracting Parties.

However, the Commission was unable to take a consensus decision at its 2001 meeting to prevent entry into force of the bigeye tuna import prohibitions agreed in 2000, particularly in light of information that indicated continued bigeye tuna fishing activities by large-scale vessels flagged by Honduras. ICCAT, nonetheless, expresses its expectation that Honduras will complete all necessary steps to ensure that your vessels no longer fish in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Commission will again review all information regarding the activities of vessels flying the flag of Honduras at its 2002 meeting. Given evidence that you have rectified the harvesting activities of your vessels, the Commission will give full consideration to suspending these measures.

For your information, we enclose the above-referenced Recommendations and Resolutions. ICCAT looks forward to your continued participation as a Contracting Party.

## ***2.3 Letter of encouragement to Turkey regarding BFT fishing activities***

Thank you for the information you provided in response to our letter of DATE regarding consideration of Turkey's fishing activities by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) at its 2000 meeting pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Action Plan.

As your representative at the meeting has no doubt reported to you, ICCAT reviewed Turkey's situation pursuant to the Bluefin Action Plan at its 2001 meeting. The Commission expressed appreciation for the steps taken by Turkey to abide by the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT and strongly encouraged Turkey to continue these efforts. In particular, the Commission commented favorably on the decrease

in catch and number of vessels active in the fishery as well as Turkey's participation in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. In addition, information that Turkey's instrument of ratification of the ICCAT Convention is before its Parliament was welcome news to the Commission.

However, the Commission also expressed concern that catches of a sizeable magnitude continue to be made by Turkey. As a result, the Commission decided that though no further action was required under its Bluefin Action Plan at this point in time, it would continue to monitor the situation and consider Turkey's activities at its 2002 meeting. To this end, the Commission urges Turkey to continue to provide it with information on its fishing activities and progress in implementing ICCAT's measures. To assist you in this endeavor, please find attached Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by ICCAT at its 2001 meeting.

#### ***2.4 Letter of encouragement to Malta regarding BFT fishing activities***

Thank you for the information you provided in response to our letter of [date] regarding consideration of Malta's fishing activities by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) at its 2000 meeting pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Action Plan.

As your representative at the meeting has no doubt reported to you, ICCAT reviewed Malta's situation pursuant to the Bluefin Action Plan at its 2001 meeting. The Commission expressed appreciation for the steps taken by Malta to abide by the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT and strongly encouraged Malta to continue these efforts. In particular, the Commission commented favorably on the internal regulations prepared by Malta to allow it to enforce ICCAT measures and its participation in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. In addition, the Commission noted Malta's intention to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party to ICCAT.

However, the Commission also expressed concern that catches of a sizeable magnitude continue to be made by Malta. As a result, the Commission decided that though no further action was required under its Bluefin Action Plan at this point in time, it would continue to monitor the situation and consider Malta's activities at its 2002 meeting. To this end, the Commission urges Malta to continue to provide it with information on its fishing activities and progress in implementing ICCAT's measures. To assist you in this endeavor, please find attached recommendations and resolutions adopted by ICCAT at its 2001 meeting.

#### ***2.5 Letter of encouragement to Iceland regarding BFT and SWO fishing activities***

Thank you for the information you provided in response to our letter of [date] regarding consideration of Iceland's fishing activities by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) at its 2000 meeting pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Action Plan.

As your representative at the meeting has no doubt reported to you, ICCAT reviewed Iceland's situation pursuant to the Bluefin Action Plan at its 2001 meeting. The Commission noted that Icelandic vessels had not caught any bluefin tuna during 2001 and that an import of 5 MT of bluefin tuna by Japan in early 2001 was of frozen product caught near the end of the year 2000.

Pursuant to its Swordfish Action Plan, the Commission also reviewed information provided by Iceland to the effect that no swordfish had been caught in the Convention Area by Icelandic vessels in the past year and a half and that if catches resumed, Iceland would take action to halt them.

The Commission also welcomed Iceland's statement that the completion of ICCAT's Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities removed the main obstacle to Iceland's membership in ICCAT and strongly encouraged Iceland to join the organization as a Contracting Party.

The Commission will continue to monitor Iceland's fishing activities and, should there be evidence of bluefin catches in the ICCAT Convention Area, revisit the issue at its 2002 meeting. To this end, the Commission urges Iceland to continue to provide it with information on its fishing activities and actions taken further to ICCAT's measures. To assist you in this endeavor, please find attached recommendations and resolutions adopted by ICCAT at its 2001 meeting.

### ***2.6 Letter of encouragement to Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) regarding BFT fishing activities***

Thank you for the information you provided in response to our letter of [date] regarding consideration of the Faroe Islands' fishing activities by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) at its 2000 meeting pursuant to the 1994 Bluefin Action Plan.

As your representative at the meeting has no doubt reported to you, ICCAT reviewed the Faroe Islands' situation pursuant to the Bluefin Action Plan at its 2001 meeting. The Commission noted that Faroese vessels had not caught any bluefin tuna during 2001 and that an import of 38 MT of bluefin tuna by Japan in early 2001 was of frozen product caught near the end of the year 2000.

The Commission also welcomed the Faroe Islands' statement that the completion of ICCAT's Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities might lead to a quick decision by Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands) to become a Contracting Party to the organization and strongly encouraged this step.

The Commission will continue to monitor the Faroe Islands' fishing activities and, should there be evidence of bluefin catches in the ICCAT Convention Area, revisit the issue at its 2002 meeting. To this end, the Commission urges the Faroe Islands to continue to provide it with information on its fishing activities and actions taken further to ICCAT's measures. To assist you in this endeavor, please find attached recommendations and resolutions adopted by ICCAT at its 2001 meeting.

### ***2.7 Letter of identification to Sierra Leone concerning the SWO***

This letter is further to earlier correspondence dated [ ] to you from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

At its 2001 meeting, ICCAT reviewed the situation of Sierra Leone pursuant to its Bluefin Action Plan, Swordfish Action Plan and Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area. Under these resolutions, ICCAT reviews information on fishing activities in the Convention Area and identifies those Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose vessels are fishing in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission. Consistent with the process, ICCAT requests any Party so identified to rectify its fishing activities. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take nondiscriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on fish and fish products covered by these resolutions.

In its considerations of Sierra Leone's activities under the Bluefin Action Plan, the Commission noted with concern increased catches in the Convention Area, believed, based on available information, to total 249 MT of bluefin tuna in the first half of 2001.

In its considerations of Sierra Leone's activities under the Swordfish Action Plan, the Commission noted with concern increased catches in the Convention Area, believed, based on available trade information, to total at least 11 MT of swordfish from January to September, 2001.

In its considerations of Sierra Leone's activities under the Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area, the Commission noted with concern increased catches in the Convention Area, believed, based on available trade information, to total at least 152 MT of bigeye tuna in 2001.

The Commission also commented on the lengthy history of interaction with Sierra Leone under all three of the above-mentioned resolutions.

As these activities diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures, the Commission decided to identify Sierra Leone pursuant to the Bluefin Action Plan, the Swordfish Action Plan, and the Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area. The Commission is hereby requesting that Sierra Leone rectify the activities of its flag

vessels so as not to further diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures and to advise the Commission of actions taken in that regard.

The Commission will review the situation of Sierra Leone at its 2002 meeting and consider any actions that may have been taken by Sierra Leone to rectify the fishing activities of its flag vessels. If it is determined that these activities have not been rectified, the Commission will, in accordance with the resolutions referred to above, recommend that Contracting Parties take nondiscriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish, Atlantic bluefin tuna and bigeye tuna and their products from Sierra Leone.

The Commission would encourage Sierra Leone to implement the ICCAT's conservation and management measures and join ICCAT as a Contracting Party or, at a minimum, seek status as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. Please find enclosed a copy of ICCAT's conservation and management measures currently in force as well as those adopted at its 2001 meeting.

The Commission would be pleased to provide any further information or clarification on this issue which your authorities may require.

### ***2.8 Letter of concern to Grenada regarding SWO fishing activities***

We are again writing you to advise of deliberations by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas pursuant to its Swordfish Action Plan of Grenada's fishing activities. For your convenience, a copy of our earlier communication of January 22, 2001, is attached.

At its 2001 meeting, the Commission considered information provided in Grenada's letter of October 31, 2001 as well as a presentation made at its meeting by CARICOM on behalf of Grenada. While the Commission is heartened that Grenada intends to make efforts to stabilize its catches at current levels, it would also point out that Grenada's catches are outside the framework of ICCAT's conservation and management structure and thus diminish the effectiveness of those measures. The Commission would remind Grenada that fishing activities by vessels flying its flag that diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures and are not rectified can result in the imposition of trade restrictive measures on Atlantic swordfish and its products. Details of this process are set out in our attached communication.

The Commission will continue to monitor Grenada's fishing activities and, should there be evidence of swordfish catches in the ICCAT Convention Area, revisit the issue at its 2002 meeting. To this end, the Commission urges Grenada to continue to provide it with information on its fishing activities and actions taken further to ICCAT's measures. To assist you in this endeavor, please find attached recommendations and resolutions adopted by ICCAT at its 2001 meeting.

### ***2.9 Letter to Togo seeking information on SWO fishing activities***

Each year, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviews the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its *Resolution for an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Swordfish*. The Action Plan sets forth a process to seek the cooperation of Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, and to request any Party, Entity or Fishing Entity so identified to rectify its fishing activities. As a last resort, this process can result in recommendations for Contracting Parties to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations, on Atlantic swordfish products from the Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities whose flag vessels continue to fish for Atlantic swordfish in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of the Commission's conservation measures for this species.

As part of this review at its 2001 meeting, the Commission examined all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Togo. ICCAT noted trade information that indicates that two vessels of Togo may be fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures relevant to this stock.

The Commission requests Togo to provide any information relevant to the activities of its vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area, in particular the extent of its fisheries for Atlantic swordfish, and to advise ICCAT of what steps Togo will take to ensure that its vessels do not undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT urges Togo to provide catch data to ICCAT and to implement the conservation and management measures of the Commission in the future.

At its 2002 annual meeting, the Commission will once again review information concerning the fishing activities of your vessels to determine how to proceed, including the possibility of implementing the aforementioned Action Plan. For your information, we also enclosed a compilation of all current ICCAT conservation and management measures. We would be pleased to provide any other information should you desire it. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and the Commission looks forward to your reply.

#### *2.10 Letter to St. Vincent and the Grenadines regarding the possible lifting of BET sanctions*

Each year, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviews the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998, (the 1998 Resolution). That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to review import and landing data and other data, and to identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request those identified to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT will recommend measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures.

As you may recall, based on the information available to ICCAT at its 1999 meeting, ICCAT identified St. Vincent and the Grenadines pursuant to the 1998 Resolution. At the following Commission meeting in 2000, ICCAT reviewed available information and, noting continued fishing by vessels of St. Vincent and the Grenadines that diminished the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures coupled with the lack of any response to our earlier correspondence, adopted a recommendation that had the effect of requiring action by Contracting Parties to prohibit the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

At this year's annual meeting, the Commission noted the significant efforts St. Vincent and the Grenadines has recently taken to initiate a broad program of reform to achieve full compliance with ICCAT measures, including reducing substantially the activities of its fishing vessels that were identified as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures related to Atlantic bigeye tuna, adopting revised national legislation, and developing and implementing monitoring, control, and surveillance methods to its fleet.

Given the progress noted above and the significant reduction in Atlantic bigeye tuna exported to Japan from St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2001, ICCAT adopted a recommendation to lift the import prohibition on Atlantic bigeye tuna from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, effective January 1, 2003.

The Commission will again review all information relevant to St. Vincent and the Grenadines' fishery for Atlantic bigeye tuna at the next Commission meeting in 2002. Should there be clear indications that problem fishing persists, the Commission may take actions to halt the lifting of the import ban. The Commission therefore urges St. Vincent and the Grenadines to continue the initiative to ensure that your vessels no longer fish in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. As part of this, we encourage St. Vincent and the Grenadines to report all relevant information to ICCAT, and expeditiously become an ICCAT Contracting Party or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity.

For your information, I am enclosing copies of the pertinent Recommendations and Resolutions, and other relevant recommendations and resolutions of the Commission.



**2.11 Letter of notification to Cambodia regarding maintenance of BET sanctions**

This is to advise you that, at its 2001 meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the situation of Cambodia pursuant to its Resolution concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area. The Commission concluded that as the situation had not changed, the trade restrictive measures on bigeye tuna and its products from Cambodia adopted by ICCAT at its 2000 meeting should not be lifted. For your convenience, a copy of the above-mentioned resolution, the recommendation imposing trade restrictive measures on Cambodia and our correspondence to you following the 2000 meeting are attached.

The Commission strongly encourages Cambodia to rectify the activities of fishing vessels flying its flag which diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures and advise the Commission. The Commission would also be pleased to provide such further information and clarification as you may require.

**2.12 Letter of identification to Bolivia pursuant to the 1998 UU Resolution**

At its 2001 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient to rectify the problem, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions in place.

The information available to ICCAT at its 2001 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Bolivia. In addition, trade data available to ICCAT indicates a significant increase in exports of Atlantic bigeye tuna to Japan between 2000 and 2001 by vessels registered to Bolivia.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Bolivia under its 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Bolivia to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Bolivia do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

**2.13 Letter of identification to Indonesia pursuant to the 1998 UU Resolution**

At its 2001 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT

will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient to rectify the problem, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions in place.

The information available to ICCAT at its 2001 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Indonesia. In addition, trade data available to ICCAT indicates a significant increase in exports of Atlantic bigeye tuna to Japan between 2000 and 2001 by vessels registered to Indonesia.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Indonesia under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Indonesia to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Indonesia do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

#### **2.14 Letter to the Seychelles seeking information regarding IUU fishing**

Each year, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviews the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, adopted in 1998, (the 1998 Resolution). That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient to rectify the problem, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions in place.

At its 2001 meeting, the Commission reviewed all available information regarding the fishing activities of vessels of Seychelles. ICCAT noted that Seychelles exported 65 MT of Atlantic bigeye tuna to Japan in 2000, although at this time the Commission has not established a catch limit for the Seychelles for this stock. Although ICCAT noted that there does not seem to be any indications of bigeye tuna exports for this year, the Commission did also take note of indications that large-scale longline vessels flying the flag of Seychelles may be fishing in a way that undermines ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Commission requests the Seychelles to provide any information relevant to the activities of its large-scale longline vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area, in particular the extent of its fisheries for Atlantic bigeye tuna, and to advise ICCAT of what steps the Seychelles will take to ensure that its vessels do not undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT urges the Seychelles to provide catch data to ICCAT and to implement the conservation and management measures of the Commission in the future.

At its 2002 annual meeting, the Commission will once again review information concerning the fishing activities of your vessels to determine how to proceed, including the possibility of implementing the aforementioned 1998 Resolution. For your information, we also enclosed a compilation of all current ICCAT conservation and management measures. We would be pleased to provide any other information should you desire it. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and the Commission looks forward to your reply.

**2.15 Letter of identification to Vanuatu pursuant to the 1998 UU Resolution**

At its 2001 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) reviewed the fishing activities of various Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*, which is enclosed for your convenience. That Resolution calls upon ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to collect, examine and submit to ICCAT import and landing data and associated information on imported frozen tunas and tuna-like fish products. Based on an annual review of this and other data, ICCAT will identify those Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities whose large-scale longline vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient to rectify the problem, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species for which there are currently no trade restrictions in place.

The information available to ICCAT at its 2001 meeting included trade data submitted by Contracting Parties, as well as other information. Enclosed for your convenience is a list of large-scale longline vessels compiled from this data, many of which are believed to have fished for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area. A number of these vessels are registered in Vanuatu. In addition, trade data available to ICCAT indicates exports of Atlantic bigeye tuna to Japan by vessels registered to Vanuatu.

Based on this information, ICCAT decided to identify Vanuatu under its 1998 *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area*. Accordingly, ICCAT hereby requests the Government of Vanuatu to take all necessary measures to ensure that large-scale longline vessels registered in Vanuatu do not continue to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, including, if appropriate, the revocation of vessel registration or fishing licenses of the large-scale longline vessels concerned. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 14**

**Statement by the Observer from Turkey  
in Response to the Letter of Warning of January, 2001**

From 1988 on, the number of purse seiners engaged in the bluefin tuna fishery and the bluefin tuna catch in Turkish waters was reduced drastically. Due to this reduction in fishing power, the number of purse seiners dropped from 71 in 1998 to 22 in 1999. In 2000, the number of purse seiners was 26. In 2001, 25 purse seiners were catching bluefin tuna in Turkish waters.

In comparison to 1998, the number of Turkish purse seiners in 1999 was reduced by 69.04%. As the bluefin tuna catch declined, there was a slight increase of 18% in the number of vessels in 2000. The number of Turkish purse seiners in 2001 was reduced by 3.85%.

Parallel to this big reduction in the number of purse seiners (almost all of the Turkish bluefin tunas are caught by purse seiners) the catch of bluefin tunas of 5,899 MT in 1998 (revised figure) dropped to 1,407 MT in 1999, a reduction of more than 75%.

The reduction in catch continued in 2000. The 2001 catch season for bluefin tuna is not yet over.

In the eastern Mediterranean Sea there is a closure for purse seiners between 16 July and 15 August. Turkish purse seiners do not fish during the period of 16 July and 1 September in Turkish waters. Purse seiners fishing bluefin tuna are obliged to register the amount of catch, the catch area, the period of catch, and the length and weight of the bluefin tunas. Thus, the completion of logbooks is obligatory.

Turkey has actively been carrying out research on bluefin tuna and other tuna species in Turkish waters. For many years, Turkey has been collaborating with ICCAT, EU, U.S. and Japanese research institutions. Turkey has conducted egg and larval surveys within the framework of the BYP and has participated in numerous ICCAT and GFCM/ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group meetings in the framework of the BYP. Turkey is also collaborating actively in the collection of samples for genetic and biological studies on Atlantic tunas in the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara, the Aegean Sea and in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

When funding for a larval cruise is provided, Turkey will conduct another egg and larval survey in the Aegean Sea and in the eastern Mediterranean Sea in 2002.

The procedure to become a Contracting Party is almost completed. Contacts between the Embassy of Turkey in Madrid and ICCAT regarding information on Turkey's financial contribution to ICCAT was made in June, 2001.

We have taken sufficient action to rectify the situation, addressing the concerns of the Commission in regard to bluefin tuna fishing. We have brought our fishing practices for bluefin tuna into conformity with ICCAT conservation and management measures. We cooperate with ICCAT in ensuring that our vessels fish in a manner consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures and by providing catch statistics to ICCAT.

In January, 2000, the ICCAT Commission requested information on Turkey's eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna catch averages. This requested information was conveyed to the Commission with our letter of 25 October 2000.

Your warning regarding bluefin tuna fishing was sent with your letter dated January 22, 2001, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs in Ankara, Turkey.

We really had difficulties in understanding why this letter of warning was sent.

#### Appendix 4 to ANNEX 14

##### Statement by the Observer from CARICOM to the PWG on the Issue of Grenada's Swordfish Catches

Grenada has a small-scale coastal fishery. The economy of Grenada was heavily based on its banana industry until about 5 years ago when Grenada lost preferential status on the European market. Grenada is a small island state with limited natural resources. Hence the development of Grenada's fisheries would inevitably play an important role in its economic development, and more recently has served, at least in part, to compensate for losses in revenue as a result of the much diminished banana industry.

In its response to the Commission's 2001 letter requesting information, Grenada pointed out that its large pelagic fishery is a multi-species fishery. Swordfish is not targeted and fishermen take whatever is available. Additionally, fishing gear is usually deployed and retrieved manually; this tends to extend fishing hours into the night, which increases the chances of catching swordfish. In view of this, Grenada could only limit its swordfish catches by limiting the total number of large pelagic fishing vessels. I trust that the Commission appreciates the difficulty of doing this, as it would mean an unnecessary limitation of Grenada's catches of other large pelagic species not currently regulated by ICCAT.

The ICCAT imposed catch limit therefore represents a disproportionate burden of action for the small island State of Grenada. I refer the Commission to Article 24 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Article 24 of this Agreement deals with recognition of the special requirements of developing States. Paragraph 2 of Article 24 notes that *'In giving effect to the duty to cooperate in the establishment of conservation and management measures for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, States shall take into account several requirements of developing States'* including, as noted in sub paragraph (c) of the same Article, *'the need to ensure that such measures do not result in transferring, directly or indirectly, a disproportionate burden of conservation action onto developing States'*. Despite this fact, Grenada has indicated its intention to limit, as far as possible, its level of swordfish catch to present levels.

At this time, I also wish to draw the Commission's attention to document PLE-010, titled 'ICCAT Criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities'. This document presents the new catch allocation criteria that were agreed upon during the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Allocation Criteria held last week. This document now provides the Commission with a tool to facilitate the needs of developing fisheries in developing States. CARICOM hopes that the Commission will begin to use this tool to enable individual cases, such as the one of Grenada, to be evaluated within a broader context, so as to take into account adequately the burden of conservation action imposed by a particular ICCAT management measure, where this is clearly relevant.

It should be noted that Grenada is currently exporting only about one-third of its catch. This implies an issue of food security, poverty alleviation, and employment, which has become an important issue for Grenada following the rapid decline of its banana industry.

#### Appendix 5 to ANNEX 14

##### Statement by the Philippine Delegation Regarding the IUU Vessel List

Philippine-flagged vessels have been fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean only for the past three and a half years. The Philippines went into distant-water fishing only after the enactment of the Philippines Fisheries Act of 1998, which encouraged our fishing companies through a number of specific incentives, to venture into distant-water fishing as part of an overall national economic plan. The Philippines, therefore, is just in the process of developing its own distant-water fishing industry and capability. By agreement with ICCAT at last year's meeting, the Philippines is restricted to five (5) longline vessels to fish in the Atlantic. At this very moment, however, only three (3) of our vessels are in the Atlantic at any one time.

Just as soon as the Philippines began fishing in the Atlantic, it applied for Cooperating non-contracting party status with ICCAT. We are participating in such capacity at ICCAT meetings for the second year now. We are working hard at getting the Congress of the Philippines to approve the Philippine instrument of accession to ICCAT at the earliest possible time. Regrettably, domestic developments have hindered early approval that we have sought. But the Philippines is definitely committed to observing ICCAT conservation measures. It has fulfilled all reporting requirements and submitted the required list of fishing vessels.

The Philippines appreciates fully the pernicious effects of IUU fishing on conservation efforts, not only in the Atlantic but also in other areas. The Philippines is actively participating in the drafting of the International Plan of Action (IPOA) to combat IUU fishing under the Joint auspices of the FAO, IMO and ILO. We look forward to the intersessional meeting in Tokyo next year hosted by Japan, in the ICCAT context.

The Philippines appreciates the initiative and efforts of Japan at least to bring IUU fishing under control if not totally eradicate it. However, we are at this time having some misgivings as to certain of the methods it is pursuing under its initiative. I refer specifically to the list issued by Japan two years ago and expanded thereafter. We are concerned especially at the creeping manner that the list to cover "other areas" simply because longline fishing vessels have the capability to operate in a straddling and highly migratory manner. And, therefore, every longline vessel anywhere in the world that has engaged Japan's suspicions must necessarily be "believed" as IUU and fishing in contravention to ICCAT regulations. Moreover, the accusatory line for the Philippines, and Indonesia, has further been expanded from a "belief" that a vessel is engaged in IUU fishing, to include those "whose business relations with IUU might exist".

The Philippines always had misgivings about the propriety of the process by which the original list was arrived at and its subsequent treatment by ICCAT. But we have kept our silence up to now as we preferred to pursue quiet diplomacy with Japan in resolving its concerns about our vessels. As a developing country trying to develop a distant-water fishing industry, we do acknowledge that there might be some problems in conducting the early part of the fishing operations. But as I said, we are determined to resolve whatever concerns there may be in accordance with ICCAT rules and regulations. At this time, however, the Philippines is getting rather seriously concerned about the direction that this particular initiative of Japan is heading. It has become a creeping procedure that has acquired a life of its own that is clearly illegal and unregulated, and involving unfair reporting. As it affects the Philippines, the list began as consisting of vessels that are believed to be engaged in IUU fishing simply because

of being associated with a previous registry that has been unilaterally determined to be FOC. I am not saying that Japan's suspicions or findings are totally unfounded. And this is why we decided to work quietly with Japan to resolve its concerns. But now, another batch of fourteen (14) Philippine-registered longline fishing vessels have been added to this year's list. This list of fourteen (14) vessels were voluntarily supplied to Japan for another cooperative purpose, and are now additionally suspected of business relations with IUU that might exist.

We ask the Secretariat that this batch (numbered 222 to 235) be removed from the list of large-scale longline vessels believed to be engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area and other areas. We also ask that a typographical error appearing at page six (6) be corrected - the commitment of the Philippines not to renew bareboat charter arrangements is at end of 2002 and not 2001, as it appears in the footnote in question.

At this point, my delegation would like to venture the suggestion that the Commission bring into place in discussing a list of IUU longline fishing vessels, some semblance of due process. As it is, Japan continues to build up the list to include vessels with even the most tenuous suspicion of IUU involvement. We feel that the work of the Commission in addressing IUU fishing should already be aligned with the IPOA that is already in an advanced stage of completion. We feel the Commission should specially await the definition of IUU fishing before we continue to enlarge and dignify any list with an aura of judgement. In a very Asian way, we wish to remind that an accusing finger usually has three fingers pointed back at the accuser.

The Philippines hopes to continue to work bilaterally with Japan, an extremely important market for us, in order to alleviate its own IUU concerns. The Philippines and Japan are in fact working on a cooperative relationship for jointly managing fishing capacities and not just on combating IUU fishing.

List of Large-Scale Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and Other Areas (as approved at the Commission Meeting, November, 2001) <sup>1</sup>.

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
1	BELIZE		ANDREW 708		SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	AT, IN	J	
2	BELIZE		BENNY 168		SEVEN SEAS MARINE S.A.	SINGAPORE	AT	J	7
3	BELIZE		BENNY 636		TUNA KING MARINE S.A.	BELIZE	AT	J	
4	BELIZE	Honduras	Chang Jaan 1	長展1			PA	CT	2
5	BELIZE		CHEN CHIEH 88	陳傑88	PESUERA CHEN CHIN CHENG/SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE	BELIZE	AT, IN	J	2, 6
6	BELIZE	Philippines	CHEN FA 1	陳發1	CHEN FA S.A.	BELIZE	IN	J CT	2, 6
7	BELIZE		CHEN FA 736	陳發736	JETMARK INTERNATIONAL FISHING	PHILIPPINES	AT, IN	J CT	6
8	BELIZE		Chen Fa 88	陳發88			AT	CT	
9	BELIZE		Chen Fa 888	陳發888			AT	CT	
10	BELIZE		CHIEN CHANG 128	陳群128	CHIEN CHANG FISHERY CORP.	PANAMA	AT, IN	J CT	
11	BELIZE		CHIEN CHUN 8	陳群8	GREAT OCEAN ENTERPRISE S.A.	BELIZE	AT, IN	J CT	2
12	BELIZE		CHIEN CHUNG 802	陳中802			AT, PA	J CT	2, 6
13	BELIZE		CHIN CHENG WEN		CHIN CHENG WEN FISHERY	BELIZE	AT, IN	J	7
14	BELIZE		CHIN YOU WEN		CHIN YOU WEN FISHERY	BELIZE	AT, IN	J	7
15	BELIZE	Honduras	CHUN I 307	陳偉307	CHUN HUEA FISHERY		PA	J CT	2
16	BELIZE	Honduras	CHUN I 316	陳偉316	CHUN JINN FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
17	BELIZE	Honduras	CHUN YING 212	陳盈212	SHIN YING FISHERY	BELIZE/CHI.TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2
18	BELIZE	Honduras	CHUN YING 777	陳盈777	CHUN YING FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
19	BELIZE		DAI HO	大和	DAI HO FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	AT, IN	J CT	2
20	BELIZE	Singapore	DONG YIH 1	東億1	DONG YING FISHERY	CHI.TAIPEI	IN	J CT	2
21	BELIZE		FENG YA 11	豐亞11	TSINFEN FONG	BELIZE	AT	J	2
22	BELIZE		FONG KUO 16	豐國16	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2, 7
23	BELIZE		FONG KUO 3	豐國3	F.K. OVERSEAS FISHERY	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
24	BELIZE		FONG KUO 33	豐國33	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
25	BELIZE		FONG KUO 36	豐國36	F.K.OVERSEAS FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
26	BELIZE		FONG KUO 6	豐國6	F.K. OVERSEAS FISHERY	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
27	BELIZE		FU YUAN 3	富元3	FU YUAN FISHING OVERSEA	BELIZE	IN	J	7
28	BELIZE		FU YUAN 66	富元66	JETMARK INTERNATIONAL FISHING		AT, PA	J CT	2, 6
29	BELIZE		HAU SHEN 202	豪勝202	HAU YOW FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	AT, IN	J CT	7
30	BELIZE		HAW HUA	豪華	HAW HUA FUSHERY	HONDURAS	AT, IN	J CT	3, 7, 8
31	BELIZE		Heng Fa 18				IN	CT	
32	BELIZE	Ghana	HSIANG CHANG 101	翔強101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US CT	
33	BELIZE		HSIANG FA 18	翔發18			AT, IN	J CT	2, 6
34	BELIZE		HSIEH YUNG 636	協榮636	HSIEH YUNG FISHERY	BELIZE	PA	J	
35	BELIZE	Honduras	Hsien Hua 106	憲輝106			PA	CT	
36	BELIZE	Honduras	Hsien Hua 107	憲輝107			PA	CT	
37	BELIZE	Honduras	Hsien Yung 636	協永636			PA	CT	2
38	BELIZE		Hua Ching 202	華瓊202			AT	CT	2

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shipment	Source	Note
39	BELIZE		HUNG CHIA 202	鴻嘉202	HUNG CHIA FISHERY CORP.	PANAMA	IN	J CT	2
40	BELIZE		HUNG CHING 212	鴻慶212	HUNG CHING FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	AT, IN	J CT	2
41	BELIZE		HWA CHIH 212	華獻212	HWA CHIN FISHERY	BELIZE/CHI. TAIPEI	AT	J CT	2
42	BELIZE		JAIN YUNG 202	讓永202	JAIN YUNG FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	AT, IN	J CT	2, 6
43	BELIZE	E. Guinea, Honduras	Jeffery 131	傑佛利131			AT	CT	
44	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Jeffery 168	傑佛利168			AT	CT	
45	BELIZE	E. Guinea	Jeffery 818	傑佛利818			IN	CT	
46	BELIZE	E. Genia, Honduras	Jeffery 816	傑佛利816			IN	CT	
47	BELIZE		JEFFREY 131	傑佛利131	YUH JIH HSIANG FISHERY	BELIZE	AT, IN, PA	J	3, 6
48	BELIZE		JEFFREY 168	傑佛利168			AT, IN	J CT	
49	BELIZE		JIN HONG 201		JIN HONG FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PA	J	
50	BELIZE	Honduras	Jiyh Horng 201	錦鴻201			PA	CT	
51	BELIZE		JUI JHI 101		YUNG YING FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	J	
52	BELIZE	Honduras	JUI YING 666	瑞盈666	RUEY SHING OCEANIC	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
53	BELIZE	E. Guinea	KAO FONG 1	高豐1		CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J CT	2
54	BELIZE	Honduras	LIAN HORNG 777	連鴻777	LIAN HORNG FISHERY		PA	J CT	2
55	BELIZE		LIEN TAI	連太	LIEN TAI CORP.	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	J CT	
56	BELIZE		LUNG CHANG 3	陸昌3	UNION OCEAN FISHERY CO.LTD.	BELIZE	AT, IN	J CT	2
57	BELIZE	Belize	Lung Soon 22	陸順22			IN	CT	
58	BELIZE	Singapore	Meng Fa 368	盟發368			IN	CT	
59	BELIZE	St. Vincent	MING SHUN 3	明順3	MING SHUN FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI/BELIZE	IN, PA	J CT	
60	BELIZE	Japan	MITO MARU 82		CHIN FU FISHERY CO. LTD. S.A.			CT	4
61	BELIZE		MORE RICH		TO YU S.A.			CT	4
62	BELIZE		NATIONAL 206		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	PA	US	
63	BELIZE		NATIONAL 21		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	PA	US	
64	BELIZE	Honduras	NINE LUCKY 1	九福1	NINE LUCKY FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI/BELIZE	PA	J CT	2, 7
65	BELIZE		NINE LUCKY 6	九福6	NINE LUCKY FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2
66	BELIZE	E. Guinea	PING SHIN 201	屏新201	PING SHIN OVERSEAS	BELIZE	IN	J CT	2
67	BELIZE	E. Guinea	PING YUAN 201	屏源201	PING SHIN OVERSEAS	BELIZE	IN	J CT	2, 6
68	BELIZE		RUEY YI 101	瑞禮101	YUNG YING FISHERY/RUEI YI FISHERY	BELIZE/CHI. TAIPEI	AT, PA, MED	J	7
69	BELIZE		SEAHORSE		SEAHORSE FISHERY	BELIZE	IN	J	7
70	BELIZE	St. Vincent	SHANG YUN	上源	OVERSEAS FISHERY CO.	BELIZE	AT, IN	J CT	
71	BELIZE		SHINE YEAR	上裕	CHEN TING CHOU	SINGAPORE	AT, IN	J CT	
72	BELIZE		Shinn Man 666	信慎666			PA	CT	
73	BELIZE		SHINN MANN 11	信慎11	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.	BELIZE/PHILIPPINES	AT, PA	J	2, 6
74	BELIZE	E. GUINEA	SHINN MANN 21	信慎21	JETMARK INTERNATIONAL/SHINN MANN FISHERY	PHILIPPINES/BELIZE	PA	J	2, 6
75	BELIZE	Honduras, Singapore	SHUENN MAN 666	順海666	SHUENN MAN FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	PA	J CT	2
76	BELIZE		SHUN MEI	順美	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	AT	J CT	
77	BELIZE		SHUN YU	順裕	SHUN YU FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	AT	J CT	2
78	BELIZE	St. Vincent	SI HONG 128	西鴻128	SI TAI FISHERY CO.,LTD.	BELIZE	AT, IN	J CT	2
79	BELIZE	St. Vincent	SI TAI 326	西泰326	SI UNION FISHERY S.A.	BELIZE	IN	J CT	2
80	BELIZE		SOUTH STAR		GRAND FOREST MARITIME S.A.	BELIZE	PA	J	
81	BELIZE	E. Guinea	SUNG HUI	位曜	SUNG HUI FISHERY/SUNG HUI OCEAN	CHI. TAIPEI/BELIZE	IN, PA	J CT	2



ICCAT REPORT 2000-2001 (III)

360

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
82	BELIZE		Victory 88				AT, IN	CT	
83	BELIZE		VIRGO		VIRGO FISHERY	BELIZE	IN	J	7
84	BELIZE		Wen Sheng 18	錦盛16			AT, IN	CT	
85	BELIZE	St.Vincent	Win Far 828	錦發828			IN	CT	
86	BELIZE	St.Vincent	WIN FAR 868	錦發868	YU SHING FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI/BELIZE	IN	J CT	2
87	BELIZE	St.Vincent	Win Far 878	錦發878			IN	CT	
88	BELIZE		YI CHUN 232	億群232			IN	CT	
89	BELIZE		Ying Chin Hsiang 101	盈智祥101			IN	CT	
90	BELIZE	Honduras	Zhong Xin 16	中信16			PA	CT	
91	BELIZE/ST.VINCENT		NATIONAL 202		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	AT,PA	US	
92	BOLIVIA		CARLITA		LRGOLD INTERNATIONAL		AT	J	
93	BOLIVIA	E.GUINEA	CHI MAN	啓滿	CHIN MAN FISHERY	PANAMA	AT, IN	J CT	3
94	BOLIVIA		CHIN CHANG MING	金長麟	CHIN HSIANG WEN FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI/HONDURAS	AT	J CT	3, 8
95	BOLIVIA		CHIN I MING	金億麟	CHIN YUAN HORNG	HONDURAS	AT	J CT	3, 8
96	BOLIVIA		GOLDEN RICH	金界	GOLDEN RICH	BELIZE	AT	J	3
97	BOLIVIA		HSIANG FA 868		KWO JENG MARINE SERVICES			J	4
98	BOLIVIA	HONDURAS	HUNG YU 112	鴻裕112	HUNG WOEI FISHERY	PANAMA/CHI. TAIPEI	AT, IN	J CT	3, 8
99	BOLIVIA		JUI DER 88		JUI FU FISHERY ENTERPRISE CORP.			CT	4
100	BOLIVIA		MARINE 303		TUNA GLOBE INC.			CT	4
101	BOLIVIA		PLANET	行星	COSMOPOLITAN	BELIZE	PA	J	3
102	BOLIVIA,E.GUINEA		ZHONG I 85	中義85	ZHONG I FISHERY PESQUERA ZHONG I S.A	CHI. TAIPEI/E.GUINEA	PA	J CT	3
103	BOLIVIA/E.GUINEA		WEI CHING	威慶	WEI CHING OCEAN ENTERPRISE	E.GUINEA	AT,IN	J CT	2
104	BOLIVIA/HONDURAS		YING CHIN HSIANG 66	盈智祥66	YING CHIN HSIANG FISHERY/YING TSI SHANG FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI/HONDURAS	IN,PA	J CT	3, 8
105	CAMBODIA		BENNY 87		TUNA KING MARINE S.A.	BELIZE	AT	J CT	
106	CAMBODIA		CANETA 1		CANETA S.R.L.	ARGENTINA	AT,IN	J	
107	CAMBODIA		FU YUAN 868		FU YUAN FISHING OVERSEA			J	4
108	CAMBODIA		GUO JI 808		LUBMAIN SHIPPING SERVICE	MALAYSIA	AT,IN	J	
109	CAMBODIA	HONDURAS	HUA CHENG 707	華成707	HUA I FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	AT, IN	J CT	3, 8
110	CAMBODIA		HUA CHUNG 808	華忠808	HUA CHUNG FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	AT,IN	J CT	3, 8
111	CAMBODIA		KASMINA 1		STOVER TRADING	BRITISH VIRGIN IS.	IN,PA	J	
112	CAMBODIA		MENG FA 316		MENG FA FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI		J	4
113	CAMBODIA		SOFIA 6		CINGOMAR FISHING COMPANY			CT	4
114	CAMBODIA		BENNY 78		TUNA KING MARINE S.A.	BELIZE	AT	J CT	
115	E.GUINEA		BITACORA		HO YUAN FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	AT	J	
116	E.GUINEA		CHEN CHIANG 1	鎮強1	CHUANG YU MING	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J	3
117	E.GUINEA		Chen Chieh 725	振傑725				CT	
118	E.GUINEA		Chen Chieh 728	振傑728			AT, IN	CT	
119	E.GUINEA		CHEN CHIEH 736	振傑736	CHEN CHIN CHENG FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	E.GUINEA	AT	J CT	
120	E.GUINEA		CHEN CHIEH 8	振傑8			IN	CT	
121	E.GUINEA	HONDURAS	CHI FUW 16	啓福16	PESQUERA CHI FUW	GUINEA	IN	J CT	8
122	E.GUINEA		CHIA YING 6	嘉盈6	PESQUERA HAPPY SUN S.A.	E.GUINEA	AT, IN	J CT	2
123	E.GUINEA		CHIN CHANG WEN		LIU WAN TIAN	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
124	E.GUINEA		CHIN CHIH HORNG	金吉鴻	CHIN FU FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	J	

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpnt	Source	Note
125	E.GUINEA		CHIN HENG HORNG		CHIN FU FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
128	E.GUINEA	BELIZE	CHIN I WEN	金億程	LIU WAN TIAN/CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY	BELIZE	AT	J	CT
127	E.GUINEA		CHIN MAN		CHIN MAN FISHERY	PANAMA	IN	J	
126	E.GUINEA	BELIZE	CHIN YOU MING	金友明	CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	AT	J	CT
129	E.GUINEA		CHIN YUAN WEN		CHIN I WEN FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
130	E.GUINEA		Cho Yu 88	長友88			AT		CT
131	E.GUINEA		DONG YIH 688	東億688	DONG YIH FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J	CT 2
132	E.GUINEA		HAI ZEAN 11	海仁11	HAI ZEAN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	E.GUINEA	AT	J	CT 2
133	E.GUINEA		HAI ZEAN 31	海仁31	PESQUERA HUNG LIN S.A.	E.GUINEA/CHI. TAIPEI	AT	J	CT 2
134	E.GUINEA		Hsiang Jang 66	翔贊66			AT		CT
135	E.GUINEA		HSIN HUA 103	信華103	PESQUERA HSIN HUA FISHERY CO.LTD.	E.GUINEA	IN	J	CT 2
136	E.GUINEA		HSIN I CHANG 326	信宜昌326	FORTUNA FISHERY		AT,MED	J	8
137	E.GUINEA		HUNG YU 212	鴻祐212	PESQUERA COLUMBUS	E.GUINEA	IN,PA	J	CT 2
138	E.GUINEA		HUNG YU 606	鴻祐606	HUNG YU FISHERY CO.LTD.		IN	J	CT
139	E.GUINEA		HWA MAO 203	華懋203	HWA MAO FISHERY	E.GUINEA/CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J	CT 2
140	E.GUINEA		I MAN HUNG 166	(億瑞鴻166)	CHUN FAR FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	AT	J	CT 2
141	E.GUINEA		Jin Chen Horng	金成鴻			IN		CT
142	E.GUINEA		Jlyh Horng	錦鴻			AT		CT
143	E.GUINEA		JIYN HORNG 118	錦鴻118	JIYN HORNG OCEAN ENTERPRISE/PESQUERA JIIN YEONG FISHERY	HONDURAS/E. GUINEA	AT,IN	J	CT
144	E.GUINEA		KAE SHYUAN		CHIN MAN FISHERY CO.LTD.	E.GUINEA	AT	J	
145	E.GUINEA		KUANG HORNG	光鴻	CHUEN SUNG FISHERY	E.GUINEA	AT,IN,MED	J	CT
146	E.GUINEA		Lung Soon 662	隆順662			IN		CT
147	E.GUINEA		LUNG SOON 888		SLONG SOON FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J	
148	E.GUINEA		LUNG THENG	龍勝	CHIN FU FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
149	E.GUINEA		SHENG YANG		CHIN FU FISHERY CO.LTD.S.A.	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
150	E.GUINEA		SHING YANG	幸洋	CHIN FU FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
151	E.GUINEA		SHUN CHAO		CHIN FU FISHERY CO	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
152	E.GUINEA		SHUN HE		PESQUERA SHUN HE	U.S.A	AT	J	
153	E.GUINEA		SHUN KUO	順國	CHIN FU FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	J	
154	E.GUINEA		SUN RISE 313	昇興313	SINGAPORE CORP.	E.GUINEA	AT,IN	J	
155	E.GUINEA		SUNRISE 313	昇興313	SINGAPORE CORP.	PANAMA	AT	J	
156	E.GUINEA		TARIFA 5		OFFSHORE RESOURCES S.A.	E.GUINEA	AT	J	
157	E.GUINEA		VIKING 1		VIKING FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	AT,PA	J	CT
158	E.GUINEA		Wen Cheng 202	穩盛202			AT		CT
159	E.GUINEA		YU CHAN HSIANG 3		PESQUERA YU CHAN HSIANG/YU CHAN HSIANG	PANAMA	IN	J	
160	E.GUINEA		ZHONG I 63	中義63	ZHONG I FISHERY	E.GUINEA/CHI. TAIPEI	AT,PA	J	CT 3
161	E.GUINEA		Zhang I 73	中義73			PA		CT
162	E.GUINEA		ZHONG I 83	中義83	ZHONG I FISHERY	E.GUINEA/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J	CT 3
163	E.GUINEA			金泉興18					CT
164	E.GUINEA,BELIZE	HONDURAS	SHIN KAI 8	新凱8	SHIN KAI FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	PA	J	CT
165	E.GUINEA/HONDURAS		WIN FAR 236	穩發236	WIN FAR MARINE	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J	CT 3,8
166	E.GUINEA/HONDURAS		WIN FAR 266	穩發266	WIN FAR MARINE	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J	CT 3,8
167	E.GUINEA/HONDURAS		YI HSIN 101	穩新101	YI FA FISHERY S.DE R.L.	E.GUINEA/CHI.TAIPEI	AT,IN	J	CT 8

ICCAT REPORT 2000-2001 (II)

362

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
168	E.GUINEA/HONDURAS		YIH SHUEN 212	億順212	YIH SHUEN FISHERY	E.GUINEA/CHI. TAIPEI/HONDURAS	IN	J CT	2, B
169	E.GUINEA/ST.VINCENT		HSIANG PAO 601	翔寶601	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	CT	US
170	ECUADOR		ALTAR 10		TRANSMARINA	ECUADOR	AT, PA	J	
171	ECUADOR		ALTAR 11		TRANSMARINA	ECUADOR	AT, PA	J	
172	ECUADOR		ALTER 21		TRANSMARINA	ECUADOR	AT	J	
173	ECUADOR		GRACE 3		FRESMAR CIA. LTDA.	ECUADOR	PA	J	
174	ECUADOR		HALCYON 1		MAGAOCEAN	ECUADOR	PA	J	
175	ECUADOR		PALOMA		TRANSMARINA	ECUADOR	AT	J	
176	HONDURAS		CHANG SHENG 1	昌盛1	CHANG SHENG FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J CT	B
177	HONDURAS		CHI FUJ 8	啟福8	SONG MAW FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J CT	B
178	HONDURAS		CHI HUNG 121	啓宏121	CHI HUNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT, IN	J CT	B
179	HONDURAS		Chien Chang 66	謙順66			AT	CT	B
180	HONDURAS		CHIN HORNG 106	金鴻106			AT	CT	B
181	HONDURAS		CHIN HSIANG MING	金翔麟	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT	J CT	B
182	HONDURAS		CHO YU 3	吳友3	ARMADORA PESQUERA CHOYU	USA	AT, IN	J CT	B
183	HONDURAS		CHUN FA	蔡瑞	CHUN FA FISHERY S.A.	HONDURAS	IN	J CT	2, B
184	HONDURAS		CORONA		MARINE STAR SHIPPING S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	IN	J	B
185	HONDURAS		COSMO		MARINE STAR SHIPPING	HONDURAS	IN	J	B
186	HONDURAS		EDEN 18		KINGFISH FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	IN	J CT	B
187	HONDURAS		FLAIR 3	福萊爾3	KINGFISH FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	AT, IN	J CT	B
188	HONDURAS		FORTUNA 11	和泰11	FORTUNA FISHERY	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2, B
189	HONDURAS		FORTUNA 21	和泰21	FORTUNA FISHERY	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2, B
190	HONDURAS		FU AN 6	富安6	FU AN OCEAIC ENTERPRISE S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PA, IN	J CT	B
191	HONDURAS		FU HUAN	富環	FU HUAN FISHERY	HONDURAS	AT, IN	J	B
192	HONDURAS		Fu Huan	富環			IN	CT	B
193	HONDURAS		Fwu Huan	福環			IN	CT	B
194	HONDURAS		Her Hsiang	合祥			IN	CT	B
195	HONDURAS		HO MAN	合滿	HER MAN FISHERY CO.LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J CT	B
196	HONDURAS		HO Man 3	合滿3			AT	CT	B
197	HONDURAS		Hong Shun 66	鴻順66			AT	CT	B
198	HONDURAS		Hong Shln				AT	CT	B
199	HONDURAS		HSIANG CHANG 102	翔強102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US	B
200	HONDURAS		Hsiang Chang 132	翔強132			AT	CT	B
201	HONDURAS		HSIANG CHANG 606	翔強606	DAWA MARINE WORLD S.DE R.L.	JAPAN/HONDURAS	AT, PA	J CT	B
202	HONDURAS		Hsien Yung 366	顯永366			IN	CT	B
203	HONDURAS		Hsing Shun 66	興順66			IN	CT	B
204	HONDURAS		Hung Shun 67	鴻順67			AT, IN	CT	B
205	HONDURAS		JAIN LIH 202	讓立202	JAIN LIH FISHERY	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	AT, IN	J	3, B
206	HONDURAS		JIYN HORNG 106	錦隆106	JIYN HORNG OCEAN ENTERPRISE CO.LTD.	HONDURAS	AT, IN	J CT	B
207	HONDURAS		Lung Soon 122	隆順122			IN	CT	B
208	HONDURAS		Lung Soon 126	隆順126			IN	CT	B
209	HONDURAS		MARINE STAR 8		MARINE STAR SHIPPING	SINGAPORE	IN	J	B
210	HONDURAS		MENG LI 201	盟立201	MENG LI FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	IN, MED	J CT	B

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
211	HONDURAS		OCEAN MASTER 1		OCEAN MASTER FISHERY	CHI.TAIPEI/HONDURAS	IN	J	8
212	HONDURAS		PENG SHIN	澎興	PENG SHIN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT	J CT	8
213	HONDURAS		PESQUERA 68		ARMADORA PESQUERA CHOYU S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT	J CT	8
214	HONDURAS		RYH CHUN 1	日春1	FA CHUEN OCEAN FISHING S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	IN	J CT	8
215	HONDURAS		RYH CHUN 21	日春21	RYH CHUN OCEAN FISHERY INC.	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J CT	8
216	HONDURAS		Shang Shun 166	興順166			IN	CT	8
217	HONDURAS		Sheng Hsing 606	昇興606			AT	CT	8
218	HONDURAS		Sheng Pao 21	聖寶21			PA	CT	8
219	HONDURAS		SHENG PAO 7	聖寶7	SAINT POWER FISHERY	HONDURAS	PA	J CT	8
220	HONDURAS		SHUE YUNG 366		DALIAN OVERSEAS FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT, IN	J CT	8
221	HONDURAS		Shun Theng	順勝			AT	CT	8
222	HONDURAS		SUN RISE 607	昇興607	YELLOW FIN FISHERY S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT	J CT	8
223	HONDURAS		Ta Yu 11	大祐11			PA	CT	8
224	HONDURAS		TAMARA 8		MARINEX S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	IN	J	8
225	HONDURAS		TIM 1	德姆1	HOUNG KOU CHING	HONDURAS	IN	J	8
226	HONDURAS		WEN CHANG 66	穩和66	CHIEN CHANG PESCA S.A.	HONDURAS	IN	J CT	8
227	HONDURAS		YU CHA 201	裕展201	DAWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PA, AT	J	8
228	HONDURAS		YU CHA 606	裕展606	DAWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	PA, AT	J	8
229	HONDURAS		YU SUAN 102	裕旋102	YUNG HONG MARINE	CHI. TAIPEI/JAPAN	PA	J	8
230	HONDURAS		YUNG HUANG 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US	8
231	HONDURAS		YUNG SHU 101		DAWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL	HONDURAS	PA	J	8
232	HONDURAS		YUNG SHU 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US	8
233	HONDURAS		YUNG YING 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICE/ DAWA MARINE WORLD	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	J □	8
234	HONDURAS		YUNG YU 102		DAWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI, JAPAN	AT, PA	J	8
235	HONDURAS		Zhong Xin 1	中信1			IN	CT	8
236	HONDURAS		Zhong Xin 26	中信26			IN	CT	8
237	HONDURAS/VANUATU		FORTUNA 1	和春1	FORTUNA FISHERY	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2, 8
238	HONDURAS/VANUATU		FORTUNA 12	和春12	FORTUNA FISHERY	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2, 8
239	HONDURAS/VANUATU		FORTUNA 2	和春2	FORTUNA FISHERY	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2, 8
240	HONDURAS/VANUATU		FORTUNA 22	和春22	FORTUNA FISHERY	HONDURAS/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2, 8
241	INDONESIA		ALAM INDAH		PT.NUSAERLIN TIMUR	SINGAPORE	AT, IN, PA	J	
242	INDONESIA		BHASKARA 8		PT CAHAYA FISHERIED ABADI	INDONESIA	AT	J	
243	INDONESIA		BHINEKA		P.T. PELAYARAN BHARUNA SAMUDERA PERSADA	INDONESIA	AT, IN	J	
244	INDONESIA		BONERATE 3		PT.BONERATE CIPTA UTAMA	INDONESIA	AT	J	
245	INDONESIA		CHINKI 6		P.T. PELAYARAN BHARUNA SAMUDERA PERSADA	INDONESIA	AT, PA	J	
246	INDONESIA		ISKANDAR			INDONESIA	AT	J	
247	INDONESIA		MADURA 3		PT.PROVISIT	INDONESIA	AT	J	
248	INDONESIA		MAESTRO 5		PT CAHAYA FISHERIED ABADI	INDONESIA	AT	J	
249	INDONESIA		MATAHARI 4		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	AT, IN	J	
250	INDONESIA		MATAHARI 5		P.T.CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	AT	J	
251	INDONESIA		PERTUNI 11		PT. PERIKANAN PERTUNI UTAMA	INDONESIA	PA	J	
252	INDONESIA		PERTUNI 6		PT.BONECOM	INDONESIA	AT	J	
253	INDONESIA		SERAM		PT. PROVISIT	INDONESIA	AT	J	

ICCAT REPORT 2000-2001 (II)

364

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
254	INDONESIA		SINIPENG		P.T. BHARUNA MINATAKA PERSADA	INDONESIA	AT,IN	J	
255	INDONESIA		SINIUPENG		P.T. BHARUNA MINATAKA PERSADA	INDONESIA	AT,IN	J	
256	INDONESIA		SMP.LL 03A		PT.SAMUDERA MINA PERSADA.	INDONESIA	AT	J	
257	INDONESIA		SUNCE		P.T.BHARUNA MINATAKA PERSADA	INDONESIA	AT	J	
258	INDONESIA		SUNCLE		P.T DARA PUTRA PERDANA	INDONESIA	AT	J	
259	MAURITIUS		Hsin Hua 101	信華101			IN	CT	
260	MAURITIUS	Mauritius	Meng Fa 368	盟發368				CT	
261	PANAMA		APOLO 1		INTERMARLIN HOLDING	PANAMA	AT	J	
262	PANAMA		APOLO 2		INTERMARLIN HOLDING	PANAMA	IN,PA	J	
263	PANAMA		APOLO 202		MARSHALL MARINE	PANAMA	IN	J	
264	PANAMA		DONG YIH 866	東億866	DONG YIH SHUN FISHERY	BELIZE	IN	J	
265	PANAMA		Hsiang Chang 102	翔強102			AT	CT	
266	PANAMA		HSIANG FA	翔發	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US	
267	PANAMA		HSIANG PAO 602	翔寶602	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	US	
268	PANAMA		HSIANG PAO 613	翔寶613	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	US	
269	PANAMA		HSIANG PAO 632	翔寶632	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	US	
270	PANAMA		ISABEL 111		T.B.G. GROUP			J	4
271	PANAMA		Ko Yu 8	光佑8			IN	CT	
272	PANAMA		KOPAS 88		CARYFORT SOCIEDAD ANONIMA		AT	J	
273	PANAMA		TROPAC 1		TROPAC FISHERIES	AMERICAN SAMOA	PA	J	
274	SEYCHELLES		ASHUNEYU		FORTUNE OCEANIC CO. LTD.			CT	4
275	SEYCHELLES		CHUN I 316		CHUN BAO FISHERY			J	4
276	SEYCHELLES		CHUN I 326		CHUN CHEN FISHERY			J	4
277	SEYCHELLES		CHUN YING 323	春盈323	CHUN MAAN FISHERY	SEYCHELLES	PA	J	
278	SEYCHELLES		EVER GOLD 1		GOLDEN WIDE FISHERY	SEYCHELLES	PA	J	4
279	SEYCHELLES		FULL HOPE 1		FULL HOPE FISHERY			J	4
280	SEYCHELLES		FULL HOPE 2		FULL HOPE FISHERY			J	4
281	SEYCHELLES		FULL MEANS 1		FULL MEANS FISHERY			J	4
282	SEYCHELLES		FULL MEANS 2		FULL MEANS FISHERY			J	4
283	SEYCHELLES		FULL WINNING 1		FULL WINNING FISHERY CO. LTD.			CT	4
284	SEYCHELLES		FULL WINNING 2		FULL WINNING FISHERY CO. LTD.			CT	4
285	SEYCHELLES		GREAT 1			E.GUINEA	PA, IN	J	
286	SEYCHELLES		Hsiang Shun 166	興順166			IN	CT	
287	SEYCHELLES		HWA SHAN 301	華番301	HWA YOW FISHERY	SEYCHELLES/CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J	2
288	SEYCHELLES		JAN YUNG 282	瓊永282	JAIN YU FISHERY	SEYCHELLES	IN	J	4
289	SEYCHELLES		JIN HONG 308		JIN HONG OCEAN ENTERPRISE CO., LTD.			CT	4
290	SEYCHELLES		Lu Soon	裕順			IN	CT	
291	SEYCHELLES		SEA GRAND		SEAGRANF MARINE	SEYCHELLES	IN	J	
292	SEYCHELLES		SEA WISE		SEA WISE MARINE FISHERY	SEYCHELLES	AT,IN	J	
293	SEYCHELLES	E.Guinea	SEYPEARL SHANG SOON 212	陸順212	GRANDEUR OCEANIC	SEYCHELLES/E.GUINEA	PA	J CT	2
294	SEYCHELLES	E.Guinea	SEYPEARL SHANG SHUN 622	陸順622	PROSPERITY OCEANIC/EXITO FISHERY	SEYCHELLES/E.GUINEA	PA	J CT	2
295	SEYCHELLES	E.Guinea	SEYSTARLUNG SOON 282	陸順282	LOUIS OCEANIC CO.LTD.	SEYCHELLES/CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J CT	2
296	SEYCHELLES		Shin You					CT	

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
287	SEYCHELLES		SHUENN MAN 232	順灣232	MING MAAN MARINE	SEYCHELLES	PA	J	
298	SEYCHELLES		SHUENN MAN 323		MING MAAN MARINE	SEYCHELLES		J	4
289	SEYCHELLES		SHUENN YING 232		SHUENN YING FISHERY CO., LTD.			CT	4
300	SEYCHELLES		VICTORY 1	維多利亞1	VICTORY FISHERY	SINGAPORE	IN	J	
301	SEYCHELLES			萊茲202				CT	
302	SIERRA LEONE		BEST OF SL		LUCKY FISHERY	SIERRA LEONE	AT	J	
303	SINGAPORE		Sheng Fan 6	勝帆6			AT	CT	
304	SRI LANKA		LANKA STAR 21		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US	
305	SRI LANKA		Sheng Pao 5	聖寶5			PA	CT	
306	SRILANKA		YU SUAN 101	裕銜101	LANKA INTERCON TRADERS/ YU SUAN FISHERY	SRILANKA/CHI. TAIPEI	AT,PA	J	
307	ST.VINCENT	E.GUINEA	CHANG YOW 212	昌祐212	CHANG YOW FISHERY/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST. VINCENT	AT	US,J,CT	
308	ST.VINCENT		Dhalla 80Hsiang Chang 136C	翔強136	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	CT	
309	ST.VINCENT		HSIANG PAO 101	翔寶101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US	
310	ST.VINCENT		HSIANG PAO 102	翔寶102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	US	
311	ST.VINCENT		MING TAY 1	明泰1	HO HSIN FISHING CO.LTD.	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	J	
312	ST.VINCENT		MIRANDA		CLIPPER	SOUTH AFRICA	AT,PA	J	
313	ST.VINCENT		WEN SHUN 621		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	US	
314	ST.VINCENT		WEN SHUN 622		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	US	
315	ST.VINCENT		WEN SHUN 626		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	US	
316	THAILAND		GREEN BAY 11		EVERGREEN BAY PRODUCTS	THAILAND	AT,MED	J	
317	UNKNOWN		BOBBY 3				IN	J	
318	UNKNOWN	Belize	CITI 8				PA	J	
319	UNKNOWN		HSANG JANG 102		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	US	
320	UNKNOWN		HSANG JANG 202		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	US	
321	UNKNOWN		Jeffrey 137	傑佛利137			AT	CT	
322	UNKNOWN		Jeffrey 166	傑佛利166				CT	
323	UNKNOWN		JEFFREY 28	傑佛利28			AT, IN	J	
324	UNKNOWN		JEFFREY 816	傑佛利816			AT, IN	J	
325	UNKNOWN		Kao Feng 3	高豐3				CT	
326	UNKNOWN		Meng Win Far 168	盟穩發168			IN	CT	
327	UNKNOWN		Nam Sun 27	南未27			AT	CT	
328	VANUATU		CRUSADER		ROMEO ENTERPRISE	VANUATU	AT	J	
329	VANUATU		HENG CHANG 188		EVER FORTUNE FISHERY CO., LTD.			CT	4
330	VANUATU		HENG FA 188		EVER FORTUNE FISHERY			J	4
331	VANUATU		SHENG PAO 31	聖寶31	SAINT POWER FISHERY		PA	J,CT	
332	VANUATU		Sheng Pao 37	聖寶37			PA	CT	
333	VANUATU		SUNRISE 1	昇興1	SUN RISE FISHERIES	VANUATU	AT	J	
334	VANUATU		TUNAGO 31		TUNAGO FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J,CT	
335	VANUATU		TUNAGO 32		TUNAGO FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J,CT	
336	VANUATU		TUNAGO 51		TUNAGO FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J,CT	
337	VANUATU		TUNAGO 52		TUNAGO FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	J,CT	
338	VANUATU		TUNAGO 61		TUNAGO FISHERY CO., LTD.			CT	4
339	VANUATU		TUNAGO 62		TUNAGO FISHERY CO., LTD.			CT	4

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
340		Japan	ALLAMAHADA					CT	4
341			BHASKARA 10		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
342			BHASKARA 2		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	IN,PA	J	5
343			BHASKARA 3		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
344			BHASKARA 5		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
345			BHASKARA 6		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
346			BHASKARA 7		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
347			BHASKARA 9		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
348			BINTANG SELATAN		PT. FAJAR CAKRAWALA SUMBINDO	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
349			BINTANG SEMESTA		PT. FAJARCAKRAWALA SUMBINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
350			BONERATE 1		PT. BONERATE CIPTA UTAMA	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
351			CALVIN 1		PT. FAJAR CAKRAWALA SUMINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
352			CHEN CHIEH 888	辰傑888	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE	PHILIPPINES	AT,IN,PA	J	2, 5
353			CHRISADNA 1		VITA SAMUDERA	INDONESIA	IN,PA	J	5
354			DAKSA 1		PT. KHARISMA BAHARI INDONESIA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
355			DAMAI		P.T. LIANINTI ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
356			DIBIRON		Mr. THAMRIN HUSNI TELOK GONG INDAH	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
357			HASLINDO 1		PT. SUMBER HASLINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
358			HASLINDO 3		PT. SUMBER HASLINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
359			HASLINDO 38		PT. SUMBER HASLINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
360			HASLINDO 5		PT. SUMBER HASLINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
361			HASLINDO 6		PT. SUMBER HASLINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
362			HASLINDO 7		PT. SUMBER HASLINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
363			HASLINDO 8		PT. SUMBER HASLINDO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
364		Belize	HSIANG FA 26	翔發26	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE INC.		AT,IN	J	2, 5
365			INDOTIM 8		PT. DONGWON BUMI BAHARI	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
366			JIMMI INDAH 2		JOHANES TANAMAS	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
367			JIMMY WIJAYA 2		CHARLIE WIJAYA TUNA PT	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
368			LEON		PT. HARINI ASRI BAHARI	INDONESIA	IN,PA	J	5
369			LIANINTI 3		PT. LIANINTI ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
370			LINA		PT. HARINI ASRI BAHARI	INDONESIA	IN,PA	J	5
371			MAESTRO 4		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
372			MATAHARI 1		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
373			MATAHARI 2		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
374			MATAHARI 6		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	PA	J	5
375			MATAHARI 7		RAHARJO	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
376			MINA JAYA NIAGA 1		P.T. PANN MULTI FINANCE	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
377			MINA JAYA NIAGA 15		PT. (PERSERO) PANN MULTI FINANCE	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
378			MINA JAYA NIAGA 2		PT. PANN MULTI FINANCE	INDONESIA	IN,PA	J	5
379			MINA JAYA NIAGA 3		PT. (PERSERO) PANN MULTI FINANCE	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
380			MUJUR MALUKU 6		P.T. MUJUR MALUKU	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
381			MV. SARI SEGARA		NYM SARYA	INDONESIA		J	5
382			PERTUNI 2		PT. PERIKANAN PERTUNI UTAMA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5

No.	Current Flag State	Previous Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Trans-shpmt	Source	Note
383			PERTUNI 7		P.T.PERIKANAN PERTUNI UTAMA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
384			PRATIDINA 205		PT.PRATIDINA PRATAMA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
385			PURBAKALA 3		PT. CAHAYA FISHERIES ABADI	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
386			RESTU JAYA		MR.WILIAM LIM	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
387			SHYE SHIN 1	海1	SUN WARM FISHING SERVICE	PHILIPPINES	IN	J	2, 6
388			SOONIA 22		PT.NUSAERLIN TIMUR	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
389			SULTRA 1		PT.SULTRATUNA SAMUDRA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
390			SUMBER BAHARI		MR. JOHANNES A.S.	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
391			SUMBER BUANA 35		MR. GO TEK TJIN	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
392			TELUR CEUDRAWASIH 1		PT. SARI SEGARA UTAMA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
393			THUNNUS 2		P.T. CAKALANG PITU	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
394			TUNA PERDANA 2		MR. ANG GIN HONG	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
395			VICI 18		P.T.YAKITAMA ANDALAN PUTRA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5
396			VICI 8		P.T.YAKITAMA ANDALAN PUTRA	INDONESIA	IN	J	5

**NOTES**

- 1 Those vessels included on this list that have the same name, but for which other information provided is different (i.e. owner's name, owner's address, area) are shown as a separate entry. Hence, there could be some double entries. Vessels operating under charter or other arrangements are not included in this list, except the Philippines, but, given the temporary nature of such arrangements, these vessels should be closely monitored, and evaluated frequently by the Parties concerned.
- 2 Participant in re-registration program
- 3 Participant in scrapping program
- 4 Informed to ICCAT in 2001 as newly built FOC vessel by Chinese Taipei.
- 5 Indonesian longline vessels whose business relations with IUU might exist.
- 6 Vessels operating under charter arrangements with Philippine companies. However, the Philippines commits itself not to renew their charter contracts after the end of 2002. Those vessels should not be subject to sanction measures until the end of their contracts or the end of 2002, whichever comes first.
- 7 At the 2001 Commission meeting, Belize informed that these had been deleted from the registry or had expired or did not appear on the registry.
- 8 At the 2001 Commission meeting, Honduras informed that it had cancelled 255 vessel licenses as of November 2001. However, the list of cancellations was not compared to the list above.



Appendix 7 to ANNEX 14

Large-scale logline vessels listed on the 1999 and 2000 ICCAT IUU lists but which had no record of imports into Japan since January 1, 2000 <sup>1</sup>.

368

No.	Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Transshipment	Note
1	BELIZE	ANDREW 708		SEVEN SEAS MARINE	SINGAPORE	AT,IN	
2	BELIZE	CHEN FA 88	振發88			AT	
3	BELIZE	CHEN FA 888	振發888			AT	
4	BELIZE	CITI 8				PCW	
5	BELIZE	FONG YA 11	豐亞11			PA	
6	BELIZE	GENNY 8		PESQUERA CHIN CHENG	BELIZE	IN	
7	BELIZE	HENG FA 18				IN	
8	BELIZE	HSIANG SHENG		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
9	BELIZE	HSIANG YI 236		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES			
10	BELIZE	HSIEN HUA 106	憲權106	HSIEN HUA FISHERY		PA	
11	BELIZE	HSIEN HUA 107	憲權107	HSIEN HUA FISHERY		PA	
12	BELIZE	HSIEN YUNG 836	協永836			PA	
13	BELIZE	HUI TA 101		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED			
14	BELIZE	HWA CHIN 202				AT	
15	BELIZE	Jeffery 328	傑佛利328			IN	
16	BELIZE	JEFFREY 28	傑佛利28	SEVEN SEAS MARINE	SINGAPORE	AT,IN	
17	BELIZE	JEFFREY 616	傑佛利616	SEVEN SEAS MARINE	SINGAPORE	IN	
18	BELIZE	JEFFREY 816	傑佛利816	SEVEN SEAS MARINE	SINGAPORE	AT,IN	
19	BELIZE	JYH HORNG 201	錦鴻201			PA	
20	BELIZE	JOHNNY 137		SEVEN SEAS MARINE	SINGAPORE	AT,IN	
21	BELIZE	JUI JHI 101		YUNG YING FISHERY	CHI, TAIPEI	AT	
22	BELIZE	LIEN HORNG 777	連鴻777	LIEN HORNG FISHERY	BELIZE	PA	
23	BELIZE	MENG FA 368	盟發368	MENG YOH FISHERY		IN	
24	BELIZE	NATIONAL 208		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	PA	
25	BELIZE	NATIONAL 21		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	PA	
26	BELIZE	SHINN MANN 666	信滿666	SHINN MANN FISHERY	BELIZE	PA	
27	BELIZE	SOUTH STAR		GRAND FOREST MARITIME	BELIZE	PA	
28	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN 116		FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS	SPAIN	AT	
29	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN 127		FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS	SPAIN	AT	
30	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN 137		FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS	SPAIN	AT	
31	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN 21		FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS	SPAIN	AT	
32	BELIZE	TRANS CARIBBEAN 701		FISHERIES INT. SEAFOOD HANDLERS	SPAIN	AT	
33	BELIZE	VICTORY 88		VICTORIA FISHERY	HONDURAS	AT,IN	
34	BELIZE	WEN SHENG 16	溫盛16			AT,IN	
35	BELIZE	WIN FAR 828	豐發828			IN	
36	BELIZE	WIN FAR 878	豐發878			IN	
37	BELIZE	YING CHIN HSIANG 101	盈智祥101	YING CHIN HSIANG FISHERY	CHI, TAIPEI	IN	
38	BELIZE	ZHONG XIN 16	中信16	ZHONG XIN FISHERY	CHI, TAIPEI	PA	
39	BELIZE,E.GUINEA	JEFFREY 168	傑佛利168	FULLING TUNA FISHERY	BELIZE	AT,IN	
40	BELIZE,E.GUINEA	JEFFREY 328	傑佛利328	SEVEN SEAS MARINE	SINGAPORE	AT,IN	
41	BELIZE,E.GUINEA	SHUN YING	順盈	CHEN CHONG HSIN	E.GUINEA	AT	
42	BELIZE/	HSIANG CHANG 101	翔強101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI, TAIPEI	AT	
43	BELIZE/E.GUINEA	CHI YANG	吉洋	CHIN FU FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	
44	BELIZE/E.GUINEA	SHUN LIEN	順滿666	SHUENN MAN FISHERY	BELIZE	AT	

No.	Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Transshipment	Note
45	BELIZE/HONDURAS	JONNY 137		SEVEN SEAS MARINE	SINGAPORE	AT,IN	
46	BELIZE/HONDURAS	LUNG SOON 22	隆順22	SICONG SOON SHIPPING	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	
47	BELIZE/HONDURAS/E.GUINEA	CHIN CHENG MING	金成明	CHIN FU FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT	
48	BELIZE/ST.VINCENT	HSIANG PAO		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES			
49	BELIZE/ST.VINCENT	NATIONAL 101		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES			
50	BELIZE/ST.VINCENT	NATIONAL 202		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	BELIZE	AT,PA	
51	BELIZE/ST.VINCENT	NATIONAL 238		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES			
52	CAMBODIA	BENNY 78		TUNA KING MARINE/MENG FA FISHERY	CAMBODIA/MALAYSIA	AT,IN	
53	CAMBODIA	EVER LUCK		EVER LUCK FISHERY	MALAYSIA	AT	
54	CAMBODIA	LONG THE		CHARNG HER FISHERY	HONDURAS	IN	
55	E.GUINEA	ABUNDANCIA		PESQUERA EXITO	E.GUINEA	IN	
56	E.GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH 725	振傑725			IN	
57	E.GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH 728	振傑728	CHEN CHIN CHENG FISHERY	E.GUINEA	AT,IN	
58	E.GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH 8	振傑8			IN	
59	E.GUINEA	CHO YU 88	長友88			AT	
60	E.GUINEA	COLUMBUS		PESQUERA COLUMBUS	E.GUINEA	PA	
61	E.GUINEA	EXITO		PESQUERA EXITO	E.GUINEA	IN	
62	E.GUINEA	JYH HORNG	錦鴻			AT	
63	E.GUINEA	KAE SA		CHIN CHING FISHERY	E.GUINEA	AT	
64	E.GUINEA	LUNG SOON 882	隆順882	EXITO FISHERY	E.GUINEA	IN	
65	E.GUINEA	SUN RISE 313	昇興313	SINGAPORE CORP.	E.GUINEA	AT,IN	
66	E.GUINEA	WEN SHENG 202	文盛202	WEN SHENG FISHERY S.A.	E.GUINEA	AT,IN	
67	E.GUINEA	YUH HUNG 212				IN	
68	E.GUINEA	ZAHRA 1		OFFSHORE RESOURCES	E.GUINEA	AT	
69	E.GUINEA	ZHONG I 73	中義73			PA	
70	E.GUINEA,GUINEA	CHEN CHIEH 736	振傑736	SRION COMMERCIAL/CHEN CHIN CHENG FISHERY	SPAIN,E.GUINEA	AT	
71	E.GUINEA,HONDURAS	JIN CHENG HORNG	金成鴻	NAVIERAGE KO YUAN FISHERY	E.GUINEA	AT,IN	
72	GHANA,ST.VINCENT,E.GUINEA	HSIANG PAO 601	翔寶601	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
73	GUINEA	AL RABAT AL AMAMI		ACDC COMMERCIAL PANAMA	PANAMA	AT	
74	GUINEA	JIN FENG 6	金豐6			AT	
75	GUINEA	SEA QUEEN 18		THIANGUI	GUINEA	AT	
76	GUINEA	ZARQA AL YAMAMA		ACDC COMMERCIAL PANAMA	PANAMA	AT	
77	HONDURAS	ATLANTIC KAEI 25		ATLANTIC PEZ S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT	2
78	HONDURAS	BOBBY 3		CHIANG CHUNG HUNG	HONDURAS	IN	
79	HONDURAS	CHI HUNG 21	啓宏121	CHI HUNG S.DE R.L.	HONDURAS	AT	2
80	HONDURAS	CHIN CHIN MING	金進明	CHIN YUAN HORNG	HONDURAS	AT,PA	2
81	HONDURAS	CHIN HORNG 108	金鴻108			AT	2
82	HONDURAS	CHIN YUAN HORNG	金元鴻	CHIN YUAN HORNG	HONDURAS	AT	2
83	HONDURAS	CHWAN YI 1	川儀1	JI HE YI FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	AT,IN	2
84	HONDURAS	DAE SUNG 16		INTER SURGO S.A.	SPAIN	PA	2
85	HONDURAS	EDEN 18		KINGFISH FISHERY	HONDURAS	IN	2
86	HONDURAS	FELIZ 103		SOCHEDAD FELIZ FISHING	HONDURAS	AT	2
87	HONDURAS	FWU HUAN	福環	FWU HUAN FISHERY	HONDURAS	IN	2
88	HONDURAS	GOLDEN LAKE 23		GOLDEN LAKE	SPAIN	PA	2
89	HONDURAS	HER MAN		HER MAN FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	2
90	HONDURAS	HO MAN	合滿	HER MAN FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	2
91	HONDURAS	HO MAN 3	合滿3			AT,IN	2
92	HONDURAS	HONG SHUN 66	鴻順66	HONG SHUN FISHERY	SINGAPORE	AT,IN	2

ICCAT REPORT 2000-2002 (III)

370

No.	Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Transshipment	Note
93	HONDURAS	HORNG SHIN				AT	2
94	HONDURAS	HSIANG CHANG 132	翔強132	DAWA MARINE INTERNATIONAL S.DE R.L.	JAPAN	AT,PA	2
95	HONDURAS	HSIEH YUNG 368	協榮368			IN	2
96	HONDURAS	HSING SHUN 66	興順66	LUNG SOON SHIPPING	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	2
97	HONDURAS	HUA CHUNG 707	華成707	HUA I FISHERY	CHI. TAIPEI	AT,IN	2
98	HONDURAS	HUNG SHUN 67	鴻順67			AT,IN	2
99	HONDURAS	JASMINE 9		KOJE ENGINEERING&TRADING	SINGAPORE	PA	2
100	HONDURAS	LUNG SOON 122	隆順122	SIONG SOON SHIPPING	CHI. TAIPEI	IN	2
101	HONDURAS	LUNG SOON 126	隆順126			IN	2
102	HONDURAS	ORIENT 7		EL ORIENTE	HONDURAS	AT	2
103	HONDURAS	SHANG SHUN 166	興順166	LUNG SOON SHIPPING	SINGAPORE	IN	2
104	HONDURAS	SHENG HSING 606	勝興606/昇興606			AT	2
105	HONDURAS	SHUN CHUAN 6	順泉6	CHIN HSIANG MING FISHERY	HONDURAS	AT,PA	2
106	HONDURAS	SHUN HORNG	順興	CHIN YUAN HORNG	HONDURAS	AT	2
107	HONDURAS	SHUN SHENG	順勝	CHIN YUAN HORNG	HONDURAS	AT,PA	2
108	HONDURAS	SHUN TAI	順泰	CHIN YUAN HORNG	HONDURAS	AT	2
109	HONDURAS	SUN RISE 607	昇興607	YELLOW FIN FISHERY	HONDURAS	AT	2
110	HONDURAS	TA YU 11	大佑11	TA YU OCEAN ENTERPRISE	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	2
111	HONDURAS	TAI HONG 10AMBER 80	華宏1	SHANDONG OCEAN FISHERIES CORP	CHINA	IN	2
112	HONDURAS	YOHA 9		VENUS MARINES	VIRGIN IS.	PA	2
113	HONDURAS	YUNG HUANG 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	2
114	HONDURAS	YUNG SHU 606		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	2
115	HONDURAS	ZHONG XIN 1	中信1	DALIAN OVERSEAS FISHERY	HONDURAS	IN,PA	2
116	HONDURAS,PANAMA	HSIANG CHANG 102	翔強102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	2
117	HONDURAS,SINGAPORE	NEW STAR 1		MISHIMA FISHERY	PANAMA	IN,PA	2
118	HONDURAS,SINGAPORE,SEYCHELLES	LU SOON	裕順	LUNG SOON SHIPPING	SINGAPORE	IN	2
119	HONDURAS,ST.VINCENT	HSIANG PAO 101	翔寶101	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	2
120	HONDURAS,ST.VINCENT	HSIANG PAO 102	翔寶102	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	2
121	HONDURAS,ST.VINCENT	YU YAO 201		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES			2
122	HONDURAS,ST.VINCENT	YU YAO 202		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES			2
123	INDONESIA,ST.VINCENT	DHALIA 8(HSIANG CHANG 136)	翔強136	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
124	KENYA	ALANA 1				IN	
125	KENYA	UCHUMI				IN	
126	MAURITIUS	HSIN HUA 101	協永366			IN	
127	MAURITIUS	MENG FA 366	運發366				
128	PANAMA	HSIANG FA	翔發	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
129	PANAMA	HSIANG PAO 602	翔寶602	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	
130	PANAMA	HSIANG PAO 613	翔寶613	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	
131	PANAMA	HSIANG PAO 632	翔寶632	KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	
132	PANAMA	KO YU 6	光佑6			IN	
133	SEYCHELLES	GREAT 1			E.GUINEA	PA,IN	
134	SEYCHELLES	HSING SHUN 166	協永636			IN	
135	SEYCHELLES	SHIN YOU		SHIN YOU MARINE PRODUCTS			
136	SIERRA LEONE	STARLET 901		ESUORIM TRADE	PANAMA	AT	
137	SINGAPORE	GHAZI 606				IN	
138	SINGAPORE	SHENG FAN 6	勝帆6			AT	
139	SRI LANKA	LANKA STAR 102		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES			
140	SRI LANKA	LANKA STAR 21		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES	CHI. TAIPEI		

No.	Flag State	Name of Vessel	Chinese name	Owners Name	Owners Address	Area Transshipment	Note
141	SRILANKA	SHENG PAO 5	聖寶5	FISHING VESSEL/MOTOR DRIVEN	CHI. TAIPEI	PA	
142	ST.VINCENT	HSANG YU		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
143	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG HER		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
144	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 11	翔贊11	CONTINENTAL LIMITED/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
145	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 111	翔贊111	KWO JENG FISHERY/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
146	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 112	翔贊112	KWO JENG FISHERY/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
147	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 22	翔贊22	PESQUERA ATLANTIC/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	E.GUINEA	AT	
148	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 811	翔贊811	KWO JENG FISHERY/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
149	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 812	翔贊812	KWO JENG FISHERY/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
150	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 818	翔贊818	SHIN TA DEEPSEA FISHERY/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	VIRGIN IS./CHI. TAIPEI	AT,PA	
151	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 828	翔贊828	SHIN TA DEEPSEA FISHERY	VIRGIN IS./CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
152	ST.VINCENT	HSIANG JANG 86	翔贊86	CONTINENTAL LIMITED/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	VIRGIN IS./CHI. TAIPEI	AT	
153	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 101		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
154	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 102		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
155	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 111		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
156	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 112		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
157	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 121		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
158	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 122		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
159	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 211		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
160	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 212		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
161	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 22		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS			
162	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 801		CONTINENTAL LIMITED/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	IN	
163	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 802		CONTINENTAL LIMITED/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	IN	
164	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 808		CONTINENTAL LIMITED/CONTINENTAL HANDLERS	ST.VINCENT/CHI. TAIPEI	IN	
165	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 821		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	
166	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 822		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	
167	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 828		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	
168	ST.VINCENT	WEN SHUN 88		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	
169	UNKNOWN	HSANG JANG 102		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	
170	UNKNOWN	HSANG JANG 202		CONTINENTAL HANDLERS		AT	
171	UNKNOWN	HSIANG CHANG 136	翔強136			PA	
172	UNKNOWN	JEFFREY 137	傑佛利137			IN	
173	UNKNOWN	JEFFREY 166	傑佛利166				
174	UNKNOWN	KAO FENG 3	高豐3			IN	
175	UNKNOWN	MENG WIN FAR 168	盟運發168			AT	
176	UNKNOWN	NAM SUN 27	南宗27				
177	UNKNOWN	SHENG LUNG 9		KWO-JENG MARINE SERVICES		PA	
178	VANUATU	SHENG PAO 37	聖寶37				

NOTES

1 Source: Japan.

2 At the 2001 Commission meeting, Honduras informed that it had cancelled 255 vessel licenses as of November 2001. However, the list of cancellations was not compared to the list above.

### Statement by Chinese Taipei to the PWG Meeting

During recent years, the Commission has grave concerns on IUU fishing issue. As many parties have noted at the Commission, it needs close cooperation among importing states, port states, and fishing states to combat IUU fishing. And this Commission has made significant progress on addressing this issue although further efforts are still needed.

We note with concern that some of our residents have involved in this complicated issue with dealers, fishing companies belong to several other states. The problem of notorious IUU activities by our residents has created negative image to our government. We are determined to work with all parties with a view of eliminating IUU fishing in its entirety. In this context, we've endeavored to closely cooperate with other ICCAT member states concerned, in particular Japan. We've been working on a Japan-Chinese Taipei joint program, which includes scrapping program and re-registration program for FOC vessels. The joint program is not all an easy one, however, progress has been made. Amendments of our fisheries laws and regulations were completed, whereby establishing a mechanism for those FOC vessels built by our shipyards to acquire our registration. The progress of this program has been continuing and reported to the Secretariat.

We are glad Japan has initiated to host a working group to further tackle the problem of IUU activities as a whole. We anticipate working with all parties in order that there will have substantial result enabling all parties to have better tool to combat IUU fishing.

### Appendix 9 to ANNEX 14

#### Progress Report Presented by Chinese Taipei on Joint Programs of Japan and Chinese Taipei to Eliminate IUU Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels

##### 1. Background

In February 1999, Japan and Chinese Taipei signed an Action Plan, and since then the two sides have held more than 20 rounds of consultations determining to solve the problems of FOC/IUU fishing activities in the tuna longline fishery. In 1999, ICCAT adopted a resolution, praising Chinese Taipei's re-registration program and Japan's scrapping program to reduce FOC vessels, and asking Chinese Taipei and Japan to continue strengthening their joint program. The resolution also called upon all parties not to engage in IUU activities, and asked their importers, transporters, consumers, and fishing gear producers not to do business with vessel owners who engaged in IUU activities. Later, in last year's annual meeting, ICCAT adopted supplemental resolution demanding Chinese Taipei and Japan to take necessary steps to conclude the scrapping program before 2003, and the re-registration program before 2005, and report the matters in the 2001 annual meeting.

##### 2. Programs

###### 2.1 Scrapping Program

In February 2000, the Fisheries Agency of Japan reached an agreement with owners of 43 FOC vessels, under which Japan would be purchasing these boats for scrap within the next few years. So far, two of them were reported sunk, and the remaining 41 boats will be scrapped, latest by November 2003, in accordance with the following schedule:

Year 2001, 26 vessels  
Year 2002, 6 vessels  
Year 2003, 9 vessels

## 2.2 Re-registration Program

- Under the guidance of my Government, three FOC vessels have joined the re-registration program this year. Two of them have already completed the necessary procedure. The third one is on its way.
- On January 28, 2000, 67 FOC vessels expressed their intention to join the re-registration program. Among which, one was sunk, and one sold during the year, leaving only 65 boats pending re-registration.
- On September 28, 2001, amendment of the relevant regulations was completed to facilitate re-registration of those locally built FOC vessels. It is expected that, in the first year (2001), more than 20 FOC vessels will enroll for re-registration. Such procedures as ship's survey have to be completed before they can be formally registered. It is estimated that the complete procedure will be finalized some time before mid 2002.
- During the transitional period before these FOC vessels complete the re-registration process, they are required to submit catch reports, to comply with the conservation measures adopted by RFMOs, to install VMS on board for the authority to track their locations, so as to provide a linkage with our fishery authorities for preparation of genuine control over these vessels. At the same time, we will issue certificates of eligibility to their catches.
- Owners of some FOC vessels that operate in the Atlantic Ocean are doubtful about the re-registration program wondering whether they will be granted any catch allocation after the re-registration. The fact that these vessels have been fishing all the time in the Atlantic Ocean, and words spread that owners preferred not to join the program and continue fishing without any restriction, if they will eventually be barred from operating in the Atlantic region after the re-registration. For this reason, from the time these FOC vessels started the re-registration process, the fisheries authority undertook close monitoring over their catches. When fully implemented, the re-registration program will enable reduction of FOC/TUU fishing activities, including those in the Atlantic Ocean, bringing the FOC vessels to proper control under our governance, and thus resulting effective management of resource utilization in the Atlantic.

## 3. Efforts outside the Joint Program

- Exchange of information: In order to combat IUU fishing activities through the mechanism of RFMOs, both Japan and Chinese Taipei have been providing information of FOC vessels to ICCAT. Such information exchange has enabled parties of concern working together in an effort to combat IUU fishing activities. The following are some of the examples:
  - a) In the annual meeting of 2000, we provided information on 67 FOC vessels (updated as **Attachment 1**) and 11 newly built FOC vessels (**Attachment 2**).
  - b) On August 3, 2000, we again provided information on 17 newly built FOC vessels (**Attachment 3**).
  - c) On May 7, 2001, we provided information on the countries of open registry and the change of operation areas of 6 of the vessels to the Secretariat (see **Attachment 1**).
  - d) **Attachment 4** gives the information on 14 recently built FOC vessels.
- On December 1, 2000, the tuna industries of Japan and Chinese Taipei contributed funds to establish the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT). This NGO was established under the guidance of the Government of Japan, aiming at scrapping second-handed FOC vessels originated from Japan, developing a global list of FOC tuna longliners, enhancing the information collection of IUU fishing activities, and combating IUU fishing activities internationally by publicizing the vessels on the web site of Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
- To educate the general public, vessel owners and shipyards have been told not to involve in IUU fishing activities, and fishermen have been advised not to work on an FOC vessel. In addition, FOC vessels have been forbidden to use our fishing ports for supply and unloading of catch. Information has been provided

to banks, convincing them to take careful consideration in providing credits to the construction of new FOC vessels.

#### *4. Conclusion*

- It is expected that after the complete implementation of the Action Plan between Chinese Taipei and Japan, there will be a reduction of 20 IUU/FOC vessels in the Atlantic Ocean. It is estimated that these vessels can catch around 4,000 MT of tunas in a year. With the scrapping of 13 FOC vessels out of these 20 vessels, more than 2,000 MT of tuna resource can thus be spared. And, after completion of the re-registration program, 1,000 MT of tuna resource will be utilized under proper control. This will undoubtedly enhance the management of tuna resource in the region.
- In order to effectively eliminate IUU activities in tuna fishery, further efforts are anticipated from the international community. Such measures may include, for example, refusal of imports by market countries on tuna catch from IUU fishing vessels, refusal of port entry by port States to IUU vessels, enhancement of control by flag States, and refusal of registration of IUU vessels by all States to prevent them from flag hopping. If the international community fails to take appropriate actions, the joint efforts by Japan and Chinese Taipei under their Action Plan will not be effective, and those that have already enrolled for re-registration might change their mind. Therefore, we urge all nations to enhance implementation of the IPOA to prevent IUU fishing activities from any chance of survival.

## Attachment 1 to Appendix 9 to ANNEX 14

No	Flag State (Previous)	Name of Vessel (Previous)	Year of Built	GRT	Fishing Area	Target Species	Memo
1	Belize	Chang Jaan No 1	1998	470	Pacific	Albacore	
2	Belize	Chen Fa No1	1997	537	Indian	Bigeye	
3	Belize	Chien Chin No 602	1997	706	Atlantic	Bigeye	
4	Belize	Chien Chun No 8	1997	610	Atlantic	Bigeye	
5	Belize	Chun I No 307	1998	683	Pacific	Albacore	
6	Belize	Chun I No 316	1998	683	Pacific	Albacore	
7	Belize	Chun Ying No 212	1998	598	Pacific	Albacore	
8	Belize	Chun Ying No 777	1997	498	Pacific	Albacore	
9	Belize	Dai Ho	1997	573	Atlantic	Bigeye	
10	Belize	Dong Yih No1	1999	493	Indian	Bigeye	
11	Belize	Fong Kuo No 16	1997	521	Pacific	Albacore	
12	Belize	Fong Kuo No 3	1997	521	Pacific	Albacore	
13	Belize	Fong Kuo No 33	1998	521	Pacific	Albacore	
14	Belize	Fong Kuo No 36	1998	521	Pacific	Albacore	
15	Belize	Fong Kuo No 6	1997	521	Pacific	Albacore	
16	Belize	Fong Ya No 11	1998	499	Pacific	Bigeye	
17	Belize	Fu Yuan No 66	1998	683	Pacific	Bigeye	
18	Belize	Hsiang Fa No 18	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye	
19	Belize	Hsiang Fa No 26	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye	
20	Belize	Hsien Yung No 636	1997	550	Pacific	Bigeye	
21	Belize	Hua Ching No202	1997	470	Atlantic	Albacore	
22	Belize	Hung Chia No 202	1997	706	Indian	Bigeye	
23	Belize	Hung Ching No 212	1998	706	Atlantic	Bigeye	
24	Belize	Hwa Chin No 202	1997	470	Atlantic	Albacore	
25	Belize	Jain Yung No 202	1997	599	Indian	Bigeye	
26	Belize	Jui Ying No 666	1997	498	Pacific	Albacore	
27	Belize	Kao Feng No 1	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye	
28	Belize	Lien Horng No 777	1998	499	Pacific	Albacore	
29	Belize	Long Chang No 3	1997	589	Atlantic	Bigeye	
30	Belize	Nine Lucky No 6	1998	508	Pacific	Albacore	
31	Belize	Ping Shin No 201	1996	706	Indian	Bigeye	
32	Belize	Ping Yuan No 201	1997	706	Indian	Bigeye	
33	Belize	Shinn Mann No 11	1997	470	Pacific	Albacore	
34	Belize	Shinn Mann No21	1998	683	Pacific	Albacore	
35	Belize	Shuenn Man No 666	1998	498	Pacific	Albacore	
36	Belize	Shun Yu	1998	573	Atlantic	Bigeye	
37	Belize	Shye Sin No 1	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye	



No	Flag State (Previous)	Name of Vessel (Previous)	Year of Built	GRT	Fishing Area	Target Species	Memo
38	Belize	Si Horng No 128	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye	
39	Belize	Si Tai No 326	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye	
40	Belize	Sung Hui	1997	598	Indian	Bigeye	
41	Belize	Win Far No868	1999	497	Indian	Bigeye	
42	Bolivia (E. Guinea)	Wei Ching	1997	498	Atlantic	Albacore	
43	E. Guinea	Chia Ying No 6	1997	500	Atlantic	Bigeye	
44	E. Guinea	Dong Yih No 688	1997	493	Indian	Bigeye	
45	E. Guinea	Hai Zean No 11	1997	573	Atlantic	Bigeye	
46	E. Guinea	Hai Zean No 31	1997	573	Atlantic	Bigeye	
47	E. Guinea	Hsin Hua No 103	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye	
48	E. Guinea	Hung Yu No 212	1997	550	Indian	Bigeye	
49	E. Guinea	Hwa Mao No 203	1997	450	Indian	Bigeye	
50	E. Guinea	I Man Hung No. 166	1998	496	Atlantic	Bigeye	
51	E. Guinea	Yih Shuen No 212	1997	470	Indian	Bigeye	
52	Honduras	Chun Fa	1997	470	Indian	Bigeye	
53	Philippines	Chen Chieh No 88	1997	706	Pac. (Atl.)	Bigeye	
54	Philippines	Chen Chieh No 888	1998	867	Atlantic	Bigeye	
55	Seychelles	Hwa Shan No 301	1999	498	Indian	Bigeye	
56	Seychelles (E. Guinea)	SEYGEM (Lung Soon No 212)	1997	573	Pacific	Bigeye	
57	Seychelles (E. Guinea)	SEYPERAL (Shang Shun No 622)	1998	680	Pacific	Bigeye	
58	Seychelles (E. Guinea)	SEYSTAR (Lung Soon No 282)	1998	573	Pacific	Bigeye	
59	Vanuatu (Belize)	Nine Lucky No 1	1998	508	Pacific	Albacore	
60	Vanuatu (Honduras)	Fortuna No 1	1995	498	Pacific	Albacore	
61	Vanuatu (Honduras)	Fortuna No 11	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore	
62	Vanuatu (Honduras)	Fortuna No 12	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore	
63	Vanuatu (Honduras)	Fortuna No 2	1995	498	Pacific	Albacore	
64	Vanuatu (Honduras)	Fortuna No 21	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore	
65	Vanuatu (Honduras)	Fortuna No 22	1996	498	Pacific	Albacore	
-	Belize	Chun Ying No 636	1998	598	Indian	Bigeye	Sunk
-	Belize	Jeffrey No 168	1997	573	Indian	Bigeye	Sold

## Attachment 2 to Appendix 9 to ANNEX 14

	<i>Flag State</i>	<i>Name of vessel</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Year of Built</i>	<i>GRT</i>
1	SEYCHELLES	HAU SHEN NO.212	HAU SHEN FISHERY CO. LTD.	2000	625.00
2	BELIZE	HSIEN HUA NO.106	HSIEN HUA FISHERY CO. LTD.	2000	625.00
3	BELIZE	HSIEN HUA NO.107	HSIEN HUA FISHERY CO. LTD.	2000	625.00
4	BELIZE	MENG FA NO.368	MENG YOH FISHERY CO. LTD	1999	493.00
5	VANUATU	SHENG PAO NO.31	SAINT POWER FISHERY CO. LTD	1999	576.00
6	VANUATU	SHENG PAO NO.37	SAINT GIANT FISHERY CO. LTD.	2000	576.00
7	SEYCHELLES	SHIN YOU	SHIN YOU MARINE PRODUCTS LTD.	2000	498.00
8	VANUATU	TUNAGO NO.32	TUNAGO FISHERY CO. LTD	2000	530.00
9	VANUATU	TUNAGO NO.51	TUNAGO FISHERY CO., LTD.	2000	499.00
10	VANUATU	TUNAGO NO.52	TUNAGO FISHERY CO., LTD.	2000	499.00
11	BELIZE	YING CHIN HSIANG 101	YING CHIN HSIANG FISHERY CO., LTD.	2000	598.00

## Attachment 3 to Appendix 9 to ANNEX 14

	<i>Flag State</i>	<i>Name of vessel</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Built Year</i>	<i>GRT</i>
1	PHILIPPINES	CHEN CHIEH NO.828	CHEN CHIN CHENG FISHERY S. A.	2000	680.00
2	SEYCHELLES	CHUN I NO.318	CHUN BAO FISHERY CO, LTD.	2000	625.00
3	SEYCHELLES	CHUN I NO.326	CHUN CHEN FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	625.00
4	SEYCHELLES	CHUN YING NO.323	CHUENN MAAN FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	699.00
5	BELIZE	DONG YIH NO.666	DONG YIH FISHERY CO., LTD.	2000	520.00
6	SEYCHELLES	EVERGOLD NO.1	GOLDEN WIDE FISHERY CO., LTD.	2000	498.00
7	CAMBODIA	FU YUAN NO.668	FU YUAN FISHING OVERSEA S. A.	2000	632.00
8	SEYCHELLES	FULL HOPE NO.1	FULL HOPE FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	701.00
9	SEYCHELLES	FULL HOPE NO.2		2001	701.00
10	SEYCHELLES	FULL MEANS NO.1	FULL MEANS FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	625.00
11	SEYCHELLES	FULL MEANS NO.2	FULL MEANS FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	625.00
12	VANUATU	HENG FA NO.168	EVER FORTUNE FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	637.00
13	BOLIVIANO	HSIANG FA 888	KWO JENG MARINE SERVICES LTD.	2001	520.00
14	PANAMA	ISABEL NO.111	T. B. G. GRUPO S. A.	2000	625.00
15	SEYCHELLES	JAN YUNG NO.262	JAIN YU FISHERY S. A.	2000	497.00
16	CAMBODIA	MENG FA NO.316	MENG FA FISHERY CO., LTD.	2000	625.00
17	SEYCHELLES	SHUENN MAN NO.323	MING MAAN MARINE LIMITED	2000	493.00

## Attachment 4 to Appendix 9 to ANNEX 14

	<i>Flag State</i>	<i>Previous Flag State</i>	<i>Name of vessel</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Built Year</i>	<i>GRT</i>
1	BOLIVIANO		MARINE 303	TUNA GLOBE INC.	2001	420.00
2	BELIZE		MORE RICH	TO YU S. A.	2001	625.00
3	SEYCHELLES		FULL WINNING NO.1	FULL WINNING FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	701.00
4	SEYCHELLES		ASHUNEYU	FORTUNE OCEANIC CO., LTD.	2001	625.00
5	SEYCHELLES		FULL WINNING NO.2	FULL WINNING FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	701.00
6	VANUATU		TUNAGO NO.61	TUNAGO FISHERY CO.,LTD	2001	498.00
7	SEYCHELLES		SHUENN YING NO.232	SHUENN YING FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	699.00
8	SEYCHELLES		JIN HONG NO.308	JIN HONG OCEAN ENTERPRISE CO.,LTD	2001	625.00
9	VANUATU		TUNAGO NO.62	TUNAGO FISHERY CO.,LTD	2001	498.00
10	VANUATU		HENG CHANG NO.168	EVER FORTUNE FISHERY CO., LTD.	2001	637.00
11	BELIZE	JAPAN	MITO MARU NO.82	CHIN FU FISHERY CO., LTD. S. A.	1977	895.00
12	PHILIPPINES	JAPAN	ALLAMAHADA		1974	318.00
13	BOLIVIANO	NEW	JUI DER NO.66	JUI FU FISHERY ENTERPRISE CORP.	2001	498.00
14	CAMBODIA	NEW	SOFLA NO.6	CINGOMAR FISHING COMPANY	2001	632.00

**Report by Japan of Non-purchase Administrative  
Guidance on IUU-caught Tunas**

**1. The Outline of Japanese non-purchase administrative guidance**

- In accordance with the 1999 ICCAT resolution on IUU fishing, Japan requested importers, shippers and buyers to refrain from engaging in transactions of tuna and tuna-like species caught by IUU tuna longline fishing vessels (TLV). Japan also requested manufacturers not to provide machines and devices including engines and freezers to IUU TLV. In order to ensure the effectiveness of this administrative guidance, Japan made a mandatory requirement to importers to report vessel name and area of catch of tunas to be imported to Japan.
- Since IUU vessels change names and flags quite often and the effectiveness of the administrative guidance using ICCAT IUU lists was lost very quickly and easily. To keep the effectiveness of the guidance as well as to fulfill the requirement by the ICCAT resolution, Japan required importers to submit past record of the vessel nationalities after April 2001.
- The current vessels subject to the non-purchase guidance is the following;
  - a) The vessel current or previous name of which is on the 1999 or 2000 ICCAT IUU list,
  - b) The vessel current or previous flag state of which is the countries subject to the trade sanction by ICCAT, i.e. Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras and St. Vincent and Grenadine,
  - c) The vessel operating in the Convention Area but not registered to ICCAT.

The IUU vessels participating in the Chinese Taipei-Japan Joint Action Plans to Eliminate IUU Fishing are exempted from the non-purchase guidance according to the "Supplemental Resolution to Enhance the Effectiveness of the ICCAT Measures to Eliminate IUU Fishing Activities By Large-scale Tuna Longline Vessels in the Convention Area and Other Areas" adopted in 2000. The IUU vessels chartered by a Philippine company are also exempted from the non-purchase guidance according to the footnote of the 2000 IUU list.

**2. Penalty of actions against the non-purchase guidance**

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) listed the names of the importers, shippers and buyers who did not respect the guidance and imported IUU caught tunas on the website of FAJ. This listing is effective to major companies. However, some small-scale companies do not care the listing and continue transactions.

**3. Tunas imported to Japan against the non-purchase guidance**

- The amount of tunas imported to Japan from the IUU vessels or vessels having past IUU record and still allegedly continuing business relations with IUU related people is the following;

Year/Month	Number of imports	Amount
2000	54	3,669 MT
2001 Jan.-Mar.	1	45
2001 Apr.-Aug.	32	2,321

During the end of 2000 and early 2001, imports of IUU caught tunas disappeared because of changes of vessel names and flags. After the requirement of submission of past record (previous flags) on the vessels, they reappeared although they are disappearing again in these months (see the attachment).

- Majority of the tunas caught by IUU vessels may be exported to Japan using false vessel names. Only 23 IUU listed vessels exported tunas to Japan during January and September 2001 while many IUU vessels continue active fishing operations. Actually, some ICCAT registered TLVs exported extraordinary amount of tunas in a year. It is highly possible that these vessels accept tunas caught by IUU vessels or simply allow IUU vessels to use their names for export.

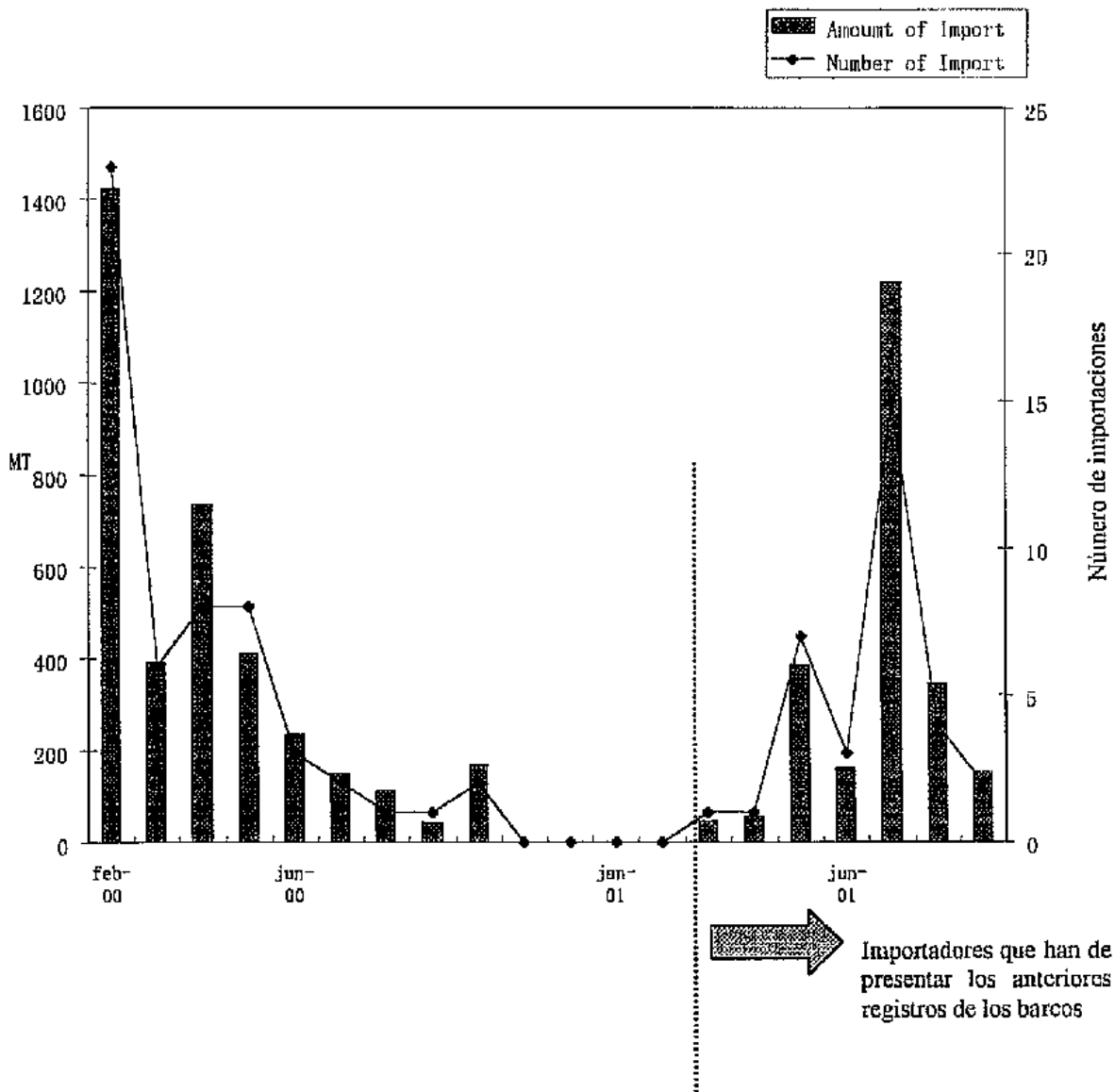
#### *4. Necessary market related measures*

The following measures and actions are necessary to eliminate IUU fishing from market accesses;

- a) Early implementation of Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program,
- b) Thorough investigation of ex-IUU vessels' relations with IUU business entities,
- c) Feedback of import data on each vessel from the market country (Japan) to flag states to improve flag state control.

Tunas imported to Japan against the non-purchase guidance

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2000	Amount of imports (MT)	--	1,424	391	737	413	236	148	111	41	168	0	0
	Number of imports	--	23	6	8	8	3	2	1	1	2	0	0
2001	Amount of imports (MT)	0	0	45	55	388	160	1,219	344	155			
	Number of imports	0	0	1	1	7	3	15	4	2			



## Appendix 11 to ANNEX 14

## Statement by the Observer From Greenpeace International to the PWG

This year's meeting of ICCAT is very important, with many significant issues to be discussed and, hopefully, decided. Greenpeace wishes to contribute three points to the debates that we consider crucial to effectively address the problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the Atlantic Ocean, in particular by vessels flying a flag of convenience.

**Transshipping**

ICCAT has already realized the importance of strict measures for the monitoring and control of transshipments at sea, for this is a weak link in the path followed by the fish from the fishing vessel to the market. As surveillance operations on the high seas are rare, it is all too easy for IUU vessels to transfer their catch to reefers, which then mix the catch with other fish caught in compliance with ICCAT measures, essentially "laundering" the fish before it reaches the market.

Recommendation 97-11 requires Contracting Parties to transfer to and receive from only vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties. Recommendation 98-11 then prohibits the transshipment or landing of fish from vessels flying the flag of a non-Contracting Party, unless they can demonstrate that it has been caught in compliance with ICCAT conservation measures.

Last year, Greenpeace submitted evidence of transshipping operations in contravention of ICCAT rules.

- 6 May 2000 *MV Hatsukari* - reefer - Panama Registered owner: Atlas Marine Co Ltd. Transshipping in position 10°12'S - 05°30'W
- 6 May 2000 *Jacky nr. 11* - longliner - Belize. Registered owner: Seven Seas S.A./Singapore. Transshipping bait from *MV Hatsukari*
- 6 May 2000 *Benny nr. 87* - longliner - Cambodia. Transshipping tuna to and bait from *MV Hatsukari*
- 6 May 2000 *Jeffrey nr. 816* - longliner - Belize. Registered owner: Seven Seas S.A. Singapore- Transshipping with *MV Hatsukari*

It is obvious that the existing rules must be tightened up.

Accurate reporting on transshipping operations must be ensured among others by imposing vessel monitoring systems and observer coverage.

ICCAT should also consider agreeing to sanctions, such as port access denial against the flag states and owners/operators of fish transport vessels that transship with IUU vessels, as such activities undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures just as much as IUU fishing activities themselves.

**Listing of IUU vessels**

The listing of IUU fishing vessels that have been adopted by ICCAT have proved very useful in tracking those vessels into ports and other ocean bodies and the system must remain as strong as possible. Clear and transparent criteria must be developed and implement for both adding vessels to the list as well as for their removal.

While in some cases it may be acceptable for a vessel to be removed from the list, for instance if it was placed there by an erroneous sighting, there are other circumstances under which removal should not be allowed.

Last year, several vessels were removed from the list at the request of certain Contracting parties. In certain cases, the vessels were operating under charter arrangements. This is not sufficient circumstance for the rehabilitation of a pirate fishing vessel. Simply because a vessel comes under a short term charter does not mean



that it will stop undermining the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. It is quite possible that IUU vessel owners are taking advantage of temporarily flying another flag to obtain an undeserved respectability. In some cases such a change of flag could even be used to avoid trade restrictive measures placed by ICCAT on the original Flag State. In other words, the ships and their catches could be "laundered".

ICCAT must establish clearly defined criteria for ships to be removed from the IUU list.

### ***Trade Restrictive Measures***

The non-discriminatory trade measures adopted by ICCAT over the last several years have been one of the most innovative and effective developments in fisheries management. They must not be weakened or undermined.

Initial objections have been lodged against ICCAT's trade restrictive measures imposed on bigeye tuna from Belize, Cambodia, Honduras and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. If those objections are confirmed, bigeye tuna shipments will be allowed to enter the objecting countries and then be re-exported to the final market.

Greenpeace urges Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago to let their objections lapse, so as to not undermine ICCAT's efforts to combat IUU fishing activities.

Should these two countries confirm their objections, Greenpeace would call upon ICCAT Contracting Parties to warn their importers, transshippers and buyers that bigeye tuna coming from these two countries could have been caught by IUU fishing vessels.

Greenpeace also urges ICCAT not to lift trade restrictive measures until the concerned states can demonstrate that vessels flying their flag have effectively stopped undermining the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures and that they will refrain from authorizing vessels flying their flag to fish in the ICCAT area unless they can ensure compliance with ICCAT rules.

Such trade restrictive measures are consistent with the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing recently adopted recently.

Among others, the IPOA calls on States to:

- Ensure that sanctions for IUU fishing by vessels and, to the greatest extent possible, nationals under its jurisdiction are of sufficient severity to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and to deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from such fishing.
- Take all steps necessary, consistent with international law, to prevent fish caught by vessels identified by the relevant regional fisheries management organization to have been engaged in IUU fishing being traded or imported into their territories.
- Cooperate, including through relevant global and regional fisheries management organizations, to adopt appropriate multilaterally agreed trade-related measures, consistent with the WTO, that may be necessary to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing for specific fish stocks or species
- Take measures to ensure that their importers, transshippers, buyers, consumers, equipment suppliers, bankers, insurers, other services suppliers and the public are aware of the detrimental effects of doing business with vessels identified as engaged in IUU fishing
- Consider measures to deter such business including by making it a violation to conduct such business or to trade in fish or fish products derived from IUU fishing.

## Commission Chairman's Letters to ICCAT Cooperating Parties, Entities, Fishing Entities

### 12.1 Letter to Mexico

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) welcomes your continued interest in promoting close cooperation in the work of ICCAT in accordance with the terms of the 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* (Ref: 97-17). Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of that Resolution, ICCAT has evaluated the situation of Mexico and has decided to continue the status afforded by that Resolution. However, according to the revised 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* (Ref: 01-17) the Commission will annually review and renew the status afforded by that Resolution unless there is evidence of non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures or a written request of withdrawal of the status has been received by the Commission.

The Government of Mexico should continue to note that such status requires actions in conformity with all of the conservation, management and compliance decisions of ICCAT in their entirety, including the current measures that have been agreed to, as well as all future Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT. Attached is the complete, updated *Compendium of ICCAT Management Recommendations and Resolutions* that have been adopted and that Mexico will be expected to follow. Included in these Recommendations are several conservation and management measures applying to areas where Mexican fishing vessels are operating and to tuna and tuna-like species regulated by ICCAT that Mexican vessels may be harvesting.

As before, ICCAT will expect Mexico to provide thorough annual reports of ICCAT-required statistics regarding your fishing and research activities in the ICCAT Convention Area. We are pleased with your continued interest in closer cooperation with ICCAT and would appreciate confirmation that you share the understandings expressed in this letter as to your obligations under the status afforded by the 1997 Resolution. In the case of Mexico, ICCAT believes that this status should be viewed as transitional in nature and was therefore pleased to learn at the recent annual meeting that the Government of Mexico will be becoming an ICCAT Contracting Party in the very near future.

### 12.2 Letter to Chinese Taipei

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) welcomes your continued interest in promoting close cooperation in the work of ICCAT in accordance with the terms of the 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* (Ref: 97-17). Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of that Resolution, ICCAT has evaluated the situation of Chinese Taipei and has decided to continue the status afforded by that Resolution. However, according to the revised 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* (Ref: 01-17) the Commission will annually review and renew the status afforded by that Resolution unless there is evidence of non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures or a written request of withdrawal of the status has been received by the Commission.

Chinese Taipei should continue to note that such status requires actions in conformity with all of the conservation, management and compliance decisions of ICCAT in their entirety, including the current measures that have been agreed to, as well as all future Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT. Attached is the complete, updated *Compendium of ICCAT Management Recommendations and Resolutions* that have been adopted and that Chinese Taipei will be expected to follow. Included in these Recommendations are several conservation measures that are of particular concern in 2002, namely:

[Secretariat will provide: Bigeye tuna, swordfish, albacore, bluefin tuna, billfishes, compliance]

- Ref: 01-14 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bigeye Tuna and its Products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Ref: 01-15 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Tuna and Tuna-like Species [Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish and its Products] from Honduras

Ref: 01-19 Resolution by ICCAT Concerning More Effective Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing by Tuna Longline Vessels

Statistical Document:

Ref:01-21 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program  
Ref: 01-22 Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing A Swordfish Statistical Document Program

Cooperating Status:

Ref: 01-17 Resolution on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity of Fishing Entity

In addition, the Commission requests that you continue your efforts to address the problem of vessels engaged in unregulated and unreported fishing activities, owned and operated by Chinese Taipei business entities and residents, which are conducting fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention Area. The Commission will expect Chinese Taipei to provide another report on your activities to address this problem at the 2002 annual meeting of ICCAT, including a list of vessels that are involved in such fishing activities on species under the purview of ICCAT.

As before, ICCAT will expect Chinese Taipei to provide thorough annual reports of ICCAT-required statistics regarding your fishing and research activities in the ICCAT Convention Area. We are pleased with your continued interest in closer cooperation with ICCAT and would appreciate confirmation that you share the understandings expressed in this letter as to your obligations under the status afforded by the 1997 Resolution.

### 12.3 Letter to the Philippines

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) welcomes your interest in promoting close cooperation in the work of ICCAT in accordance with the terms of the 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* [Ref: 97-17]. Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of that Resolution, ICCAT has evaluated the situation of the Philippines and has decided to continue the status afforded by that Resolution. However, according to the revised 1997 *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity* [Ref: 01-17] the Commission will annually review and renew the status afforded by that Resolution unless there is evidence of non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures or a written request of withdrawal of the status has been received by the Commission.

The Government of the Philippines should continue to note that such status requires actions in conformity with all of the conservation, management and compliance decisions of ICCAT in their entirety, including the current measures that have been agreed to, as well as all future Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT. Attached is the complete, updated *Compendium of ICCAT Management Recommendations and Resolutions* that have been adopted and that the Philippines will be expected to follow. Included in these Recommendations are several conservation and management measures applying to areas where Philippine fishing vessels are operating and to tuna and tuna-like species regulated by ICCAT that Philippine vessels may be harvesting.

ICCAT will expect the Government of the Philippines to provide thorough annual reports of ICCAT-required statistics regarding your fishing and research activities in the ICCAT Convention Area. In addition, the Commission urges the Government of the Philippines to continue to make progress in its efforts to eliminate large-scale longline vessels registered in the Philippines that fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures.

We are pleased with your interest in closer cooperation with ICCAT and would appreciate confirmation that you share the understandings expressed in this letter as to your obligations under the status afforded by the 1997 Resolution. In the case of the Philippines, ICCAT believes that this status should be viewed as transitional in nature and hopes that the Government of the Philippines will become an ICCAT Contracting Party in the near future.

## Appendix 13 to ANNEX 14

**Proposal by Japan  
Draft Resolution on a Joint SCRS, Compliance Committee  
and PWG Workshop Concerning Data Issues**

Recognizing that collection and submission of accurate fishery data such as CPUE data to ICCAT for the species covered by the Convention is indispensable for better scientific work including, stock assessments which provide the basis for proper conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT;

Expressing concern that quality of such fishery data is deteriorating in recent years and even for some fisheries relevant fishery data have never been available to the Commission;

Noting the recommendation by the SCRS that the Commission not use Task ¶T and ¶U data for the purpose of evaluating compliance, as this will adversely affect the accuracy of such scientific data;

Recognizing the urgent need for the Commission to collect adequate fishery data in timely manner for better stock assessment;

The International Commission for the Conservation of  
Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) resolves that:

1. An *ad hoc* joint Workshop of Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Compliance Committee (Compliance) and Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) be convened, in conjunction with the 2002 ICCAT Commission meeting, with the view to improving collection and provision of data related to fishing of the species covered by the Commission by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties/entities/fishing entities.
2. The Workshop will,
  - a) review discrepancy between trade data including Statistical Document data and catch data,
  - b) consider the credibility of catch data, and
  - c) work out recommendation for improvement of collection of catch data and Statistical Document Programs.
3. The Workshop invite all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties/entities/fishing entities to attend, and non-Contracting parties who fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and the FAO and other regional fishery organizations to participate as observers.

## Appendix 14 to ANNEX 14

**Information Paper by Canada on an Issue of Concern for Future Consideration by ICCAT**

Canada recognizes that ICCAT measures providing for the Commission to recommend, where necessary, nondiscriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with international obligations, are a useful tool to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing, including activities of flag of convenience vessels, in the ICCAT Convention Area. However, Canada believes improvements can be made to the grounds and process by which ICCAT imposes and removes trade restrictive measures so as to ensure the fairness, transparency and consistency of the measures and their application. In particular, with regard to the Bluefin Tuna Action Plan (94-3), the Swordfish Action Plan (95-13) and the Resolution on Unreported and Unregulated Tuna Catches By Large Scale Longliners in the Convention Area Resolution (98-18), it would be desirable to develop and adopt criteria for the imposition and removal of trade measures. These resolutions provide for the Commission to recommend trade measures where vessels entitled to fly the flag of a contracting party, non-contracting party, entity or fishing entity have fished in a manner which diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. Canada believes that elaborating the activities which would constitute a diminishment of the effectiveness of ICCAT's

conservation and management measures would enhance the program of nondiscriminatory trade restrictions. We suggest that these activities would include:

- a) misreporting catches to ICCAT or the failure to provide information and data to the Commission;
- b) fishing, directly or as by-catch, without a quota or allocation of fishing effort, for stocks subject to these restrictions adopted by ICCAT;
- c) harvesting undersized fish, contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- d) fishing in closed areas or during closed times contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- e) the lack of effective control of vessels entitled to fly their flag, including the lack of one or more of the following: licencing requirements, requirements to collect and report catch data, the ability to ensure compliance with applicable conservation and management obligations, the ability to conduct appropriate monitoring, control and surveillance, processes for investigation and prosecution of offences and adequate sanctions for violations; and/ or

While we are raising this issue in PWG, there are also aspects which carry over to matters generally dealt with by the Compliance Committee. We would hope to see these issues addressed at the 2002 Commission meeting.

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL EXPERTS MEETING TO DEVELOP  
STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMS FOR BIGEYE TUNA AND SWORDFISH**  
*(Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, July 16 to 18, 2001)*

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

Victor Restrepo (ICCAT) opened the meeting by thanking the U.S. for their efforts in organizing this meeting. Bruce Morehead, Acting Director of the NMFS Office of Sustainable Fisheries, welcomed the parties on behalf of the United States, noted the importance of the work scheduled for the next three days, and wished the meeting every success. He expressed regrets on behalf of the Director of NMFS, Dr. William Hogarth, who had wanted to provide some welcoming remarks to the group but who had taken ill unexpectedly. Christopher Rogers, Head of the U.S. Delegation, also welcomed the delegates to Washington, D.C., and reviewed the logistics for the meeting. The List of Participants is included as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 15**.

### 2. Election of the Chair

Kim Blankenkoper (U.S.) was elected chair. She noted her hope that the meeting would be somewhat informal with a frank exchange of views, and she stressed the need for tangible results.

### 3. Nomination of Rapporteur

3.1 Mike Calcutt (Canada) was elected Rapporteur. The Chair suggested that, in keeping with current ICCAT practice, the report be as brief as possible while clearly indicating the results of discussions.

3.2 The Representative of the European Community noted that there were no simultaneous translation services. He also noted that there was not strong attendance by Contracting Parties at this meeting.

### 4. Adoption of the Agenda

4.1 The Chair suggested adding a new agenda item for the review of the 2000 ICCAT Recommendation which began the current process to develop statistical document programs for bigeye tuna and swordfish. This was acceptable to the parties. The Agenda was adopted with this one addition and is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 15**.

4.2 **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 15** lists the working documents that were presented or drafted during the meeting.

### 5. Review of the 2000 ICCAT Recommendation on the Establishment of Statistical Document Programs

5.1 The Chair reviewed the 2000 recommendation that gave rise to the meeting of technical experts. She noted that the mandate of the group was to develop a product to submit to the Commission (through the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures, PWG) at its 2001 meeting.

5.2 The Representative of the EC, with the support of Japan, indicated that there were specific problems with the current Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program (BTSD) and that these should also be considered at the meeting, namely tuna farming and conversion factors.

## **6. Review of catch and trade statistics and other information on bigeye tuna and swordfish**

6.1 The Chair asked each Party to give a brief overview of its trade statistics which were circulated to all Parties previous to the meeting.

6.2 The Representative of the United States indicated that development of a Statistical Document Program (SDP) required consideration of differing product forms, diversity of shipments from single large to many small, transshipments, lot consolidation and splits and varying ports of entry. A review of the statistics highlighted the United States as a net importer of swordfish with two times the amount of domestic landings imported, that swordfish originating from all oceans was imported, and that a large number of swordfish shipments enter the United States from a large number of ports. Bigeye tuna imports are fewer and mostly in fresh form.

6.3 The Representative of the EC indicated that there was no dedicated code for the import or export movements of bigeye. The EC is a significant importer of frozen swordfish, but exports were not significant.

6.4 The Representative of Japan reviewed bigeye tuna imports highlighting Chinese Taipei, Korea, and Indonesia as the three largest exporters to Japan. IUU (illegal, unregulated and unreported) boats are still responsible for 22% of imports of bigeye tuna to Japan. Total frozen shipments of bigeye tuna numbered 3,800 per year and this compared with bluefin tuna shipments of 10,000.

6.5 The Representative of Canada indicated that 75-80% of swordfish catches are exported to the United States. The remaining product is used domestically. Canada does not identify bigeye tuna imports or exports separately in its current statistical system. Canadian exports of tuna products generally exceed that which it harvests in its own waters. This situation is thought to be the result of imports being given added value and then being exported.

6.6 The Representative of the People's Republic of China indicated that most product is exported to Japan, and some product is imported into China, but that data are not now available. This could be provided at a later date. It was noted that imports of tuna products into China are increasing because domestic consumption may be increasing and other products are re-exported to Japan or other tuna markets.

6.7 The Chair thanked the Parties for their overviews. She underscored the complexities of swordfish and bigeye tuna trade and the lack of complete data under current tracking systems. She indicated that these issues would have to be addressed in the development of any ICCAT statistical documents for these species. The ICCAT Representative noted that "ocean of origin" information is apparently difficult to get under many of the present statistical systems.

## **7. Review of Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) Program and similar programs**

7.1 The Chair reviewed the history of the BTSD Program, noting that it started with frozen product and then covered fresh. It requires collection of a variety of data points, government validation with some exceptions (designates, tags, logbooks), importer certifications and the like. The program also provides for re-exports and for data sharing in the Commission. The program has evolved and been refined over the years. The Chair asked for views on its usefulness as a model for bigeye and swordfish.

7.2 The ICCAT Representative indicated that while the BTSD program is working well, bluefin being shipped in parts (not whole fish) to certain markets and then converted to whole weight was an issue requiring attention since this could lead to double counting.

7.3 The Representative of the EC agreed that the problems with tuna farming--whereby harvest vessels transshipment live wild tuna to swimming pool vessels and on to cages where they are fattened before export--and the appropriate application of conversion factors were important issues that needed resolving. With regard to farming, he noted that this activity was expanding in the Mediterranean. He stated that the EC had both practical and legal difficulties regarding the farming issue. A practical difficulty is that the weight of catch differs from the weight after fattening/export, which makes it difficult to know what weight to record and report. Also, the flag of the harvest vessel is not always the same as the flag of the swimming pool vessel. Tuna cages that exist on the high

seas pose the legal issue of who harvested the fish and who controls the operation. In part because of farming issues, ICCAT is seeing an increase in catches assigned to the "not elsewhere included" category of the SCRS. The EC Representative noted that SCRS advice was solicited at the 2000 ICCAT meeting concerning both tuna farming issues and conversion factors, the results of which could help resolve the issues at hand.

7.4 The ICCAT Representative indicated that there are new challenges as a result of these new approaches to harvesting. He indicated that appropriate conversion factors can be developed by scientists. A greater problem, however, is ensuring proper application, particularly considering that pieces of the same fish can go to different markets.

7.5 Although recognizing the difficulties in developing a meaningful system to implement the BTSD to farmed product, the Representative of Japan suggested reviewing this issue at the 2001 meeting of the PWG. This suggestion was supported by the EC, and it was agreed that the experts meeting formally recommend such a review to the Commission in its report. In the meantime, the Parties agreed to review in more detail under Agenda item 8 possible adjustments to the BTSD program, including considering the issue of farming.

7.6 The Chair asked the group to consider whether these farming and conversion factor concerns would be relevant to bigeye tuna and swordfish. The U.S. Representative pointed out that the statistical document should serve to confirm the original weight of the fish in question.

7.7 The Representative of Japan indicated that the bluefin catch and import situation is one that originates in the Atlantic and that Japan receives about 10,000 shipments a year. Bigeye tuna is more of a global scenario but the number of these shipments is much less. He noted that, except for the problems associated with farmed fish and conversion factors, there have been no serious problems with implementation of the BTSD program.

7.8 The Representative of the United States gave a brief overview of the Swordfish Certificate of Eligibility (COE) Program, noting similarities to the BTSD in requiring data on the flag nation and ocean area of catch and differences, such as a requirement that an authorized official attest that the swordfish being exported are not under ICCAT's alternative minimum size. He noted that both fresh and frozen swordfish are covered by the program. The Representative of Canada clarified that individuals authorized by government officials can attest to fish size, origin, etc. The person authorized to sign the COE is used as a point of contact when starting verification procedures.

7.9 The Representative of Japan reported on that country's swordfish COE program. He noted that it applies to frozen swordfish only and that it is not sufficient to indicate the origin of the catch. He stated that applying a documentation scheme to fresh swordfish would be a challenge and should be carefully considered. The Representative of Japan reported that countries operating outside the ICCAT Convention area did not want to comply with Japan's COE requirement but eventually agreed. He stressed the need for all parties to make an effort to explain any new documentation program to affected states in advance of the implementation. He noted the need for all swordfish to be covered by the statistical document program but to exert additional care when taking steps that will impact areas outside the Atlantic.

7.10 The U.S. Representative reviewed the trade tracking program of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), for the benefit of the group. A discussion of CCAMLR's catch documentation scheme highlighted requirements which were more exhaustive than the BTSD or swordfish programs. The EC Representative noted that the CCAMLR program was implemented to address IUU fishing of toothfish, thus, its purpose is different than the BTSD program or other similar programs. Because of the IUU elimination goal, the organization included some fishing grounds in its program that are outside the boundaries of the Convention area. The additional requirements of the CCAMLR program, such as electronic reporting, VMS, etc., made for timely reporting.

7.11 The Representative of Japan reviewed the program of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and noted that the success of this program may be due to the relatively small numbers of nations involved, the fact that it deals with one stock, and that there is only one market of significance for this product.



7.12 In reference to an earlier suggestion that the ICCAT web site could be adapted to assist in reporting if the Commission so decided, the ICCAT Representative noted that this was possible but that it would likely have a significant impact on Commission resources. These suggestions should be taken up at the Commission meeting in November 2001.

#### **8. Development of statistical document programs for bigeye tuna and swordfish, and consideration of possible revisions to the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program**

8.1 The Chair opened this Agenda item by asking the Representative of Japan to review their draft Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document (SD Exp 6). He felt that the BTSD was a good program and that the bigeye tuna program should be consistent with it. The program could start with frozen and expand to fresh product form. He reiterated that Japan understands some of the concerns such as having to separate catch by species while still on board vessels, but if managed properly the program should be workable. Government validation is essential.

8.2 The Representative of the EC agreed that such a program would be worthwhile in the fight against IUU, but noted it was unclear if the program would be cost effective for the EC to implement given its market and domestic bigeye tuna fleet composition.

8.3 The Representative of the EC requested an exception for the reporting of its pole and line (bait) vessels and its purse seine-caught tuna destined for canning operations. The U.S. Representative expressed concerns about the implications of this exemption, and agreed to further discussion to resolve this concern prior to the 2001 ICCAT meeting in November.

8.4 The Representative of the People's Republic of China stated that the bigeye tuna program should not copy exactly the bluefin tuna program. Bigeye tuna is more complex in its trade patterns and practices. The bigeye tuna program as well as the swordfish program should be limited to the ICCAT Convention Area and full implementation should be in July 2002.

8.5 A discussion ensued concerning the area coverage. The Representative of the United States indicated that it would be problematic to exclude product harvested from oceans other than the Atlantic. It was suggested that other fisheries commissions could be contacted and advised of what ICCAT was doing.

8.6 The Representative of Japan emphasized a need for government validated documents even in cases of catches outside of the Atlantic. Otherwise, the outside catches would be a big loophole in the new program. He expressed his intention to revise the original proposal so that a statistical document could also be used as a certificate for catches outside of the Atlantic.

8.7 The Representative of the ICCAT Secretariat indicated that a statistical document program would be most effective when done in a consistent way for all oceans. The Secretariat asked if they should be contacting other commissions now or if this issue should be considered first at the November meeting.

8.8 The Representative of the EC indicated that, legally speaking, coverage should be limited to the Convention Area and agreed that the Secretariat should contact other commissions to help solve the area of coverage issue.

8.9 The Representative of Japan recommended that the Secretariat send a letter as soon as possible to other commissions advising of ICCAT's initiatives on statistical document programs and raising some issues discussed at this meeting. This was supported by the Representative of the EC.

8.10 The Representative of the United States presented a draft ICCAT Swordfish-Bluefin-Bigeye Statistical Document (SD Exp 7) and a review of an accompanying Explanatory Note (SD Exp 11). He noted that the proposed approach combining statistical documents for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and swordfish was preferable as it would be less burdensome on users. While acknowledging the U.S. comments concerning a combined document, both the Representatives of the EC and Japan felt that separate documents would be more appropriate because of the differing natures of swordfish and bigeye tuna trade. The Representative of the United States

recommended that ICCAT revisit the issue of harmonizing and combining statistical documents after the bigeye tuna and swordfish statistical document programs are fully implemented.

8.11 The Chair summarized that certain elements of both drafts were similar and several seemed to be acceptable to all parties.

8.12 The Representative of the EC reiterated that the program should only track imports of product from the Convention Area. He also emphasized the complexity of the trade flows involving their members. He also noted that the EC would need a more flexible date for the implementation of the statistical programs in relation to that mentioned in the two proposals.

8.13 In order to assist in clarifying how a swordfish trade tracking program might work, the Chair asked the U.S. Representative to provide a summary of how the United States implements its current swordfish COE program. The Representative of the United States outlined how this program was being implemented.

8.14 The Chair suggested convening a small working group to incorporate the views and comments made during the first day into the draft statistical documents for bigeye tuna and swordfish.

8.15 Revised draft statistical documents for bigeye tuna and swordfish were tabled, and a protracted discussion followed. (Note from the Secretariat: These drafts were forwarded to the Commission for consideration during its 2001 meeting. The two statistical documents were subsequently modified and adopted by the Commission are attached as ANNEX 9-16 [bigeye tuna] and ANNEX 9-17 [swordfish]. The drafts that resulted from the Technical Experts Meeting are available for reference from the Secretariat.) There are a number of areas for which there was no consensus and these were identified by brackets. These issues include consistency between documents, areas of competence, timing of implementation, and inclusion of net weight provisions in instances of shipments from non-Convention Areas, should it be decided not to report from non-Convention areas. These documents will be referred to the PWG for further consideration in November.

8.16 Pursuant to an earlier discussion concerning the reporting of farmed bluefin in the BTSD, the Chair recalled that there was general agreement that the experts meeting recommend to the Commission a review of the BTSD and its applicability to farmed product. Background materials from ICCAT were introduced in this regard, and it was generally recognized that efforts to resolve this issue to date were not sufficient. The Representative of the EC agreed to develop a paper by November for the Commission that would elaborate on the issues.

8.17 The experts agreed on the use of a document (SD Exp 19), which would provide information on who is authorized to validate ICCAT statistical documents. The Secretariat will examine the possibility of using the Commission's web site as a link to this information.

## 9. Future possible actions, including possible submission of draft proposals to the Commission

9.1 The Parties reviewed SD Exp 20 and 24 (see ANNEXES 9-16 and 9-17) and agreed, in principle, to refer these to the Commission for consideration, possible refinement, and adoption. Concerning Paragraph 1 of the Recommendation for Bigeye, the Representative of the United States noted that the issue of differentiation of treatment of catches taken inside versus outside the Convention area had not yet been resolved. Therefore, this paragraph may need to be reviewed and revised, pending the decision of the Commission. The U.S. Representative also indicated an interest in further discussing the issue of 5% tolerance contained in ANNEX 9-16.

9.2 The Chair summarized that, pending approval of the meeting report, the Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish Statistical Document proposals, as well as the recommendation by the experts meeting on bluefin tuna farming and conversion factors, would be submitted to the PWG for consideration in 2001.

9.3 The Representative of the EC again noted that there was not strong attendance by Contracting Parties at this meeting.

## **10. Adoption of Report**

10.1 The report was adopted.

10.2 The Chair thanked the Rapporteur for his excellent report. The Representative from the EC expressed his thanks for the efforts of the Chair and the other delegates. The Representative of Japan also expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Chair. The U.S. Representative expressed his thanks for the diligence and participation of all delegates and their patience throughout the logistical obstacles with the meeting room setup.

10.3 The Chair reiterated that the draft recommendations would be appended to the Report, but that the working documents from the meeting would not be. The working documents (Appendix 3 to ANNEX 15), however, would be available for consultation from the ICCAT Secretariat.

## **11. Other business**

The Chair thanked the participants, the Secretariat, and local staff from various U.S. agencies for their hard work and noted satisfaction with the progress made on developing new statistical document programs.

## **12. Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting and wished the participants safe travel.

## Appendix 1 to ANNEX 15

## List of Participants

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**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review of the 2000 Recommendation on the establishment of Statistical Document Programs
6. Review of catch and trade statistics and other information on bigeye tuna and swordfish
7. Review of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program and similar programs
8. Development of Statistical Document Programs for Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish, and consideration of possible revisions to the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program
9. Future possible actions, including possible submission of draft proposals to the Commission
10. Adoption of Report
11. Other business
12. Adjournment

**List of Working Documents**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| SD Exp 1  | Tentative Agenda  |
| SD Exp 2  | Swordfish & Tuna Trade Data: Canada, EC, Japan and the USA<br>Insert to SD Exp 2: Additional EC data on SWO imports and exports   |
| SD Exp 3  | Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing Statistical Document Programs for Swordfish, Bigeye Tuna, and Other Species Managed by ICCAT (Adopted by the Commission in 2000)      |
| SD Exp 4  | Compendium of Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by ICCAT relative to the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document [Refs: 92-1, 93-2, 93-3, 94-4, 94-5, 96-10, 97-4, and 98-12] |
| SD Exp 5  | The Current ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Form and Instructions   |
| SD Exp 6  | Proposal by Japan of a Draft Recommendation Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program (includes Explanatory Note)   |
| SD Exp 7  | U.S. Proposal for a combined BFT, BET and SWO ICCAT Statistical Document Form   |
| SD Exp 8  | Table of BET imports into Japan, by ocean (2000), from importer's reports   |
| SD Exp 9  | Copy of the U.S. "Swordfish Certificate of Eligibility" Form  |
| SD Exp 10 | Table showing BET imports into the United States for canning, by ocean of capture and condition (1996-April, 2001)  |
| SD Exp 11 | Explanatory Note for the U.S. Proposal for a Statistical Document Covering BFT, BET, and SWO  |

- SD Exp 12 Draft Recommendation for a SWO Statistical Document Program (proposed by the United States)
- SD Exp 13 Draft Sample Form of an ICCAT SWO Statistical Document & Instructions (complements SD Exp 12)
- SD Exp 14 Annex 2-Requirements Concerning the ICCAT SWO Re-Export Certificate (complements SD Exp 12)
- SD Exp 15 Draft Sample Form of an ICCAT BET Statistical Document & Instructions (submitted by Japan)
- SD Exp 16 Proposed language from Japan for a section of the Report.
- SD Exp 17 Proposal by Japan of a Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT BET Statistical Document Program (Rev. 1 to SD Exp 6)
- SD Exp 18 Text Proposed by the EC for a section of text.
- SD Exp 19 Sample Form to Report Information on Validation of ICCAT Statistical Documents to the ICCAT Secretariat
- SD Exp 20 Proposal by Japan of a Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT BET Statistical Document Program (Rev. 2 to SD Exp 6)
- SD Exp 21 The Technical Aspects of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) Considered by the ICCAT Inter-Sessional Meeting on Monitoring and Compliance (from the English version of the *Report for Biennial Period, 1996-97, Part II, Vol 1, Appendix 7 to Annex 7*, pp. 113-114; Appendix 10 to Annex 8, p. 138; 1997 PWG Report, pp. 125-127)
- SD Exp 22 Draft Report of the Meeting (Partial: Items 1 to 6)
- SD Exp 22A Draft Report of the Meeting (Continued)
- SD Exp 23 Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a SWO Statistical Document Program (update to SD Exp 12 proposed by the United States)
- SD Exp 23A Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a SWO Statistical Document Program (complements SD Exp 23)
- SD Exp 24 Sample Form of an ICCAT SWO Statistical Document (complements SD Exp 23)



**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The 2001 meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened at 18:40 hours on Friday, November 16, 2001, by the Chairman, Mr. James Jones (Canada).

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda, which had been distributed in advance, was adopted with a modification (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 16**) proposed by Canada, by inserting Item 8, a new topic on the discussion concerning the financial contributions of ICCAT Contracting Parties.

**3. Nomination of Rapporteur**

Mr. Paulo Travassos (Brazil) was nominated to serve as rapporteur

**4. 2001 Administrative Report**

4.1 The 2001 Administrative Report was presented by the Committee Chairman who commented on the following main points of the report: the adherence of two new members to the ICCAT Convention; the approval; acceptance or ratification of the Madrid Protocol by Contracting Parties; ICCAT recommendations and resolutions adopted in 2000; the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme; inter-sessional meetings of ICCAT Working Groups in 2001; meetings at which ICCAT was represented in 2001; the tagging lottery; letters from the ICCAT Chairman to various countries; the list of publications; and the composition of the ICCAT Secretariat staff.

4.2 The report was adopted.

**5. 2001 Financial Report**

5.1 The Committee Chairman noted that a copy of the Auditor's Report had been sent to all the Contracting Parties in May 2001 and that, for the financial year 2001 (up to 31 October), ICCAT had received 70% of its financial contributions from the Contracting Parties. It was noted that Trinidad and Tobago had confirmed the payment of its contribution and that the Secretariat had received 9,000,000 pesetas from Ghana. At this time, the Delegate of France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) informed that the change in its Head Delegate had caused a delay in payment of the contribution, which would be made in the near future.

5.2 The Delegate of Morocco, supported by Japan, asked for more detailed information of the Financial Report. In particular, he requested more detailed information on the Financial Report where expenditures varied greatly from budget approvals. The Executive Secretary responded that any particular issues would be explained and explanatory footnotes would be included in next year's Financial Report to provide members with more information these variations. Questions were also raised relative to contributions made by members to special items such as meetings and research. The Chairman responded that Chapter 3 of the Financial Report and the SCRS Report showed the amounts of additional contributions made in support of items outside the regular budget.

5.3 During the Committee's second session, the Executive Secretary indicated that there was insufficient time for him to get detailed information on the Auditor's contract, as had been requested by some Contracting Parties.

However, he further indicated that the office that carried out this work is a member of the Auditor's Institute of Spain and also a member of other international institutions, and that the annual cost of the contract is about 800,000 Pesetas. Asked by the Chairman on the need to change the Auditor's contract, the Contracting Parties did not reach a conclusive position. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that more detailed information on this matter will be sent to the Contracting Parties prior to the next meeting of the Commission, when a new discussion on this matter will take place. A second question was raised during the discussions on the need to carry out a more in-depth review of the structure of the Secretariat. The Committee accepted the Chairman's suggestion of reporting this matter at its next meeting, and agreed to include more detailed information on the operation of the Secretariat in the Administrative Report.

5.4 The Delegate of Morocco questioned the need to have a scientist hired at the Secretariat for the post of BETYP Coordinator. The Executive Secretary explained that the cost of the BETYP Coordinator's contract are covered by the Contracting Parties that finance the BETYP.

5.5 The Delegates of Morocco raised the question regarding the opportunity to analyze the programs managed within the ICCAT framework, and to review the program and the functions of the Secretariat. The Chair proposed to return to these points at the next session of STACFAD.

5.6 The Financial Report was adopted by the Committee.

## 6. Status and financial implications of ICCAT programs

- ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)
- ICCAT Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish
- ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)

6.1 Dr Powers presented a summary of the budgetary status to carry out the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Year Program (BYP), the ICCAT Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish, and the ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP). It was noted that the majority of the contributions were used to carry out the following research activities, according to the various programs:

6.2 ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP): A budget of 2,266,000 Pesetas was financed by the Contracting Parties through the ICCAT contribution to this program. The transport of genetic material, electronic tagging activities and larval surveys, as well as the collection of statistical data, were carried out through this funding. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that Chinese Taipei continued to a financial contributions to this program.

6.3 ICCAT Program for Enhanced Research for Billfish: A budget of 1,751,000 Pesetas was funded by the Contracting Parties through the ICCAT contribution to this program. Size frequency analyses and pop-up and conventional tagging activities were mainly carried out within the scope of this program. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that Chinese Taipei continues to make a financial contributions to this program.

6.4 ICCAT Bigeye Year Program (BETYP): No contribution was made this year to this Program by the Contracting Parties. It was noted that the BETYP is not supported financially by ICCAT. Instead, it is carried out through the financial contributions of several countries. Pop-up and conventional tagging activities, genetic studies, and a review of Ghanaian fishery statistics were carried out within the framework of this program. Dr Powers mentioned that Japan has made available to the SCRS an oceanographic research vessel, the *Shoyo-maru*, to carry out cruises in the tropical Atlantic in 2002 under the aegis of this program. Dr. Powers strongly recommended the continuance of this program, despite the lack of funding for 2002. The Committee Chairman encouraged the countries to contribute financially to this program. The Delegates of Japan and China informed the Committee that they would make efforts to ensure financial contributions towards this program.

## **7. Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Madrid 1992)**

The Committee Chairman stated that two countries were needed for the Madrid Protocol to enter into force. The following countries have not yet ratified or accepted the Protocol: Angola, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. Ghana has confirmed its ratification of the Protocol and indicated that the formal documentation would soon be sent through FAO. The Committee Chairman urged these countries to ratify or accept the Protocol as soon as possible, given the urgent need for it to enter into force in order for it to be applicable to the calculation of contributions for the next biennial period. The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire stated that the Protocol was in the course of being assessed by the governmental authorities of his country and that it would be officially ratified or accepted in the near future.

## **8. Discussion of the proposals by Ghana and Canada**

- Proposal by Ghana on the collection of catch and canning data used for the calculation of contributions of the Contracting Parties.

8.1 The Delegate of Ghana presented a proposal for a Resolution, noting that certain Contracting Parties do not report the net weight of their canning in order to pay only a modest contribution to the Commission. It was also proposed that the observers be obliged to make a financial contribution to the Commission.

8.1 The Chairman stated that the last proposal was not included in the proposed resolution presented by Ghana and that in 1998, an amount had been established for the participation of observers at Commission meetings. The Delegates of Brazil and the European Community asked for further information on the second paragraph of the Resolution, particularly as concerned the recourse to financial experts to obtain supplementary information about Contracting Parties. The Committee Chairman decided to postpone the discussion until the second session of STACFAD. At the second session, the Chairman informed that, after discussion of the issue with the Delegate of Ghana, he had decided to withdraw the proposal. Given that data on catch and canning are essential for the calculations of the ICCAT contributions, the Committee encouraged the Contracting Parties to submit this information as soon as possible each year to the Commission.

- Proposal by Canada on the financial contributions by ICCAT Contracting Parties

8.3 The Delegate of Canada presented a draft resolution, expressing their concern for the financial situation of the Commission, which was a continuing concern given that certain Contracting Parties did not pay their contributions to the annual Commission budget and have been in arrears for several years. The Delegate of Canada proposed that the Commission envisage, from the 2002 meeting, the suspension of voting rights of Contracting Parties according to the regulation established by the Convention.

8.4 The Delegates of the United States, the European Community and France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) supported the proposal by Canada, and expressed their concerns about the financial situation of the Commission. The Delegate of China supported the proposal, but suggested eliminating the third paragraph, since it repeats the text of Article X.8 of the Convention. This suggestion was seconded by Morocco, Namibia and Uruguay.

8.5 Canada proposed substituting the text of the third paragraph by the following text: "Considerations pursuant in accordance with Article X.8 of the Convention should be included in the Agenda of the 2002 Commission meeting." This modification was accepted by all the Contracting Parties. The *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Financial Contributions to ICCAT by Contracting Parties* is attached as ANNEX 9-24.

## **9. Budgetary implications of the Commission's general activities in 2002**

9.1 The Committee Chairman presented the Commission budget and provisional Contracting Party contributions for the biennial period 2002-2003 (COM/01/008). The Chairman summarized the budgetary proposals, highlighting the major changes which included an increase in the amount budgeted for Commission

meetings and for translation services. It was also noted that there was a proposal aimed at modifying the structure of the Secretariat which consisted in hiring two additional staff members and to redistribute the functions of staff in the professional category. The Chairman indicated that the budget could be modified by decisions taken during the week relative to new research. The delegate of Canada mentioned that the research proposals on by-catches already presented, particularly that concerning sea birds, would certainly result in modifications to the budget.

9.2 The Delegates of Morocco and Uruguay raised the question of the proposed recruitment of a scientific editor. The Executive Secretary and Dr. Victor Restrepo explained the justification for this proposal. After some discussion on this subject, the Chairman asked that the proposed budget be adopted. He noted that the budget did not include any supplementary work which could ensue from the regular meetings of the Commission. If the Commission requested that supplementary research be carried out, the cost of this would be evaluated and reviewed by STACFAD.

#### **10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for the 2002-2003 biennial period**

The budget and contributions of the Contracting Parties was approved and adopted and are attached as Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

#### **11. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

#### **12. Date and place of the next meeting**

The Committee should meet again at the next meeting of the Commission.

#### **13. Election of STACFAD Chairman**

The Delegate of Morocco proposed extending the mandate of the current Chairman, which was supported by many delegations. The Chairman of the Committee accepted the renewal of his mandate and thanked the delegations for their vote of confidence.

#### **14. Adoption of Report**

The report was adopted by correspondence.

#### **15. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned on November 19, 2001, at 11:30 a.m.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. 2001 Administrative Report
5. 2001 Financial Report
  - 2000 Auditor's Report
  - Financial status of the second half of the Biennial Budget -2001
6. Status and financial implications of ICCAT programs
  - Bluefin Year Program (BYP)
  - Program of Enhanced Research for Billfish
  - Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)
7. Status of the ratification/acceptance of the Protocol of amendment to the Convention (adopted in Madrid; 1992)
8. Discussion of the proposals by Ghana and Canada
9. Budgetary implications of the Commission's general activities in 2002:
  - Research and statistics
  - Inter-sessional meetings
  - Publications
  - Next meeting of the Commission
10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for the 2002-2003 biennial period
11. Other matters
12. Date and place of the next meeting
13. Election of STACFAD Chairman
14. Adoption of Report
15. Adjournment

**Table 1. Commission Budget for the 2002-2003 Biennial Period (in EUROS)**

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>2002 EUROS</i>	<i>2003 EUROS</i>
1. Salaries	691,753.89	719,424.05
2. Travel	40,237.76	41,847.27
3. Commission Meeting (annual & inter-sessional)	108,182.18	112,509.47
4. Publications	48,982.49	50,941.79
5. Office equipment	7,512.65	7,813.16
6. Operating Expenses	105,177.12	109,384.20
7. Miscellaneous	<u>6,010.12</u>	<u>6,250.53</u>
<i>Sub-total Chapters 1-7</i>	<i>1,007,856.21</i>	<i>1,048,170.46</i>
8. Coordination of Research		
a) Salaries	367,419.64	382,116.43
b) Travel to improve statistics	34,047.34	35,409.23
c) Statistics/ Biology	42,972.37	44,691.26
d) Computer-related items	21,666.49	22,533.15
- Maintenance of the data base	15,025.30	15,626.31
- Telephone line / Internet domain	9,015.18	9,375.79
e) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	72,121.45	75,006.31
f) Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	13,618.93	14,163.69
g) Bigeye Year Program (BETYP)	0.00	0.00
h) Billfish Research Program	10,523.72	10,944.67
i) Miscellaneous	<u>5,709.61</u>	<u>5,938.00</u>
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>592,120.04</i>	<i>615,804.85</i>
9. Contingencies	15,025.30	15,626.31
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,615,001.55</b>	<b>1,679,601.62</b>

**Table 2. Catch and canning figures (in MT) of the Contracting Parties**

Parties	1998			1999			2000		
	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total
Algerie	4265	2300	6565	4230	2800	7030	3794	3,000	6794
Angola	554 t		554	324 t	96 coo	420	348 t, p		348
Barbados	362			317					
Brasil	41644	9,800	51444	43671	11059	54730		10,140	10140
Canada	1986	0	1986	2068	0	2068	2050	0	2050
Cap Vert	2834	284	3118	4143	237	4380	3701 t		3701
China, People's Rep.	2803	0	2803	11201	0	11201	9055	0	9055
Cote d'Ivoire	289		289	411	1400 coo	1811	379		379
Croatia	967 t	277	1244	1136	277 co	1413			
European Community	213124 t	19,894 *	233018	217000	107969	324969	213000	109,219	322219
France - St. P. & M.	0 t	0	0	1	0	1			
Gabon	457	0	457	644	0	644	634	0	634
Ghana	66479 t		66479	83660 t	44093 coo	127753	53255 t, p+		53255
Guinea Ecuatorial				0 t					
Guinee Conakry				0 t					
Honduras				0 t					
Japan	39835 t		39835	35657 t		35657			
Korea	285	0	285	277	0	277	0	0	0
Libya	1394 t		1394	1195 t	1747 coo	2942			
Maroc	13441	225	13666	10683 t	190	10873	13296	900	14196
Namibia	1448		1448	2462 t		2462	4420 t		4420
Panama	3996		3996	3165		3165	2888 t		
Russia	7884		7884	6270		6270	1296 p		1296
S. Tome & Principe	66 t		66	66 t		66			
South Africa	8921	0	8921	5520	0	5520	4471 p	0	4471
Trinidad & Tobago	3560	0	3560	2501	0	2501			
Tunisie	4220	1,612	5832	5774	1595	7369	6560	2,015	8575
U.S.A.	26059	32,288	58347	28342	28248	56590	15340 t, p		15340
UK- OS Terr.	684	0	684	318	0	318	377 t	0	377
Uruguay	1285	0	1285	948	0	948	722	0	722
Venezuela	30837	4,495	35332	27387	1930	29317	15391 t		15391
<b>Total</b>	<b>479679</b>	<b>71175</b>	<b>550854</b>	<b>499371</b>	<b>201641</b>	<b>701012</b>	<b>350977</b>	<b>125274</b>	<b>476251</b>

t = no formal submission received, figures taken from Task 1 data.

coo = From 1997 figures, most recent complete year.

co = carried over from 1998 figures.

p = preliminary data.

p+ = only partial data (quick estimates or selected gears, species, regions only).

\* = only includes EC-Greece and EC-Portugal.

**Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions to the 2002 Commission Budget**

1 EURO = US\$ 0.902

Contracting Parties	Total Budget (EUROS) =						1,615,001.55				
	Panels	Panel	Catch	Canning	C+C	C+C	Fee	Panel	Panel	C+C	Total
	#	%	MT	MT	MT	%	EUROS	EUROS	EUROS	EUROS	EUROS
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Algerie	2	3.371	4,230	2,800	7,030	1.003	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	10,137.55	30,500.93
Angola	2	3.371	324	96	420	0.060	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	605.66	20,969.04
Barbados	0	1.124	317	0	317	0.045	1,108.65	0.00	5,679.15	457.13	7,244.92
Brasil	2	3.371	43,671	11,059	54,730	7.807	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	78,922.90	99,286.28
Canada	3	4.494	2,068	0	2,068	0.295	1,108.65	3,325.94	22,716.58	2,982.14	30,133.31
Cap Vert	1	2.247	4,143	237	4,380	0.625	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	6,316.14	19,891.73
China, People's Rep.	3	4.494	11,201	0	11,201	1.598	1,108.65	3,325.94	22,716.58	16,152.30	43,303.47
Cote d'Ivoire	2	3.371	411	1,400	1,811	0.258	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	2,611.54	22,974.92
Croatia	1	2.247	1,136	277	1,413	0.202	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	2,037.60	15,613.19
European Community	4	5.618	217,000	107,969	324,969	46.357	1,108.65	4,434.59	28,395.73	468,618.58	502,557.55
France - St. P. & M.	2	3.371	1	0	1	0.000	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	1.44	20,364.82
Gabon	1	2.247	644	0	644	0.092	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	928.67	14,504.26
Ghana	1	2.247	83,660	44,093	127,753	18.224	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	184,225.05	197,800.63
Guinea Ecuatorial	0	1.124	0	0	0	0.000	1,108.65	0.00	5,679.15	0.00	6,787.79
Guinee Conakry	0	1.124	0	0	0	0.000	1,108.65	0.00	5,679.15	0.00	6,787.79
Honduras	0	1.124	0	0	0	0.000	1,108.65	0.00	5,679.15	0.00	6,787.79
Japan	4	5.618	35,657	0	35,657	5.087	1,108.65	4,434.59	28,395.73	51,418.85	85,357.82
Korea	2	3.371	277	0	277	0.040	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	399.45	20,762.83
Libya	2	3.371	1,195	1,747	2,942	0.420	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	4,242.48	24,605.86
Maroc	3	4.494	10,683	190	10,873	1.551	1,108.65	3,325.94	22,716.58	15,679.31	42,830.48
Namibia	3	4.494	2,462	0	2,462	0.351	1,108.65	3,325.94	22,716.58	3,550.30	30,701.48
Panama	2	3.371	3,165	0	3,165	0.451	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	4,564.06	24,927.44
Russia	1	2.247	6,270	0	6,270	0.894	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	9,041.60	22,617.18
S. Tome & Principe	1	2.247	66	0	66	0.009	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	95.17	13,670.76
South Africa	2	3.371	5,520	0	5,520	0.787	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	7,960.07	28,323.45
Trinidad & Tobago	2	3.371	2,501	0	2,501	0.357	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	3,606.54	23,969.92
Tunisie	1	2.247	5,774	1,595	7,369	1.051	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	10,626.40	24,201.99
U.S.A.	4	5.618	28,342	28,248	56,590	8.073	1,108.65	4,434.59	28,395.73	81,605.09	115,544.06
UK- OS Terr.	4	5.618	318	0	318	0.045	1,108.65	4,434.59	28,395.73	458.57	34,397.54
Uruguay	1	2.247	948	0	948	0.135	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,358.29	1,367.05	14,942.64
Venezuela	2	3.371	27,387	1,930	29,317	4.182	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,037.44	42,276.31	62,639.69
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>499,371</b>	<b>201,641</b>	<b>701,012</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34,368.07</b>	<b>64,301.55</b>	<b>505,443.98</b>	<b>1,010,887.95</b>	<b>1,615,001.55</b>

A: Panel membership.

B: % annual and panel membership (G+H).

C: Catch (live weight).

D: Canned production (net weight).

E: Total (C+D).

F: Percentage distribution of E.

G: Euros equivalent to \$1000 annual membership fee (at the time of calculation).

H: Euros equivalent to \$1000 for each panel membership (at the time of calculation).

I: 1/3 of (Total less G+H) distributed according to col. B %.

J: 2/3 of (Total less G+H) distributed according to col. F %.

K: Total (G+H+I+J)

Based on 1999 catch and canning figures



**Table 4. Contracting Party Contributions to the 2003 Commission Budget**
**1 EURO = US\$ 0.902**

Contracting Parties	Total Budget (EUROS) =						1,679,601.62		Panel EUROS (I)	Panel EUROS (J)	(C)+(D) EUROS (K)	Total EUROS (L)
	Panels # (A)	Panel % (B)	Catch MT (C)	Canning MT (D)	(C)+(D) MT (E)	(C)+(D) % (F)	Fee EUROS (G)	Panel EUROS (H)				
Algerie	2	3.371	4,230	2,800	7,030	1.003	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	10,569.44	31,658.66	
Angola	2	3.371	324	96	420	0.060	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	631.46	21,720.68	
Barbados	0	1.124	317	0	317	0.045	1,108.65	0.00	5,921.09	476.60	7,506.34	
Brasil	2	3.371	43,671	11,059	54,730	7.807	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	82,285.24	103,374.46	
Canada	3	4.494	2,068	0	2,068	0.295	1,108.65	3,325.94	23,684.37	3,109.19	31,228.15	
Cap Vert	1	2.247	4,143	237	4,380	0.625	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	6,585.22	20,644.71	
China, People's Rep.	3	4.494	11,201	0	11,201	1.598	1,108.65	3,325.94	23,684.37	16,840.43	44,959.40	
Cote d'Ivoire	2	3.371	411	1,400	1,811	0.258	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	2,722.79	23,812.02	
Croatia	1	2.247	1,136	277	1,413	0.202	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	2,124.41	16,183.89	
European Community	4	5.618	217,000	107,969	324,969	46.357	1,108.65	4,434.59	29,605.47	488,583.07	523,731.77	
France - St. P. & M.	2	3.371	1	0	1	0.000	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	1.50	21,090.73	
Gabon	1	2.247	644	0	644	0.092	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	968.24	15,027.72	
Ghana	1	2.247	83,660	44,093	127,753	18.224	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	192,073.56	206,133.04	
Guinea Ecuatorial	0	1.124	0	0	0	0.000	1,108.65	0.00	5,921.09	0.00	7,029.74	
Guinee Conakry	0	1.124	0	0	0	0.000	1,108.65	0.00	5,921.09	0.00	7,029.74	
Honduras	0	1.124	0	0	0	0.000	1,108.65	0.00	5,921.09	0.00	7,029.74	
Japan	4	5.618	35,657	0	35,657	5.087	1,108.65	4,434.59	29,605.47	53,609.44	88,758.15	
Korea	2	3.371	277	0	277	0.040	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	416.46	21,505.69	
Libya	2	3.371	1,195	1,747	2,942	0.420	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	4,423.23	25,512.45	
Maroc	3	4.494	10,683	190	10,873	1.551	1,108.65	3,325.94	23,684.37	16,347.29	44,466.26	
Namibia	3	4.494	2,462	0	2,462	0.351	1,108.65	3,325.94	23,684.37	3,701.56	31,820.52	
Panama	2	3.371	3,165	0	3,165	0.451	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	4,758.50	25,847.72	
Russia	1	2.247	6,270	0	6,270	0.894	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	9,426.79	23,486.28	
S. Tome & Principe	1	2.247	66	0	66	0.009	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	99.23	14,158.71	
South Africa	2	3.371	5,520	0	5,520	0.787	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	8,299.19	29,388.41	
Trinidad & Tobago	2	3.371	2,501	0	2,501	0.357	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	3,760.19	24,849.42	
Tunisie	1	2.247	5,774	1,595	7,369	1.051	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	11,079.11	25,138.60	
U.S.A.	4	5.618	28,342	28,248	56,590	8.073	1,108.65	4,434.59	29,605.47	85,081.70	120,230.41	
UK- OS Terr.	4	5.618	318	0	318	0.045	1,108.65	4,434.59	29,605.47	478.11	35,626.81	
Uruguay	1	2.247	948	0	948	0.135	1,108.65	1,108.65	11,842.19	1,425.30	15,484.78	
Venezuela	2	3.371	27,387	1,930	29,317	4.182	1,108.65	2,217.29	17,763.28	44,077.40	65,166.63	
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>499,371</b>	<b>201,641</b>	<b>701,012</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>34,368.07</b>	<b>64,301.55</b>	<b>526,977.33</b>	<b>1,053,954.66</b>	<b>1,679,601.62</b>	

A: Panel membership.

B: % annual and panel membership (G+H).

C: Catch (live weight).

D: Canned production (net weight).

E: Total (C+D).

F: Percentage distribution of E.

G: Euros equivalent to \$1000 annual membership fee (at the time of calculation).

H: Euros equivalent to \$1000 for each panel membership (at the time of calculation).

I: 1/3 of (Total less G+H) distributed according to col. B %.

J: 2/3 of (Total less G+H) distributed according to col. F %.

K: Total (G+H+I+J)

**Based on 1999 catch and canning figures**

**DOCUMENTATION ON THE MAIL VOTING PROCESS  
FOLLOWING THE 17<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

**17-1 First voting**

*17.1.a Chairman Barañano's letter of December 21, 2001 to Head Delegates regarding procedure to follow*

Unfortunately, the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of ICCAT had to be temporarily suspended for reasons known to all, without certain decisions necessary for the normal functioning of the Commission and for the adequate management the fishery resources regulated by ICCAT having been taken.

The functions of the Chairman include resolving points of order (Rule 7d of the Rules of Procedure) and to call for votes and announce results (Rule 7e).

In order to continue progressing towards our objectives, and having considered various opinions and observations of several Contracting Parties, it is my opinion that the Commission should, in these exceptional circumstances and in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rule 9, decide by correspondence on the manner in which to proceed with the consideration of Recommendations and Resolutions and other matters discussed at the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

In order to facilitate such decision taking, and in an attempt to continue to adopt decisions by consensus or with an overriding majority, I should like to make the following proposal regarding the process to be followed.

At the meeting of the Head Delegates held Monday, 19 November, it was agreed that, given that there was not a quorum required for voting, Recommendations and Resolutions would be adopted by consensus. Any Recommendation or Resolution which was opposed by any Contracting Party could not be adopted, as two thirds of the Contracting Parties of the Commission - being 21 Contracting Parties - are required for a vote. This number was not present on 19 November.

Various Recommendations and Resolutions were thereby adopted by consensus. A Recommendation in relation to the suspension of the entry into force of bigeye tuna sanctions against Honduras could not be adopted, however, because a Contracting Party indicated that it could not join in the consensus. In order to avoid voting, it was decided to continue, for a further year, the regulatory measure which had previously been applied.

With regard to the Recommendation on east Atlantic bluefin tuna, given that some Contracting Parties were unable to join in the consensus, and given the absence of the necessary quorum, this Recommendation could not be adopted.

The temporary suspension of the ICCAT meeting did not allow for any further decisions to be taken or to clarify the procedure for future actions.

We therefore find ourselves with three different groups:

1. *Recommendations, Resolutions and other matters adopted by consensus of all Contracting Parties present. The list of these is attached as Annex 1*

As these have been adopted by a number of Contracting Parties greater than a simple majority required by Rule 9.2 of the Rules of Procedure, and no challenge or objection having arisen, my understanding is that these should be considered approved and valid.

I move that this proposal in regard to Annex I be submitted to a vote by the Contracting Parties.

*2. Recommendations, Resolutions and other matters not discussed in Plenary but approved by the various Panels and Committees. (Annex 2)*

It is proposed that the items on the list in Annex 2 be submitted to a vote by Contracting Parties individually.

*3. Resolutions and Recommendations discussed at Plenary but not adopted due to there being no quorum.*

This comprises the Recommendation on eastern bluefin tuna. Applying the same reasoning as to those in groups 1 and 2, it may be understood that this could not be submitted to a vote due to the lack of the required quorum, and it is now necessary to take a decision about the management of this resource for the year 2002.

The alternatives are:

- a) Submit this Recommendation to a vote, applying similar criteria to those in group 2.
- b) Propose alternative regulatory measures, which could be a continuation of the 2001 Recommendation, or any other measure which the Commission considers necessary to apply in 2002.

I propose that this point be left open for debate early in the new year.

Please vote whether or not you are in agreement with this proposal. The deadline for votes is 11 January 2002. Contracting Parties that do not submit their votes before this date will be deemed to have abstained.

***Annex 1. Items/Issues Adopted by Consensus at Commission Level***

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**Document Title (and working number) or Description of Decision**

*Compliance Committee*

1. Supplemental Recommendation on Compliance in the BFT and Atlantic SWO Fisheries (COC-137A)
2. Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submissions (COC-108A)
3. Resolution Concerning a Management Standard for the Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishery (COC-001B)
4. Letter to Equatorial Guinea indicating continuance of trade restrictions (COC-156)
5. Revised Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures
6. Compliance Tables (COC-118A) and Interpretative Application Decisions
7. Letter to Panama re/ Identification under 1998 UU resolution

*Panel 1 - Tropical Tunas*

1. Recommendation by ICCAT on the 2002 Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures (PA1-126)

*Panel 2 - Temperate Tunas-North*

1. Recommendation by ICCAT on Northern Albacore Catch Limits (PA2-128)
2. 2001 Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central Atlantic Ocean (PA2-073)
3. ICCAT Resolution Regarding the SCRS Mixing Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (PA2-056B)

*Commission Items*

1. ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (PLE-010)
2. Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas (PLE-052)
3. Honduras: Entry into force of BET Trade Restrictions agreed in 2000
4. Extension of term of office for Executive Secretary
5. Date and Place of the next Commission meeting

*Permanent Working Group*

1. Resolution by ICCAT Concerning More Effective Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing by Tuna Longline Vessels (COC-021D)

***Annex 2. Items/Issues Adopted by Consensus at the level of the various Panels & Committees ONLY***

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**Document Title (and working number) or Description of Decision**

*Permanent Working Group*

1. Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT BET Statistical Document Program (PWG-017E)
2. Supplemental Resolution Concerning ICCAT BET Statistical Document Program (PWG-019C)
3. Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a SWO Statistical Document Program (PWG-129B)
4. Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of BET and its Products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines (PWG 123)
5. Resolution on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity (PWG-005A)
6. Resolution by ICCAT Further Defining the Scope of IUU Fishing (COC-110B)
7. PWG Packet of Letters (PWG-152)
8. Letter to Honduras Re/ the Lifting of BFT & SWO Sanctions; Maintenance of BET Sanctions (PLE 160A)
9. Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of BFT and SWO and their Products From Honduras (COC-148)
10. List of Large-Scale Longline Vessels Believed to be Engaged in IUU Fishing Activities (PWG-122B)
11. Large-Scale Longline Vessels Listed on the 1999 and 2000 ICCAT Lists but which had no Record of Imports into Japan Since January 1, 2000 (PWG-136)

*Panel 3 - Temperate Tunas - South*

1. Recommendation by ICCAT on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit (PA3-117B)

*Panel 4 - Other Species*

1. Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish
2. Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations (PA4-089)
3. Resolution on Interpretation of the Recommendation to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish (PA4-095A)
4. Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks (PA4-027A)
5. Resolution by ICCAT for Evaluating Alternatives to Reduce Catches of Juveniles or Dead Discards of Swordfish (PA4-088B)

*STACFAD*

1. Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Financial Contributions to ICCAT by Contracting Parties (STF-090)
2. Budget for 2002-03 / Catch & Canning figures / Contracting Party Contributions

**17.1.b Chairman Barañano's letter of January 21, 2002 to Head Delegates on the results of the vote on procedure to follow**

I want to thank all the Contracting Parties for their responses and comments to my letter of December 21 in which I submitted 3 proposals on procedures to follow.

Responses were received from 22 Contracting Parties, which were translated by the Secretariat, and are included with this letter. To facilitate your review, the Secretariat prepared a summary table of the responses, which is also attached herewith.

As a result of the voting, the following has been agreed by simple majority:

- a) To consider as adopted and valid all the Resolutions, Recommendations and other items adopted by consensus at the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of ICCAT, in accordance with that indicated in point 1 of my letter of December 21.
- b) To submit to a mail vote the Recommendations, Resolutions and other items that could not be reviewed at the above-mentioned meeting, in accordance with that indicated in point 2 of my letter of December 21.
- c) To give additional time to continue discussing the conservation measures for eastern bluefin tuna, which were discussed at the Plenary but could not be voted upon due to the absence of the necessary quorum, in accordance with that indicated in point 3 of my letter of December 21.

Consequently, I plan to proceed as follows:

- 1.- Transmit all the Recommendations, Resolutions and other items included in Annex 1 of my letter of December 21 so that all the Contracting Parties can review the texts, for which a period of 4 weeks will be given from the date of that letter. After that period, the Recommendations and Resolutions will be officially transmitted to the Contracting Parties.
- 2.- Transmit all the Recommendations, Resolutions and other items included in Annex 2 of my letter of December 21, granting a period of 6 weeks from the date of that letter, so that the Contracting Parties can vote on each of these individually.
- 3.- Give until February 25 so that all the Contracting Parties concerned (particularly the members of Panel 2) can continue discussing the conservation measures on eastern bluefin tuna and make the necessary effort to develop a proposal on which the Contracting Parties can reach a consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached by that date, I will submit Recommendation PA2-158, which was left pending at the last meeting of ICCAT, to a vote. In the same way, a period of 6 weeks from the date of that letter will be granted for the voting process.

*Summary of Responses to the Commission Chairman's Letter of December 21, 2001*

<i>Contracting Party</i>	<i>1. Consider Annex 1 items as approved</i>	<i>2. Submit Annex 2 items to mail vote</i>	<i>3. Debate Item 3 early in 2002</i>
ALGÉRIE	YES <sup>1</sup>	YES <sup>2</sup>	YES <sup>3(A)</sup>
ANGOLA		NO REPLY	
BARBADOS	YES	YES	YES
BRAZIL	YES	YES <sup>2</sup>	NO <sup>5</sup>
CANADA	YES	YES <sup>2</sup>	YES
CAP-VERT		NO REPLY	
CHINA, PEOPLE'S REP. OF	YES	YES	YES
COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE	YES <sup>4</sup>	YES <sup>6</sup>	YES <sup>6</sup>
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		NO REPLY	
CROATIA	YES	YES	YES
FRANCE (ST. PIERRE ET NOUVELLE MIQUELON)	ETNO <sup>4</sup>	YES	YES <sup>3(A)</sup>
GABON	YES	YES	NO REPLY
GHANA		NO REPLY	
GUINEA ECUATORIAL		NO REPLY	
GUINÉE-CONAKRY		NO REPLY	
HONDURAS	YES	YES	YES
JAPAN	YES	YES	YES
KOREA, REP. OF	YES	YES <sup>7</sup>	YES <sup>3(B)</sup>
LIBYA		NO REPLY	
MAROC	YES	YES <sup>2</sup>	YES <sup>3(B)</sup>
NAMIBIA	YES	YES <sup>2</sup>	YES
PANAMA		NO REPLY	
RUSSIA	NO REPLY	NO REPLY	YES <sup>(B)</sup>
SÃO TOMÉ E PRINCIPE	YES	YES	YES
SOUTH AFRICA	YES	YES	YES
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	YES <sup>1</sup>	YES <sup>2</sup>	YES <sup>5</sup>
TUNISIE		NO REPLY	
UNITED KINGDOM (OVERSEAS TERR.)	YES	YES	YES
UNITED STATES	YES	YES <sup>2</sup>	YES
URUGUAY	YES	YES	YES
VENEZUELA	YES	YES	YES

<sup>1</sup> Submitted votes for items in Annex 1.

<sup>2</sup> Submitted votes for items in Annex 2.

<sup>3</sup> Stated a choice for alternative (a) or (b) in Item 3.

<sup>4</sup> Voted for submission of Annex I to a vote

<sup>5</sup> Stated a preference to postpone discussion until 2002 Commission Meeting

<sup>6</sup> Stated approval conditional on majority approval by other members

<sup>7</sup> Stated a preference to postpone discussion until 2002 Commission Meeting, except for STACFAD items.

**17-2 Second voting****17.2.a Chairman Barañano's letter of January 28, 2002 to Head Delegates submitting Annex 2 texts to a mail vote**

I refer to my letter of 21 January (Summary of Responses and Process to Follow), and should now like to request Head Delegates to vote by mail on the Recommendations, Resolutions and other items which were included in Annex 2 of my letter dated 21 December 2001. These texts are attached to this letter (\*).

I urge ALL Head Delegates to submit their votes not later than six weeks from today (i.e. by 11 March 2002). Please use the attached form to submit your votes to the Secretariat (1 vote on each line, please) for each document/Recommendation, etc.

I would also like to note that the following nine Contracting Parties have already provided their votes in their response to my letter of 21 December 2001: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, Gabon, Korea (STACFAD issues only), Morocco, Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America.

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(\*) As the Delegate from Brazil pointed out, the item entitled "Large-scale longline vessels listed on the 1999 and 2000 ICCAT lists but which had no record of imports into Japan since January 1, 2000" (PWG-136), which was listed in Annex 2 of my letter of 21 December, does not need to be included in this mail vote. This list will be included as an appendix to the PWG Report as information provided by Japan which needs no specific approval by the Commission other than via the adoption of the PWG Report.

**17.2.b Chairman Barañano's letter of March 13, 2002 to Head Delegates summarizing results of mail vote on Annex 2 texts**

I refer to my letter of January 28 in which I asked the Head Delegates to vote by mail on various Recommendations, Resolutions and other items.

Responses were received from 27 Contracting Parties. To facilitate your review, the Secretariat has prepared a summary table of the responses, which is attached herewith.

As a result of the voting, all the Recommendations, Resolutions and other matters in the attachment have been adopted by majority. The Secretariat will, therefore, follow up with the official transmissions of the Contracting Party contributions for 2002, the Recommendations and Resolutions, as well as the special letters.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere appreciation to the Head Delegates who participated in this important voting process.



Mail vote results for "Annex II" of Chairman Barañano's letter of January 28, 2002

Title and Description of item	ALGERIE	ANGOLA	BARBADOS	BRAZIL	CANADA	CAP-VERT	CHINA P.R.	COMM. EUROPEENNE	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	CROATIA	FRANCE (SPM)	GABON	GHANA	GUINEA ECUATORIAL	GUINÉE-CONAKRY	HONDURAS	JAPAN	KOREA, Rep.	LIBYA	MAROC	NAMIBIA	PANAMA	RUSSIA	SÃO TOMÉ E PRINCIPE	SOUTH AFRICA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNISIE	UNITED KINGDOM (O.T.)	UNITED STATES	URUGUAY	VENEZUELA	YES	NO	ABS	Total				
	<b>Permanent Working Group</b>																																						
1. Recommendation concerning BET Statistical Document Program (PWG-017)	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	24	0	3	27	
2. Suppl. Resolution concerning BET Statistical Document Program (PWG-019)	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	23	1	3	27		
3. Recommendation establishing SWO Statistical Document Program (PWG-129)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	25	0	2	27	
4. Recommendation concerning BET imports from St. Vincent & Grenadines (PWG-123)	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Abs		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	21	0	6	27	
5. Resolution on becoming Cooperating Party, Entity, Fishing Entity (PWG-005)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	24	0	3	27	
6. Resolution further defining scope of IUU Fishing (COC-110)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	24	0	3	27	
7. PWG packet of Letters (PWG-152)	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	0	7	27	
8. Letter to Honduras lifting BFT and SWO sanctions and maintaining BET sanctions (PLE-160)	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Abs		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	0	7	27	
9. Recommendation concerning import of BFT and SWO from Honduras (COC-148)	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Abs		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	22	0	5	27	
10. List of large scale LL vessels believed to be engaged in IUU fishing (PWG-122)	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	21	0	6	27	
<b>Panel 3</b>																																							
1. Recommendation on S. Atl. ALB catch limit (PA3-117)	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	0	9	27
<b>Panel 4</b>																																							
1. Recommendation on S. Atl. SWO	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	0	7	27	

Title and Description of item	ALGÉRIE	ANGOLA	BARBADOS	BRAZIL	CANADA	CAP-VERT	CHINA P.R.	COMM. EUROPÉENNE	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	CROATIA	FRANCE (SPM)	GABON	GHANA	GUINEA ECUATORIAL	GUINÉE-CONAKRY	HONDURAS	JAPAN	KOREA, Rep.	LIBYA	MAROC	NAMIBIA	PANAMA	RUSSIA	SÃO TOMÉ E PRINCIPE	SOUTH AFRICA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	TUNISIE	UNITED KINGDOM (O.T.)	UNITED STATES	URUGUAY	VENEZUELA	YES	NO	ABS	Total			
	2. Recommendation to amend Marlin Rebuilding Plan (PA4-089)	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	19	0	8
3. Resolution on interpretation of rebuilding program for N. Atl. SWO (PA4-095)	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	0	7	27
4. Resolution on Atlantic sharks (PA4-027)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	23	0	4	27	
5. Resolution for alternatives to reduce juvenile or discards of SWO (PA4-088)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	22	0	5	27
<b>STACFAD</b>																																						
1. Resolution concerning financial contributions (STF-090)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	23	0	4	27
2. Budget for 2002-03 and contributions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abs		Abs	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes			Yes	Abs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	22	0	5	27

**17-3 Third voting**

**17.3.a Chairman Barañano's letter of February 27, 2002 to Head Delegates regarding the East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Recommendation [PA2-158]**

Further to my letter dated January 21, I hereby notify the various Contracting Parties that as of the February 25 deadline, it has not been possible to arrive at a consensus proposal for the management of eastern bluefin tuna for 2002.

Consequently, and in accordance with point 3 of my aforementioned letter, I am submitting the attached proposed recommendation on catch limits for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (PA2-158-A) to a vote by the Commission.

I earnestly request all the Contracting Parties to submit their vote on this recommendation, for which a period of 6 weeks from today, i.e. until April 11, 2002 has been granted.

**PROPOSED  
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON CATCH LIMITS  
FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EAST ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN  
[PA2-158A]**

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), during its 2001 meeting, reiterated the fact that the Commission should be aware that there are several sources of uncertainties due to the lack of a qualitative assessment of East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and that in view of this situation, it maintains its advice of 1998 until it has the results of a new assessment scheduled in 2002;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** the conclusions of the Meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Allocation Criteria which was held from November 7 to 9, 2001;

**AWARE** that the conclusions constitute a decisive step to define the management strategy of tunas over the medium term and permits a stable management of this fishery;

**NOTING** that the new allocation criteria should be applied in a progressive manner;

**RECOGNIZING** the need to adopt measures aimed at assuring the efficiency of the objectives of ICCAT to conserve and manage bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean;

**CONSCIOUS** of the considerable efforts that have already been made by the Contracting Parties involved in this fishery;

**DESIRING** to attain a stock level compatible with the objectives of the Convention in the medium-term;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. To establish a fair and equitable allocation of the quotas in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, an allocation scheme is set up as follows, for a four-year period starting in 2002, to set the annual quotas of total allowable catch (TAC) for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean:

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Algeria	5.16%	5.16%	5.39%	5.50%
China (People's Republic)	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%
Croatia	2.95%	3.07%	3.23%	3.35%
European Community	59.58%	59.43%	59.00%	58.50%
Japan	8.84%	8.76%	8.69%	8.62%
Korea	0.15%	0.18%	0.22%	0.27%
Tunisia	6.34%	6.41%	6.46%	6.62%
Libya	4.04%	4.22%	4.49%	4.73%
Morocco	9.20%	9.20%	9.20%	9.45%
Others	3.51%	3.34%	3.09%	2.73%

2. Based on the distribution provided in paragraph 1, a TAC for 2002 is fixed at 32,925 MT and divided as follows:

	<i>Quota 2002 (in MT)</i>
Algeria	1,700
China (People's Republic)	76
Croatia	971
European Community	19,615
Japan	2,911
Korea	49
Tunisia	2,087
Libya	1,330
Morocco	3,030

3. For new Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, the catch limits for 2002 is calculated according to paragraph 1:

2002: 1,156 MT<sup>1</sup>

4. At the meeting in 2005, the Commission will re-examine the allocation system established in paragraph 1, principally to take into account the needs of new Contracting Parties.
5. This sharing arrangement absorbs the over harvest and/or under harvest resulting from the implementation of autonomous management measures for this stock (catch limits) before 2002.
6. The Total Allowable Catch for 2002 will be reviewed in light of the SCRS assessment on Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

1. This figures includes a special allocation to Chinese Taipei of 330 MT for 2002, as Chinese Taipei has Cooperating Status

**17.3.b Chairman Barañano's letter of April 22, 2002 to Head Delegates summarizing the results of the mail vote on the East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Recommendation [PA2-158A]**

It is my pleasure to inform the ICCAT Contracting Parties that the results of the voting on Recommendation PA2-158A yielded the following results:

Votes received:	26
Votes in favor:	11
Votes against:	9
Abstentions:	6

Various delegations expressed their concern about the procedure that should be followed in taking decisions on this proposal, essentially with regard to the majority needed for its approval. In view of the results of the voting, I would appreciate your sending your comments in this regard as soon as possible.

## Recommendation on Catch Limits for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean (PA2-158A)

<i>CONTRACTING PARTY</i>	<i>VOTE</i>
ALGÉRIE	YES
ANGOLA	YES
BARBADOS	
BRAZIL	NO
CANADA	NO
CAP-VERT	YES
CHINA	ABS
COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE	YES
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	YES
CROATIA	YES
FRANCE (ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON)	YES
GABON	YES
GHANA	
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	YES
GUINÉE-CONAKRY	
HONDURAS	ABS
JAPAN	ABS
KOREA, REP.	NO
LIBYA	NO
MAROC	
NAMIBIA	NO
PANAMA	YES
RUSSIA	ABS
SÃO TOMÉ E PRINCIPE	
SOUTH AFRICA	NO
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	ABS
TUNISIE	NO
UNITED KINGDOM (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)	YES
UNITED STATES	NO
URUGUAY	NO
VENEZUELA	ABS
	YES 11
	NO 9
	ABS 6
	TOTAL 26

## NATIONAL REPORTS

**NOTE FROM THE SECRETARIAT:** The following Contracting Parties submitted compliance reporting tables in 2001, either as part of their National Reports or separately for the Commission meeting: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Japan, Morocco, Russia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Uruguay, and the United States of America. The information contained in these reporting tables has been assimilated into the compliance tables (Appendix 3 to ANNEX 12). Many National Reports submitted to the Commission contain detailed information such as excerpts of legal texts or lists of publications. For reasons of economy, such details are not included in this publication, but can be requested from the Secretariat in the original language.

### NATIONAL REPORT OF ANGOLA<sup>1</sup>

*Kumbi Kilongo<sup>2</sup>*

#### 1. Introduction

Tuna fishing in Angola, as in other fisheries, is influenced by the presence of the cold Benguela current in the south, and by the cold Guinea current in the north. The wide species diversity in the south is associated to a favorable distribution brought about by the cold current. The major species caught are: *Thunnus albacares* (yellowfin tuna), *Thunnus obesus* (bigeye tuna), *Katsuwonus pelamis* (skipjack tuna), *Sarda sarda* (Atlantic bonito), *Scomber japonicus* (Spanish mackerel), *Euthynnus alletteratus* (Atlantic black skipjack), *Xiphias gladius* (swordfish), and other species of lesser importance.

Tuna fishing is carried out by the artisanal fishery as well as the semi-industrial and the industrial fishery, and the fishing method used varies according to the target species.

#### 2. Information on catches

In 2000 there were 8,404 MT of tunas caught along the coast of Angola (Figure 1), which represents a decrease of almost 30% as compared to 1999. Of these catches, 54% (4,534 MT) were from fishing activities of the semi-industrial and local industrial fisheries, 27% (2,286 MT) of the catches corresponded to the industrial fishing of the European Community (12 longliners), and 19% (1,584 MT) to the artisanal fishery (Table 1). Small tunas were all caught by the artisanal, semi-industrial and local industrial fisheries, whereas the large tunas were caught by the European Community fleet.

#### 3. Fishing gears

In 2000, 57% (4,788 MT) of the tuna catches were carried out by the pelagic trawl fishery, 27% (2,284 MT) by longliners, 12% (1,050 MT) by deep trawl, while the baitboats, purse seiners and traps had very minor catches.

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1. Original report in French.  
2. Instituto de Investigación Marina.

It should be noted that the large tunas were all caught by longline, while the small tunas were caught by other fishing methods mentioned above.

#### 4. Research activities

Since early in 2000, a program is being carried out based on vessel surveys and the collection of biological data, aimed at improving the data required by ICCAT.

**Table 1.** Tuna landings (MT) by the artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries in 2000

<i>Species</i>	<i>Artisanal fishery</i>	<i>Semi-industrial &amp; local industrial fishery</i>	<i>Industrial fishery (EC)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Atlantic black skipjack	1,129	2,766	0	3,894
Spanish mackerel	17	1,759	0	1,776
Atlantic bonito	439	0	0	446
West African Spanish mackerel	0	0	0	1
Yellowfin	0	0	1,418	1,418
Skipjack	0	0	463	463
Bigeye	0	0	210	210
Swordfish	0	0	194	194
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>4,534</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>8,404</b>

**Table 2.** Tuna landings (in MT), by fishing gears

<i>Species</i>	<i>Pelagic trawl</i>	<i>Longline</i>	<i>Deep trawl</i>	<i>Baitboat</i>	<i>Purse seine</i>	<i>Total</i>
Atlantic black skipjack	3,740	0	0	155	0	3,895
Spanish mackerel	602	0	1,049	6	119	1,776
Atlantic bonito	446	0	0	0	0	446
West African Spanish mackerel	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yellowfin	0	1,417	0	0	1	1,418
Skipjack	0	463	0	0	0	463
Bigeye	0	210	0	0	0	210
Swordfish	0	194	0	0	0	194
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,788</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>8,404</b>



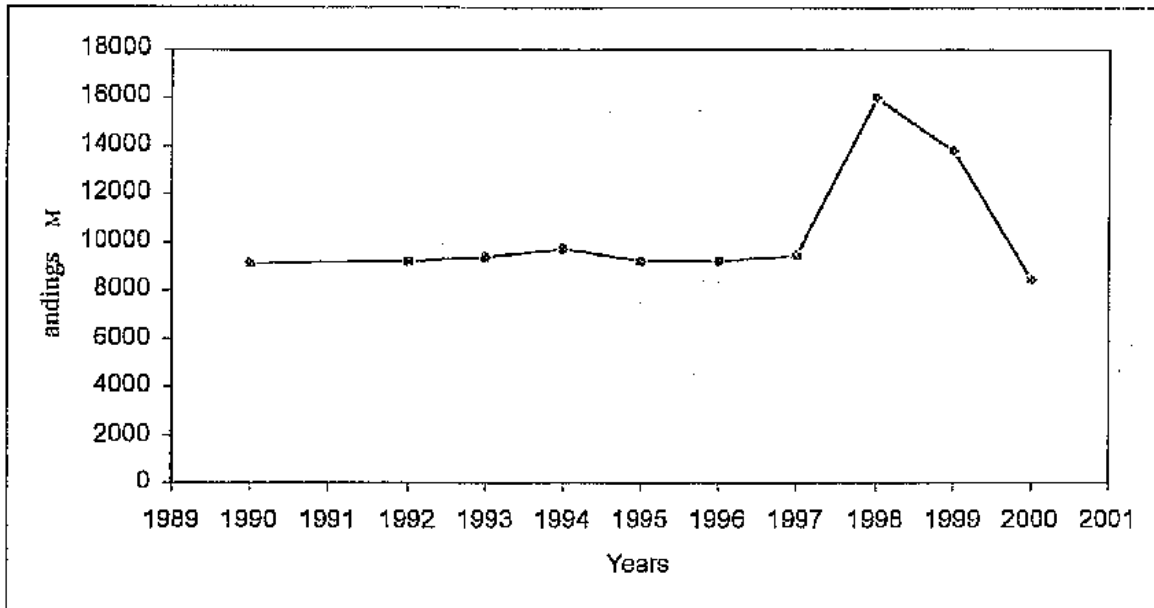


Figure 1. Tuna landings, 1990 to 2000.

NATIONAL REPORT OF BRAZIL<sup>1,2</sup>

## 1. Fisheries information

In 2000, the Brazilian tuna longline fleet consisted of 89 vessels registered in the following ports: Itajai - SC (7), Santos-SP (22), Cabedelo-PB (33), Natal-RN (25), and Rio Grande-RS (2). Of these 89 longliners, 39 were national and 50 were foreign leased vessels. There was a 27% increase in the total number of vessels from 1999, when 70 vessels were operating. The number of baitboats operating in 2000 was 39 and these worked out of the same ports as in the previous year: Rio de Janeiro, Itajai, and Rio Grande. All baitboats are national.

The Brazilian catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes, including billfishes, sharks, and other species of minor importance (e.g. wahoo and dolphin fish) was 44,216.9 MT (round weight), in 2000 (Table 1), representing an increase of about 12.6% from the catch in 1999 (39,262.1 MT). The majority of the catch again was taken by baitboats (24,445.5 MT; 60.6%), with skipjack tuna being the most abundant species (21,255.8 MT), accounting for 86.9% of the baitboat catches. Catches of this species remained relatively stable, decreasing by only 1,691.7 MT from 1999. With a total catch of 2,626.7 MT, yellowfin tuna was the second species in importance in the baitboat fishery. The total catch of the tuna longline fishery (15,908.8 MT), was about 10.4% higher than in 1999. Albacore, accounting for 22.9% of the catches, was the predominant species in the catch with a total of 3,657.9 MT. Swordfish catches in 2000 amounted to 3,512.0 MT, representing 22.1% of the total catch of longliners and a decrease of 25.6% from 1999, when 4,721.1 MT were caught. Bigeye tuna was the third most important tuna species caught by longliners in 2000, with a total of 2,366.9 MT representing 14.9% of the total catch, a increase of 17.0% from the previous year. No bluefin tuna catch was recorded. A total of 2,819.3 MT of sharks was caught as by-catch as well as a target species. The most caught species was the blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, which represented 29.2% of the shark catch (Table 1). Small tuna catches amounted to 3,791.9 MT.

## 2. Research and statistics activities

Catch and effort data from Brazilian tuna fisheries are regularly collected via the use of log sheets which skippers are required to complete after each set. Because leased and national vessels have exactly the same rights and obligations under Brazilian law, for the purposes of this report, all reference to Brazilian boats includes both categories of vessels. In addition to log sheets, supplementary information on landings is provided by the fishing companies.

The responsibility for all matters relating to highly migratory species in Brazil (including data collection and submission to ICCAT) pertain to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA-DPA), which prepared and submitted Task I and Task II data. Three institutions directly assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in processing and analyzing relevant data from 2000: Federal Rural University of Pernambuco (UFRPE), located in the northeast, Fishery Institute, located in the southeast, and Itajai University (UNIVALI), located in the south. These institutions, together with many others, including the *Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis* (IBAMA), continued to conduct several other research activities on tuna species caught by Brazilian boats. Further, since 1996, due to the growing interest in swordfish, biological and morphometric data have regularly been collected and analyzed. Besides, genetic samples was taken from swordfish caught off northeast Brazil and was analyzed through a cooperative research with the Texas A&M University, under the guidance of Dr. Jaime Alvarado. The results were analyzed in a Master's thesis and will be published soon. In southern Brazil, over 10,000 fish caught by bait-boats, mainly skipjack tunas, were measured. Besides, age and growth of this important species have also been studied by reading of growth rings in the dorsal spine.

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1. Original report in English.

2. Ministério da Agricultura e do Abastecimento, Secretaria de Apoio Rural e Cooperativismo, Departamento de Pesca e Aquicultura..

Several studies continued to be developed as part of the Brazilian Program for the Assessment of Living Resources in the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ), entitled "REVIZEE" (*Programa de Avaliação do Potencial Sustentável dos Recursos Vivos na Zona Econômica Exclusiva*). REVIZEE is the largest national research program on marine science and fisheries ever carried out in Brazil and encompasses a broad range of surveys in oceanic areas off the south, southeast and northeast coasts. The Ministry of the Environment (MMA) coordinates this research program, at the national level, under the operational coordination of IBAMA.

Data have also been collected from several recreational fisheries based off southeast and northeast Brazil, mainly in the Rio de Janeiro- RJ, Ilhabela- SP and Fernando de Noronha Island where sport tournaments are conducted by local yacht clubs. Up to now, about 400 billfishes and a few swordfish have been tagged and released, whilst only one swordfish (1993), one white marlin (1997) and one sailfish (1997) have been recaptured. Tagging has begun in the sport fishing tournaments of Fernando de Noronha Island by the first time and will be carried out in the sport fishing tournaments of Natal and Recife, by October 2001. Tags of the Cooperative Tag Center/NOAA-NMFS will be used in these tournaments. In Southeast Brazil, tag and release procedures have been adopted since the early 1990s in the sport fishing tournaments of Santos and Rio de Janeiro. Besides, now almost all marlins and sailfishes caught are released.

### 3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

As previously indicated, in order to adequately comply with ICCAT recommendations, the Brazilian government has implemented several fishery regulations. These include:

- A minimum-size limit for swordfish (in 2000 the Brazilian catch of fish less than 125 cm was only 11.1% of the total production);
- Prohibition of shark finning (shark fins can only be landed with their respective carcasses) and mandatory submission of information on the weights of fins landed;
- Restriction of the number of leased vessels allowed to fish for swordfish as a target species to 16 (Rule - Instrução Normativa nº 17, of December 1999). In all other leased vessels that do not have the specific license, the catch of swordfish can only amount to a maximum of 15% of the total catch by boat, per fishing cruise;
- ICCAT recommendations on minimum weight limits for yellowfin and bigeye tunas have been implemented in domestic regulations in 1973 and 1991, respectively. Up to now there have not been any observed landings of undersized fish beyond the limits of tolerance established by the regulations.

A new Rule (Instrução Normativa nº 16) regulating the Brazilian tuna fishery was published on July 30, 2001, establishing the following:

- A catch limit for swordfish of 4,720 MT. In spite of this limit, catches of swordfish of all leased vessels, including those which were allowed to catch this species, was reduced to only 5% of the total catch, per fishing cruise, from September 15 onward. Since the number of boats allowed to catch swordfish in 2001 was the same as in 2000, and the swordfish by-catch allowed for all vessels was reduced from 15% to 5%, from September 15 on, the Brazilian swordfish production in 2001 is expected to remain at about 3,000 MT, a reduction of about 15% from 2000 and about 1,700 MT less than the limit established for the country (4,720 MT);
- A catch limit of 52 MT of white marlin and 253 MT of blue marlin was established for all boats. The release of all fish that are still alive at the time of boarding was also made mandatory;
- The monthly submission of information on the catches of swordfish, bigeye tuna, albacore, white marlin and blue marlin was made mandatory for all fish companies, allowing a better follow up of the catches of these species;

- The presence of observers on board was made mandatory for at least 10% of the leased vessels;
- All leased vessels were obliged to install a satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

Furthermore, on September 21, 2000, the Brazilian Government established a Permanent Committee for the Management of Brazilian Tuna Fisheries (Comitê Consultivo Permanente de Gestão sobre Atuns e Afins - CPG; Portaria nº 370), which includes representatives of several government bodies, such as, *inter alia*, the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment and the Brazilian Navy, the private sector and the scientific community. The establishment of the CPG is expected to enhance the transparency of the management process of Brazilian tuna fisheries and significantly strengthen its institutional aspects.

**Table 1.** Brazilian catches in 2000 (MT round weight; effort in number of hooks for longline and in days fishing for baitboats)

<i>Effort and species</i>	<i>Longline catch</i>	<i>Baitboat catch</i>	<i>Unspecified gears</i>	<i>Total</i>
Effort	<i>16,540,951 hooks</i>	<i>3,288 days fishing</i>		
Yellowfin tuna	2,062.2	2,626.7	—	4,688.8
Albacore	3,657.9	79.3	—	3,737.2
Bigeye tuna	2,366.9	5.3	—	2,372.2
Skipjack tuna	—	21,255.8	—	21,255.8
Small tunas	288.9	—	3,791.9	4,080.8
Swordfish	3,512.0	—	—	3,512.0
Sailfish	522.4	—	66.7	589.1
White marlin	61.2	—	—	61.2
Spearfish	20.8	—	—	20.8
Blue marlin	311.7	—	—	311.7
Other billfishes	13.2	—	—	13.2
Other fish	272.3	482.4	—	754.8
Blue sharks	823.5	—	—	823.5
Other sharks	1,995.8	—	—	1,995.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,908.8</b>	<b>24,449.5</b>	<b>3,858.6</b>	<b>44,216.9</b>

## NATIONAL REPORT OF CANADA<sup>1</sup>

*J. M. Porter<sup>2</sup>, M. Calcutt<sup>3</sup> and C. J. Allen<sup>4</sup>*

### 1. National Fisheries Information

#### 1.1 Bluefin tuna

Bluefin tuna occur in Canadian waters from July to December over the Scotian Shelf, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the Bay of Fundy, and off Newfoundland. In adherence with the ICCAT Recommendation, the Canadian quota for the 2000 calendar year was 569.5 MT (573 MT allocated quota minus 3.5 MT overrun from 1999). The Canadian nominal landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2000 were 549.1 MT (Table 1), leaving 20.4 MT uncaught. In addition, 46.0 MT were estimated to be discarded dead from the swordfish longline fleet (Table 2). Canada has 5.6 MT of the overall allowance for dead discards from ICCAT Recommendation 98-7. When this and the 20.4 MT uncaught quota are included, Canada was 20.0 MT over its allocated TAC (including the estimate of dead discards) in 2000 which will be subtracted from the 2001 quota (573 MT minus 20.0 = 553 MT).

Catches in 2000 were lower throughout the Gulf of Maine, Bay of Fundy and Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia. The major fishery since 1988 has been the tended line fishery in the Hell Hole between Browns and Georges banks (180 km southwest of Nova Scotia), though in recent years its importance has decreased substantially. In 2000, however, the Hell Hole (74 MT) was surpassed in importance by the Gulf of St. Lawrence fishery (236 MT, Table 2). The landings in the Gulf have increased continuously from 1997 (101 MT) to 2000, so that 43% of the Canadian catch came from the Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2000. This represents a dramatic increase in the level of harvest generally seen there during the 1990s. The Gulf of St. Lawrence fish weigh about 400 kg (round), on average. Fish captured in the Hell Hole fishery weigh about 200 kg (round), on average. The standardized CPUEs for both the Gulf of St. Lawrence and southwestern Nova Scotia in 1998 and 1999 (not updated for 2000) have shown an increase, such that the 1999 value is about twice that of the 1996-1997 values, although they are still only about 40% of levels seen in the late 1980s and early 1990s (SCRS/00/44). Additional catches were also taken from the St. Margaret's Bay traps (16 MT), from the rod and reel fishery off northeastern Nova Scotia (7 MT), and from coastal fishing areas off Halifax and Liverpool, Nova Scotia (113 MT). In the Bay of Fundy, 18 MT were taken by electric harpoon. In 2000, 71 MT were taken in the tended line fishery on the Tail of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland; this fishery has shown marked fluctuations in recent years (Table 2) due primarily to decreased effort in the groundfish fishery and irregular presence of fishing vessels in the offshore fishing grounds. The offshore longline vessel, which directs for tuna other than bluefin in the northwest Atlantic caught 13 MT of its 20 MT by-catch limit in 2000.

In 2000, 512 licensed fishermen actually participated in the directed bluefin fishery, one offshore longline license was authorized to direct for other tuna with a small bluefin by-catch provision, and four fish-trap license holders in St. Margaret's Bay used 24 bluefin tuna trap net licenses (Table 3).

#### 1.2 Swordfish

Swordfish occur in Canadian waters from April to November, primarily on the edge of Georges Bank, the Scotian Shelf and the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The ICCAT recommendation for the Canadian swordfish

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1. Original report in English.  
 2. Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, Biological Station, 531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 2L9.  
 3. Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, Resource Management Branch, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6.  
 4. Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, Fisheries & Biodiversity Science Directorate, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6.

quota for 2000 was 1,018 MT, less the overrun from the 1999 quota of 18.8 MT<sup>2</sup>, giving a Canadian quota of 999.2 MT. The Canadian nominal landings of swordfish in 2000 were 967.8 MT (Table 1), and resulted in a 31.4 MT underage in quota which will be added to the 2001 quota (1,018 MT plus 31.4 MT = 1,049.4 MT). Landings of undersized swordfish were as close to zero as possible (~0.3%). In 2000, Canada had a dead discard allowance of 80 MT. Based on data from at-sea observers on the swordfish longline fleet, 49.9 MT of swordfish were estimated to have been discarded dead (Tables 4 and 5), leaving 30.1 MT left in the Canadian dead discard quota, which gets rolled back into the global north Atlantic swordfish quota.

In 2000, 873 MT were taken by longline (or 90% of the catch), while the tonnage taken by harpoon was 95 MT (Table 4). The mean weight (round) of longlined and harpooned swordfish was 58 kg and 111 kg, respectively (Table 4).

Only 61 of the 77 licensed swordfish longline fishermen landed fish in the 2000 fishery (Table 4). This is in marked contrast to 1993-1996 when all, or nearly all, of the swordfish longline licenses were active (Table 4) due to the decline of groundfish stocks. The reduced effort in recent years is a result of a combination of factors including the reduced quota, increased opportunities for fishing other species (especially crab and shrimp in Newfoundland), and relatively low prices. Although a total of 1,248 fishermen are eligible for harpoon licenses, only 92 actually landed fish in 2000 as harpooning swordfish is usually an opportunistic activity conducted during other fisheries. In addition, one offshore longline license was issued for tunas other than bluefin with a swordfish by-catch provision.

### 1.3 Other tunas

The other tunas (albacore, bigeye and yellowfin) are at the northern edge of their range in Canada, and they are found along the edge of the Gulf Stream and Georges Bank, the Scotian Shelf and the Grand Banks (and beyond) throughout the year. Canadian catches of these species have traditionally been a minor portion of the overall Canadian catch. However, with the reduction in swordfish quota, much more attention has been given to fishing for these species, especially bigeye (327 MT in 2000). In 2000, pelagic longline vessels directed for bigeye early and late in the season, and fished to the geographic limit of their license (42°W, the boundary of NAFO Division 3). In addition to bigeye there were also catches of albacore (122 MT) and yellowfin (105 MT; Table 1). Catches of the other tunas by the Canadian swordfish and tuna longline fleet represented almost 40% of the overall catch of the fleet in 2000.

One Canadian offshore longline vessel has been authorized to direct for other tuna species with a bluefin tuna by-catch, and the 77-vessel swordfish/other tunas longline fleet has been permitted to direct for other tunas with no bluefin tuna by-catch. In addition, bluefin tuna vessels are authorized to catch and retain an incidental by-catch of other tuna while fishing for bluefin.

### 1.4 Sharks

Historically, blue shark, porbeagle and shortfin mako have been a by-catch of the Canadian swordfish and groundfish longline fisheries although small amounts are also landed from other fisheries. It is believed that the by-catch is larger than reported because of discarding and live releases. A directed longline fishery for shark has developed in recent years and a Management Plan for these species was first implemented in 1995-1996. The most recent plan was developed in 2000 (and approved for 2000-2001; Appendix A<sup>6</sup>). The intent of this plan was to provide the basis for a Scientific Monitoring fishery by enabling a minimum number of Canadian exploratory shark fishing licenses to direct for shark while providing detailed scientific data on stock abundance and distribution. This information was to be used to determine whether or not a commercial shark fishery is sustainable after 2000, and, if so, under what conditions. Total reported landings in 2000 were 902 MT of porbeagle, 18 MT of blue shark and 78 MT of shortfin mako (Table 1).

5. This is a slight correction from last year's National Report, in which the overrun was reported as 23 MT, resulting in a quota of 995 MT. Due to a translation error between the domestic quota monitoring system and the Task I & II report format which was not detected until the 2001 season, the Canadian quota report values of 18.8 MT of overrun and quota of 999.2 MT were the values applied in 2000.

6. See Secretariat note, p. 423.

In 2000, 55 exploratory shark fishing licenses were authorized to land porbeagle and/or blue shark, with all other sharks, including shortfin mako restricted to a by-catch (Table 3). The management plan has put a freeze on any new exploratory shark fishing license authorizations. In addition, there were >1,200 recreational shark licenses restricted to hook and release only (Table 3), except for a small number of approved derbies that allow for retention of catch.

## 2. Research and statistics

The Canadian Atlantic statistical systems provide real time monitoring of catch and effort for all fishing trips. In 1994, an industry-funded Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP) was established in Atlantic Canada, according to Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) standards, for the swordfish longline fleet and the majority of bluefin landings. Since 1996, this system has applied to all fleets (including sharks), and included monitoring of all trips even when no fish were caught. At the completion of each fishing trip, independent and certified Dockside Monitors must be present for off-loading, and log record data must be submitted by each fisherman to the Monitoring Company that inputs the data into a central computer system. Log records contain information on catch, effort, environmental conditions (e.g., water temperature) and by-catch. Log records from trips with catch must be received from fishermen before they can proceed with their next fishing trip (log records from zero catch trips can be mailed in at a later time). Ideally, this ensures 100% coverage of properly completed log records and individual fish weights. Prior to the implementation of the Dockside Monitoring Program, even though the submission of logbooks was compulsory, less than 50% of trips were represented by useable log records and information on individual sizes of fish (see Table 4 for swordfish). The effectiveness of this system was thoroughly reviewed in 1998 and 1999, and appropriate changes implemented, as necessary. Problems such as by-catch and high grading are assessed through Observer Programs and at-sea surveillance on the domestic fleet. License holders who fail to comply with the domestic regulations and conditions of license are liable to prosecution that may include fines, and suspension of license privileges.

### 2.1 Bluefin tuna research

Canada fully supports research that improves the basic inputs and approaches of the Atlantic bluefin stock assessments. Canada (government scientists and managers, and industry) has supported and participated in recent state-of-the-art bluefin tagging studies that have raised the possibility of a previously unknown spawning area in the central Atlantic. As the management implications of possible spawning of bluefin tuna in the central Atlantic are enormous, Canada has fully supported the 2001 exploratory research cruise to sample spawning size bluefin tuna and larvae in the central north Atlantic through both cash and in-kind contributions (as per the ICCAT Recommendation).

The 2000 scientific research program at the Biological Station (St. Andrews) was as follows:

- 1) Continued a collaborative (Canada/USA/Science/Industry) high-tech satellite tagging project (SCRS/00/95).
- 2) Member of Central North Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Research Steering Committee, and presented exploratory fishing research proposal to ICCAT committees (SCRS/00/125).
- 3) Updated Canadian bluefin tuna CPUE series for use in the stock assessment (cooperative with the NMFS SEFSC; SCRS/00/44).
- 4) Dockside monitoring for all bluefin tuna landed in Canada, and data entry by the Monitoring Companies or Regional Statistical offices. Since 1996, there has been monitoring and data entry for all trips even when no fish were landed. In 2000, biologists provided training to the monitors, and to fisheries officers.
- 5) Collected bluefin blood and tissue samples for a NMFS (United States) research project on bluefin sexual maturity and genetics.

## **2.2 *Swordfish research***

The 2000 scientific research program at the Biological Station (St. Andrews) was as follows:

- 1) Tagged two swordfish with pop-up satellite archival tags, in cooperation with the Nova Scotia Harpoon Association.
- 2) Initiated a study to determine conversion factors (especially round weight to dressed weight) for swordfish in cooperation with the Nova Scotia Swordfishermen's Association.
- 3) Updated age- and sex-specific CPUE for Canadian swordfish longline (1988-1998) for fish 2-9+.
- 4) Dockside monitoring in place for all longline swordfish landed in Canada and data entry conducted by the Monitoring Companies or Regional Statistical offices. Since 1996, there has been dockside monitoring for both the longline and harpoon fleets.
- 5) Provided preliminary estimates of dead swordfish and bluefin discards based on Observer coverage of the domestic large pelagic longline fleet.

## **2.3 *Other tunas***

Sampling of the domestic fleet consisted of submission of tally sheets and logs, and 9% observer coverage. Data on catch, size and nominal CPUE have been provided to ICCAT. Dockside Monitoring is in place for the other tuna fisheries.

## **2.4 *Sharks***

An intensive research program on sharks was initiated at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Dartmouth) in 1998, with the initial focus being on porbeagles:

- 1) Almost all of the active participants in the 1998 exploratory commercial fishery for porbeagles participated in an arrangement with DFO Science to tag young porbeagles and collect detailed catch, sex and length composition information. At the end of 1998, this arrangement was formalized and enhanced in the form of a 2-year Joint Project Agreement (JPA) when the fishing industry committed funds to DFO Science and supported an on-board scientific presence to accelerate porbeagle research. This JPA was renewed in 2000 and remained in effect until the spring of 2001.
- 2) Detailed catch-effort and size composition information from past years was integrated with new information on age and growth and reproduction from the JPA to reconstruct past population trends. Current and past population abundance was estimated from catch at age and tag-recapture studies. These and other population indices were incorporated into an analytical stock assessment of porbeagles in the fall of 1999, and formed the basis for a new management plan in 2000-2001. An updated and more complete analytical assessment is planned for 2001.
- 3) To take full advantage of the industry-supported research program on porbeagles, a scientific collaboration with the Apex Predator Group of the National Marine Fisheries Service was initiated. The collaboration covered all aspects of porbeagle life history and population dynamics, including age and growth, maturity and reproduction, migration patterns, diet and temperature preferences. Both DFO and NMFS contributed resources to this collaboration, and several of the resulting papers are now in press.
- 4) The primary directed fishery for blue sharks is recreational. Therefore, catch-effort, sex and size composition data are collected from all shark derbies in eastern Canada. Logbook records were also obtained from recreational shark fishers.



### 2.5 *Incidental catch*

- 1) Hosted, chaired, and edited proceedings of 2000 Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Workshop on Seabird Incidental Catch in the Waters of Arctic Countries, and reported to ICCAT (SCRS/00/118).
- 2) Examined seabird incidental catch in the Canadian swordfish longline fishery by surveying fishermen, and analyzing Canadian observer data.
- 3) Reviewed Canadian observer data to determine what is known about incidental catch of all species on longline in the Canadian Atlantic pelagic fishery, and to make recommendations for future research and industry-driven mitigation measures.

### 2.6 *Precautionary Approach*

Canada strongly supports the Precautionary Approach and assigns a high priority to its implementation in fisheries management domestically as well as in the context of ICCAT. Recognizing that ICCAT stocks are currently not information rich, Canada fully supports new research aimed at improving stock assessments. Furthermore, as the Precautionary Approach is not limited to the development of reference points, Canada also strongly promotes the use of appropriate fisheries management and compliance measures to ensure the rebuilding and safeguarding of the resource.

Canada is a member of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Precautionary Approaches.

## 3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

For bluefin, swordfish, sharks, and the other tunas (bigeye, yellowfin, and albacore) Canada has issued multi-year management plans prior to the opening of the respective fishing seasons. Details of management measures and their enforcement are provided in Appendix A. These plans are compiled in consultation with the fishing industry and incorporate all relevant ICCAT regulatory recommendations. They are implemented under the *Fisheries Act of Canada*. The necessary ICCAT regulatory recommendations are either specified in the *Atlantic Fishery Regulations (1985)* (made pursuant to the *Fisheries Act*) or are handled as written Conditions of License (issued pursuant to the *Fishery (General) Regulations*), both of which are legally binding on fishermen.

### 3.1 *Catch limits and minimum sizes*

**Bluefin tuna.** Canada has implemented the ICCAT regulatory recommendations that apply to bluefin tuna in the Canadian Atlantic Bluefin Management Plan (Appendix A). The 2000 quota was set at 569.5 MT (573 MT of allocation minus 3.5 MT of overrun; see 1.1 above), and no person shall have in their possession any bluefin weighing less than 30 kg. In addition, Canada has limited entry into the fishery; and restrictions on the amount and type of gear used, vessel replacement, management fishing areas, and license transfer requirements.

**Swordfish.** Canada has implemented the ICCAT regulatory recommendations that apply to swordfish in the Canadian Atlantic Swordfish Management Plan (Appendix A). The 2000 quota was set to 999.2 MT (1,018 allocation minus 18.8 MT of overrun), and there is a prohibition on the taking and landing of swordfish less than 119 cm LJFL (no tolerance). In 2000, a restructuring of the fleet, combined with longline trip limits and a system of daily hauls from sea during the latter portion of the fishery were implemented to ensure the quota was not overrun. In 1998-2000, landings of fish <119 cm LJFL were reduced to as close to zero as possible.

**Other tunas.** In 1998-1999, the first Canadian Atlantic Integrated Fishery Management Plan was issued for bigeye, yellowfin and albacore, and this was re-issued in 2000. Fishing effort is restricted by limiting entry into the directed fishery to vessels having a swordfish/other tunas longline license and to one offshore vessel with an other tuna longline license. No person shall have in their possession any bigeye or yellowfin weighing less than 3.2 kg.

### **3.2 Closed seasons**

**Swordfish.** In addition to the ICCAT regulatory recommendations, Canada has limited entry into the fishery, strict by-catch provisions, time-area closures to protect small fish and minimize by-catch, and gear restrictions. In an effort to protect large (spawning stock) swordfish, the industry initiated a closure of a substantial portion of the Scotian Shelf for the past five years from early autumn to the end of the season. Since 1995, a relatively large portion of the southwestern part of the Scotian Shelf has been closed to swordfish longline gear for a period of up to two months to protect small swordfish and minimize by-catch of bluefin tuna.

### **3.3 Observer programs**

Canada has had an excellent Observer Program since 1977. Observers collect biological data, and monitor compliance with fishing regulations. In 2000, there was 9% observer coverage (by trip) on the fleet fishing for other tunas, exceeding the requirement of the ICCAT Recommendation. Data from the Observer Program are used to estimate dead discards, and document incidental catch of non-target species.

### **3.4 Vessel monitoring**

Although Canada has few large pelagic vessels over 24 meters in length, and most fishing is conducted within the 200 mile zone, in 2000 Canada had five vessels equipped with a VMS system as per the recommendation adopted by ICCAT.

### **3.5 Inspection schemes and activities**

Canada has a Port Inspection Scheme consistent with the ICCAT Regulatory Recommendation that entered into force on 13 June 1998 (see section 4).

### **3.6 Measures to ensure effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures and to prohibit illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries**

Canada participates in the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program and supports the development of similar programs for swordfish and bigeye tuna.

### **3.7 Other recommendations**

**Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.** Prior to the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, Canada developed a system of uniquely numbered tags to be attached to all bluefin tuna landed in Canada. Since 1995, it has tracked the utilization of these tags through a computerized system and can cross reference data from this system with the information on the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents once copies are returned from Japan.

## **4. Inspection schemes and activities**

Canada has a Port Inspection Scheme consistent with the ICCAT Regulatory Recommendation that entered into force on 13 June 1998. Canada uses a comprehensive enforcement protocol that involves a combination of the Dockside Monitoring Program (see section 2), and shore and sea-based patrols of Department of Fisheries and Oceans Fisheries Officers to ensure compliance with domestic regulations (which include ICCAT regulatory recommendations; see section 3).

In addition to the Dockside Monitoring Program to ensure complete coverage of the catch and effort of the Canadian fleet (see 2 above), aerial and vessel surveillance are used to monitor the fleets at-sea. Shore-based patrols monitor routine landings, watch for illegal landings and conduct airport and border surveillance. Observer coverage is used periodically to monitor specific important management questions in the commercial fishery. Test fisheries are established to define areas and times to minimize the catch/by-catch of restricted species or undersized targeted species.

**Table 1.** Canadian landings (MT round weight) of large pelagic fish species, 1991-2000

Species	Landings									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Swordfish	1026.5	1546.5	2233.7	1675.7	1609.2	739.1	1089.5	1115.1	1118.5	967.8
Bluefin tuna	481.7	443.5	458.6	391.6	576.1	598.0	504.5	596.0	576.1	549.1
Albacore	5.7	1.0	8.7	32.2	11.5	23.9	30.8	23.2	38.8	121.7
Bigeye tuna	27.1	67.5	124.1	110.5	148.6	144.0	165.7	119.6	262.8	327.0
Yellowfin tuna	28.0	25.5	71.5	52.3	174.4	154.5	100.1	56.6	21.8	105.2
Unspec. tuna	2.0	3.2	9.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Blue shark	31.0	101.1	20.8	112.5	137.8	11.8	10.9	4.5	53.5	18.4
Shortfin mako	427.0 <sup>1</sup>	115.9	152.2	157.2	111.2	67.4	110.1	69.5	70.4	77.8
Porbeagle		717.9	832.0	1544.9	378.0	1015.4	1339.4	1007.8	958.2	902.3
Unspec sharks	61.4	49.0	22.7	107.1	38.4	12.7	42.5	37.3	17.6	10.7
Marlin <sup>2</sup>	0.0		0.0	4.4	4.4	8.3	8.3	7.9	4.8	5.3

1. Mackerel sharks

2. Prior to 2001, marlin catches were reported as white marlin, although the ability to distinguish between white and blue marlin is not clear. This has been addressed for 2001.

**Table 2.** Canadian bluefin tuna landings and discards (MT round weight) by fishing area, 1988-2000

Bluefin fishing area (west to east)	Year												
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
B. of Fundy	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	43	32	55	36	38	18
Hell Hole	256	312	254	302	289	223	165	211	147	101	152	182	74
St. Marg's Bay	18	0	2	0	1	29	80	72	90	59	68	44	16
SWNS (coastal)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	84	106	93	113
NE N. Scotia	?	?	28	14	29	45	39	61	41	69	82	26	7
G. St. Lawrence	58 <sup>3</sup>	94 <sup>3</sup>	15	43	61	111	61	175	111	101	115	164	236
Newfoundland	44	119	120	105	56	26	5	10	95	30	21	10	71
Offshore	147	12	29	13	8	25	0	4	22	6	16	18	13
Year end adj. <sup>1</sup>	-	29	1	5	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total landings</b>	<b>522.6</b>	<b>566.3</b>	<b>448.9</b>	<b>481.7</b>	<b>443.5</b>	<b>458.6</b>	<b>391.6</b>	<b>576.1</b>	<b>598.0</b>	<b>504.5</b>	<b>596.0</b>	<b>576.1</b>	<b>549.1</b>
Discards <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.0	16.3	10.7	46.0
<i>Canadian quota</i>	<i>573.0</i>	<i>573.0</i>	<i>573.0</i>	<i>573.0</i>	<i>573.0</i>	<i>587.5</i>	<i>510.0</i>	<i>654.0</i>	<i>613.5</i>	<i>552.6</i>	<i>600.7</i>	<i>577.7</i>	<i>569.5</i>

1. e.g., seized, or Bermuda fishery.

2. Discarded dead from swordfish longline fishery: no estimates prior to 1997; 1997 actual tonnage observed by at-sea Observers; 1998-2000 estimate for entire fishery based on observer coverage (see SCRS/99/77).

3. Gulf of St. Lawrence and NE Nova Scotia (4 Wd) combined.

**Table 3.** Distribution of tuna, swordfish longline and shark fishing licenses by region and species<sup>1</sup> in 2000

Region	Number of licenses							
	Bluefin		Swordfish (LL)		Other tuna (LL) <sup>4</sup>		Sharks <sup>1</sup>	
	Total	Active	Total	Active	Total	Active	Explor.	Rec.
Gulf	606	382	0	0	0	0	19	60
Newfoundland	55 <sup>3</sup>	25	8	2	8	2	10	10
Scotia-Fundy	42	42	69	59	69	59	24	11-1200
St. Margaret's Bay <sup>2</sup>	24	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laurentian	54	39	0	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>&gt;1200</b>

1. Bluefin tuna, swordfish, other tunas, and sharks (exploratory longline licenses) are regulated by limited entry. Recreational shark licenses are restricted to hook and release only, and the number varies from year-to-year, depending on demand.

2. Four fish trap license holders with 6 bluefin trap net licenses each.

3. 38 of these licenses are subject to a reduced level of fishing activity and restricted to NAFO Divisions 3LNO.

4. Restricted to tunas other than bluefin (albacore, bigeye, yellowfin).

Note: Active fishermen are those that picked up their licenses, license conditions and tags, and submitted log records.

Table 4. Summary of 1990-2000 swordfish vessels landing fish, landings (MT round weight), discards<sup>1</sup>, average weight of fish (kg round) by gear, percentage of small fish by number<sup>2</sup>, and percentage of catch sampled for size

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>No. of vessels landing fish</b>											
Longline	50	53	46	75	74	77	77	60	49	53	61
Harpoon	+	61	72	72	32	97	112	105	109	66	92
<b>Landings (in MT)</b>											
Longline	819	953	1486	2206	1654	1421	646	1000	875	1101	873
Harpoon	92	73	60	28	22	188	93	89	240	18	95
Total	911	1026	1546	2234	1676	1609	739	1089	1115	1119	968
<b>Discards(MT)<sup>1</sup></b>											
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.0	51.7	34.6	49.9
<b>Ave. weight (kg)</b>											
Longline	61	61	57	56	63	68	69	70	61	56	58
(# sampled)	(10280)	(8111)	(5904)	(19469)	(26279)	(20247)	(9077)	(14438)	(13447)	(19630)	(12991)
Harpoon	138	78	67	129	120	122	161	131	126	109	111
(# sampled)	(164)	(146)	(136)	(151)	(83)	(1131)	(561)	(652)	(1911)	(147)	(830)
<b>% small fish by no. landed<sup>2</sup></b>											
<125 cm	11	11	16	15	11	9	3	5	3	3	3
<119 cm	5	8	7	9	6	4	<1	2	<1	<<1	<<1
<b>% of catch sampled</b>											
	71	49	23	50	99	94	97	100	95	100	100

1. Discarded dead from swordfish longline fishery: no estimates prior to 1997; 1997 actual tonnage observed by at-sea observers; 1998-2000 estimate for entire fishery based on observer coverage (see SCRS/99/77).

2. Minimum size under regulation in bold: <25 kg round weight or <125 cm LJFL with 15% tolerance (by number) from 1991-1995, and <119 cm LJFL with no tolerance since 1996.

+ Undetermined number, but <100.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF CHINA<sup>1</sup>

*L. X. Xu and X. J. Dai*

### 1. Introduction

There were 57 Chinese tuna longliners actively operating in the Atlantic Ocean in 2000, with catches of 9,205 MT of tuna and tuna-like species, which was 1,774 MT less than that in 1999. Bigeye tuna is still the main target species of the Chinese longline fleet. An Atlantic tuna fishing industry coordinating group has been established in order to better abide by the ICCAT recommended conservation and management measures. A tuna observer program was carried out in 2001 and two observers began working on board two of the Chinese Atlantic tuna longliners last June and August, respectively.

### 2. National fisheries information

In the year 2000, sixty Chinese tuna-longliners from eight fishing companies had got the fishing permit in the Atlantic Ocean from China fisheries authority, 57 of them were actively fishing by the end of last year. Most of the new access fishing boats only spent short time fishing, as usually starting fishing operation at the end of October or even late November. One third of the fleet belongs to class 210-500GT and the rest to the class 501-1000GT. Most of the longliners are operating in the tropic waters, between 10°N and 10°S. Bigeye tuna is still the main targeting species by Chinese longliners.

Last year, Chinese tuna fleet deployed 21,933,000 hooks in Atlantic Ocean. The total number of hooks deployed in eastern part of Atlantic was increased from 15,760,000 hooks in 1999 to 21,208,000 hooks last year, which accounts for 81% and 96.7% of the total number of hooks deployed in the respective year. The breakdown of fishing effort shows that fishing effort in the north Atlantic decreased sharply from 12,710,000 hooks to 1,906,000 hooks, whereas fishing effort in the south Atlantic increased from 6,649,000 hooks in 1999 to 20,027,000 hooks, indicating an east southward shift in the fishing effort of the Chinese tuna fleet in 2000. Research indicates that fishing conditions were the main reason for the lower catchability in 2000. It is also indicated from the fluctuation of the annual catch that Chinese tuna longlining fleets have not yet completely mastered the fishing technology even after many years of fishing experience. Especially for the new comers, knowledge of fishing ground is the key problem to the limit on their catchability.

The total nominal catches of tunas and tuna-like species by the Chinese tuna longline fleet in 2000 was 9,205 MT, which was 1,774 MT less as compared to that of 1999. Bigeye tuna catches decreased from 7,347 MT in 1999 to 6,563 MT in 2000, while yellowfin tuna catches decreased from 2,190 MT in 1999 to 1,674 MT last year. According to the percentage in weight, however, the catch of bigeye comprised 71% of the total catches in 2000, 4% more than that of the previous year; the yellow fin tuna catch was up to 18.2% of the total catch of last year, a slight decrease in comparison with that of 1999. Chinese tuna fleet catches of tunas and tuna-like species in weight and their corresponding composition during the 1993-2000 period are shown in Table 1.

### 4. Research and statistics

At present, the Tuna Working Group is fully responsible for data collection. All the Atlantic tuna fishing companies are required to report their catch data directly to the Working Group. Since last January, when the Atlantic tuna fishing industry coordination group was founded, the catch data reporting system has been working

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1. Original report in English.

properly. All the tuna fishing companies in the Atlantic Ocean now report their catch data to the Working Group every month. The catch data reported to the Working Group cover all the tuna longliners operating in Atlantic Ocean. Improvement in the reporting quality of the catch data is noted by the increase of the number of lines in Table 1, which shows that more species have been recorded on board the fishing vessel in 2000 than in 1999. Of course, there is still room for further improvement in catch data statistics. For example, information on length frequency and discarded catches etc., which is required by the ICCAT Secretariat, is not yet available for technical reasons. Further effort is needed in seeking the cooperation of the fishing industries.

China has submitted tuna catch and effort statistics, by gear, month and species, the list of authorized vessels fishing for bigeye tuna in the Atlantic (including ICCAT form 1-2), and catch data from the Chinese longline fleet in the Atlantic Ocean (Task 1) prior to the deadline set by the ICCAT Secretariat. China has also submitted estimated historical data on blue shark and short mako, based on data collected between 1994 and 1996 in combination with the weight of dried shark fin collected from sample log books by fisheries scientists.

Through the joint support of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture, a comprehensive research program on the tuna and tuna fisheries in the Atlantic was carried out this year, which included the collection of environmental information on the fishing grounds, biological information on the catch, setting up of a central fisheries database which will be used as one of the important management means in monitoring the activities of Chinese tuna fleet in the Atlantic.

Under the program, scientists now on board the fishing boats are also recording details on discards, incidental catches of sea birds, if any, and are looking forward to the chance to conduct some comparative tests with the purpose of reducing by-catches, such as reducing the catch of south Atlantic swordfish.

#### **4. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures**

The fisheries administration authority of China has taken numerous steps to implement ICCAT recommended conservation and management measures.

**Strengthening education** First of all, the fisheries administration authority of China arranged for managers or representatives from fishing companies to participate in the ICCAT Commission meeting, during which industry managers can experience themselves that the conservation and management of tuna stocks is a development trend and compliance with the conservation and management measures recommended by ICCAT is one of the key links to secure the sustainable utilization of tuna resources and should be followed by every fishing company concerned. Secondly, for the last few years since becoming a Contracting Party to ICCAT, the fisheries administration authority of China has organized several *ad hoc* meetings of the tuna industries. Bearing in mind that it is important for the industry managers to understand that compliance with the conservation and management measures recommended by ICCAT is closely related to their own interest in the long-term, officials from the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, introduced at the meeting the result of the ICCAT Commission meeting, including the requirements and measures recommended by ICCAT, emphasizing that the quality of the catch statistics should be improved and pointing out that compliance with the fisheries regulations by each individual fishing company will be taken as one of the main considerations in annually renewing the fishing permit.

**Setting up an inter-enterprise coordination organization.** In order to better implement ICCAT recommended conservation and management measures, an inter-enterprise coordination group, the Atlantic Tuna Fishing Industries Coordination Group, was established last January. This Coordination Group consists of the Secretariat of the China Fisheries Association, representatives from Atlantic tuna fishing industries, and the head of the Tuna Working Group. The Coordination Group will assist the China Fisheries Association in dealing with tuna fishing related issues in Atlantic Oceans, such as quota allocation among the tuna fishing companies, the placing of tuna observers on board tuna longliners, and the collection and submission of catch data required by the China Tuna Working Group.

Furthermore, the Bureau of Fisheries of China reviews the fishing activities of the fishing companies every year, including the quality of the catch data submitted. Submission of the required catch data on time to the Tuna Working Group will be considered as one of the most important records when issuing fishing permits next year.

If any violation is found against fishing activity, a penalty will be imposed on the violator, with the most severe one to include cancellation of the fishing permit.

Through the joint efforts of the Government and the industries, the Chinese tuna fleet has strictly followed the catch limit in 2000.

## 5. Other activities

An observer program, the Tuna Observer Program, of the Chinese tuna fleet in ICCAT waters was carried out in 2001, and two observers are now working on board two of the tuna longliners. According to the schedule, observers will remain on board the fishing vessel the year around. The results of the data analysis from the observer program will be presented at the next ICCAT meeting.

**VMS system.** In order to further strengthen the monitoring and management of activities of the Chinese tuna fishing fleet in the Atlantic Ocean, the China Fisheries Authority has planned to initiate the installation of VMS systems on board the tuna longliners next year. According to the schedule, which was developed based on the present situation of the Chinese tuna fishing industries, all Chinese tuna longliners in the Atlantic Ocean will be equipped with a VMS system within the next few years.

Table 1. Catches of tunas and tuna-like species (in MT round weight) between 1993 and 2000

Species	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Bluefin tuna	—	97.4	136.9	92.8	48.7	85.3	103.0	77.0
Yellowfin tuna	139.0	155.9	200.0	124.3	83.6	698.3	2,190.0	1,674.2
Bigeye tuna	70.1	428.3	475.7	519.8	427.1	1,502.9	7,347.0	6,563.5
Swordfish	72.5	85.7	104.2	131.9	39.6	365.3	838.0	365.6
Albacore	—	14.0	8.0	20.0	—	—	60.0	104.7
Skipjack	—	—	—	—	—	4.0	—	—
Sharks	—	—	—	—	—	5.0	31.0	—
Spearfish	—	—	—	—	—	2.4	—	—
Atlantic white marlin	—	—	—	—	—	3.6	—	2.4
Atlantic blue marlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23.2
Atlantic sailfish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.4
Shortfin mako	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	152.8
Others*	41.0	68.0	76.0	80.0	90.0	—	415.0	234.2
Total	322.6	849.3	1,000.8	968.8	689.0	2,666.9	10,984.0	9,205.0

\* Including spearfish, Atlantic white marlin, Indo-Pacific sailfish, striped marlin, Atlantic blue marlin, etc. before 2000.

**Table 2.** Difference between the Chinese catch and the Commission's catch limit in 2000 (in MT)

<i>Species/ Region</i>	<i>Catch limit</i>	<i>Catches</i>	<i>Estimated catch over/under catch limit</i>	<i>Estimated catch over tolerance of fish &lt; 3.2 kg</i>
Bigeye tuna	No	6,563.5	0	0
Yellowfin tuna	No	1,674.2	0	0
Skipjack tuna	No	0	0	0
West Atlantic bluefin tuna	0	0	0	0
East Atlantic bluefin tuna	76	77	1	0
North Atlantic albacore	200	16	-186	0
South Atlantic albacore	247*	89	0	0
North Atlantic swordfish	100	22	0	0
South Atlantic swordfish	0	344	0	0
Atlantic white marlin		0	0	0
Atlantic blue marlin		0	0	0

\* LL non-albacore target countries, 4% or less of total bigeye catch in the south Atlantic in 2000, the catch of bigeye in the south Atlantic was 6,170 MT.

**Table 3.** Catches (in MT, round weight) by the Chinese longline fleet in 2000 in the Atlantic Ocean (Task I)

<i>Area</i>	<i>Effort (x1000 hooks)</i>	<i>BFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>SWO</i>	<i>ALB</i>	<i>BUM</i>	<i>WHM</i>	<i>SAI</i>	<i>SMT</i>	<i>OTH</i>	<i>Total</i>
E Atl	21,208.0	77.0		1,652.3					6.0			1,735.3
W Atl	725.0	0.0		21.9					1.4			23.3
N Atl	1,906.0		393.2		21.6	16.2	8.6	1.2		3.0	5.6	449.4
S Atl	20,027.0		6,70.3		344.0	88.5	14.6	1.2		149.8	228.6	6,997.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,933.0</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>6,563.0</b>	<b>1,674.2</b>	<b>365.6</b>	<b>104.7</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>152.0</b>	<b>234.2</b>	<b>9,205.0</b>



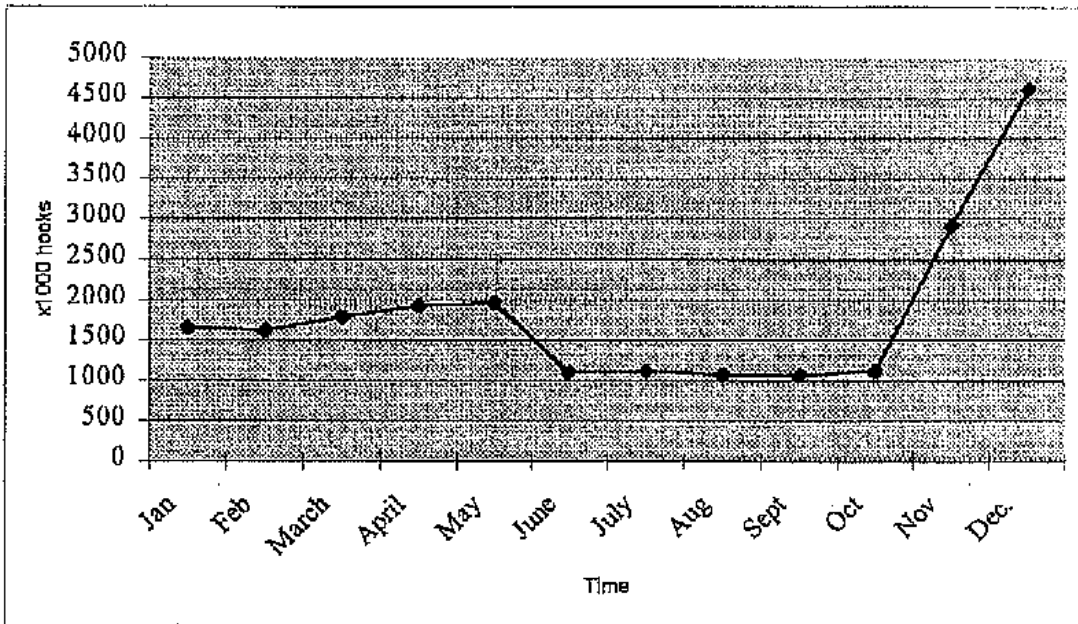


Figure 1. Fishing effort of the Chinese tuna fleet in 2000.

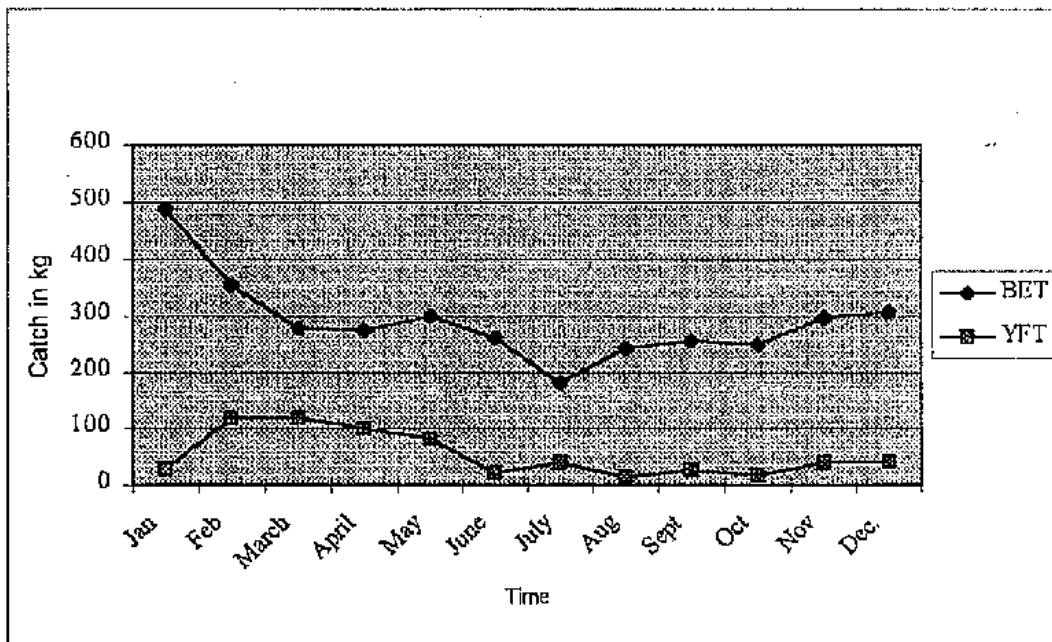


Figure 2. CPUE of the main species, by month.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Introduction

Côte d'Ivoire, a Contracting Party to ICCAT, does not have a tuna fleet, but it plays an important role in the management of Atlantic tunas. The *Centre de Recherches Océanologiques (CRO)* is in charge of developing the research work on marine and high seas fisheries. Thus, this center is responsible for the research and statistics on tunas landed regularly and abundantly at the fishing port of Abidjan. As in previous years, during the course of 2000, the industrial tuna fishery has been monitored by the CRO, jointly with the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)* and the *Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO)*. The operational costs, equipment and personnel are covered by the three centers that benefit from three sources of funding:

- General Operating Budget (BGF) of Côte d'Ivoire;
- FAC financing within the framework of a joint CRO-IRD program;
- European Union (EU) within the framework of a joint IRD-IEO program.

In addition to the industrial fishery, there is an artisanal fishery that also lands mainly small tunas and billfishes (marlins and swordfish), and sharks. The monitoring of this fishery has been reinforced thanks to the ICCAT Billfish Program which helped the responsible person in charge of the monitoring the landings in Côte d'Ivoire through a subsidy that enabled contracting a sampler.

This report emphasizes the importance of the large pelagic resources, particularly the tuna resources, at the fishing port of Abidjan through the activities of the tuna vessels (mainly French and Spanish) and the canoe fishery using driftnets along the Ivorian coasts. As concerns the industrial tuna fishery, the importance of the fishing port of Abidjan is shown by the total landings and tuna species and the number of tuna vessels that visit this port. While all the vessels (including Spanish vessels) that landed or transshipped at the port of Abidjan in 2000 are entered on a list, the catch data that are calculated here do not include the Spanish surveys, which are the property of our Spanish colleagues. Also of note are the quantities "false fish" landed. This type of fish contributed in large measures to the diet of the low income populations of Côte d'Ivoire. With regard to the artisanal driftnet fishery that targets large pelagics, this report shows the nominal and weighted catches of the various fish caught, as well as the fishing effort deployed.

### 2. Tuna landings at the fishing port of Abidjan

Tuna landings at the port of Abidjan in 2000 were mainly made by French and Spanish purse seiners. In addition to these vessels, there were some vessels flying flags of other countries. A total of 48 boats landed or transshipped at least once each at the fishing port of Abidjan in 2000 (Table 1). These are broken down as follows:

- 19 Spanish vessels
- 14 French
- 8 Ghanaian
- 3 Netherlands Antilles
- 1 Belizean
- 2 St. Vincent

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1. Original report in French.

2. Centre de Recherches Océanologiques, B.P. V-18, Abidjan. Tel: +225 2 135 5014; Fax: +225 2 135 1155; Email: ngoran@cro.ird.ci

A scientific team comprised of 13 staff contracted by the three centers were in charge of the collection, entry and processing of the statistical data in 2000. This team is comprised of the following:

- 2 scientists (1 CRO and 1 IRD)
- 3 high level technicians (1 CRO, 1 IRD and 1 IEO)
- 1 data entry technician (from the association)
- 7 samplers (support staff, all from the association)

The landings are monitored daily by this team of scientists. Table 2 shows the catches, by species, of tunas landed by the vessels that visited the port in Abidjan in 2000, with the exception of the Spanish vessels whose data are processed confidentially by the delegate from the Secretariat of Fisheries of Spain. These total landings that amounted to 54,402 MT are comprised, in descending order, by yellowfin, skipjack, bigeye and albacore. These vessels (27) made 143 trips with 109,253 hours at sea and 50,946 hours fishing, i.e. 46.6% of the time at sea was dedicated to fishing. These catches are overall almost identical to those of the previous year (55,045 MT) and in similar order as those of previous years (Table 3). In addition, there were 14,000 MT of reported catches of "false fish". Catches of "false fish" have increased as compared to 1999 and their consumption is increasing more and more in Côte d'Ivoire. Also of note is the increase in fishing under objects since 1990 (Figure 1). These catches are mainly comprised of Atlantic skipjack and frigate tuna.

### 3. Artisanal catches of large pelagics in Côte d'Ivoire

There is an artisanal fishery off the Ivorian continental shelf that exploits tunas and other large pelagics. Fishing is carried out by a driftnet canoe fishery that started in 1984. Since 1988, this artisanal fishery has been regularly monitored. The monitoring of the landings by the CRO has improved somewhat, thanks to the ICCAT Billfish Program. The principal groups of fish landed are: billfish (sailfish and marlins), swordfish, sharks and small tunas. The fishers use canoes equipped with driftnets, which fish at night close to Abidjan from where they can easily sell their catches. The fishing zone is located from 5 to 10 miles from the coast, beyond the continental shelf, which is not very extensive. The net sets last one night and the fish are directly sold every morning at the port of Abidjan.

As regards the large pelagics caught by the canoes, the most abundant in the catches are billfish, including blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*), and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*). Shark catches are comprised mainly of silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), smooth hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna zygaena*), scalloped hammerhead sharks (*S. lewini*), and mako sharks (*Isurus spp.*), are second in importance (Table 4). Tunas, such as yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*), and Atlantic black skipjack (*Thunnus atteterratus*) are next in importance. The canoes take, as by catch, other large fish such as bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), rays (*Manta spp.*), wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*), dolphin fish (*Coryphæna spp.*), sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*, *Dermochelys coriacea*) and some dolphins. Table 4 shows the total annual catches (nominal and weighted) of the large pelagics (billfishes and sharks) taken by the driftnet canoe fishery. About 600 MT of large pelagics (billfish and sharks) are caught annually by this fishery, as well as small tunas and other fish species. It is noted that these catches have decreased to half (54%) as compared to those of 1999. This decrease is due to the socio-economic situation of Côte d'Ivoire following the *coup d'Etat* of December, 1999. Ghanaian fishers, who comprise 100% of the work force of this fishery, had to return in mass numbers to their country to wait until the situation returned to normal. This has had an enormous influence on fishing effort, which decreased by 25%.

### 4. Conclusion and perspectives

The quantities of tunas that are landed or transhipped annually at the fishing port of Abidjan supply the three large canneries of Abidjan and consequently sustain an important source of employment and an impressive economic activity. The regular monitoring of statistics of these landings by the CRO contributes to the improvement of knowledge of the ICCAT Atlantic tuna fisheries. The analysis of the data from the surveys carried out on the artisanal driftnet fishery shows the importance of this fishery both in terms of the quantities landed and the diversity of the species. The CRO hopes, while maintaining the level of monitoring of the industrial fishery,

to improve the catch statistics of the artisanal drifnet fishery, and to carry out, in the measure possible, biological studies on the other large pelagics (sailfish, marlins, sharks and swordfish) that comprise the catches of this fishery. The importance of the landings of billfishes and swordfish by the Côte d'Ivoire artisanal fishery is only a reflection of the artisanal catches of these fish off the coasts of the Gulf of Guinea. Therefore, the monitoring of this fishery should be developed in the coastal countries of the Gulf of Senegal and Gabon. The sampling method and the data processing scheme used by the CRO of Abidjan seem to give satisfactory results. This could be applied in other countries through sub-regional collaboration. In addition, the billfish landings off the Gulf of Guinea coasts could be better monitored and coordinated. This subject, which was not discussed in depth at the last SCRS session, could be discussed during this SCRS session.

**Table 1.** List of tuna vessels that landed at the fishing port Abidjan in 2000

No.	Vessel name	Flag	No.	Vessel name	Flag
1	AVEL VIZ	France	25	MATXIKORTA	Spain
2	BELOUGA	France	26	MONTECELO	Spain
3	BOUGAINVILLE	France	27	MONTEFRISA 9	Spain
4	CAP SAINT PAUL	France-St. Vincent	28	MONTENEME	Spain
5	CAP SAINT PIERRE	France-St. Vincent	29	PLAYA DE ANZORAS	Spain
6	ILE TRISTAN	France	30	PLAYA DE NOJA	Spain
7	MERVENT	France	31	TXIRRINE	Spain
8	PERRE BRIANT	France	32	TXORI	Spain
9	PRINCE DE JOINVILLE	France	33	ZUBEROA	Spain
10	SANTA MARIA	France	34	ALBACORA 10	Neth. Antilles
11	VIA AVENIR	France	35	ALABACORA 9	Neth. Antilles
12	VIA EUROS	France	36	ALBACORA CARIBE	Neth. Antilles
13	VIA HARMATTAN	France	37	AFKO 308 C	Ghana
14	VIA MISTRAL	France	38	AFKO FOODS 801 C	Ghana
15	ALBONIGA	Spain	39	DRAGO	Ghana
16	ALCAUDON	Spain	40	JAZMIN C	Ghana
17	ALMADRABA 1	Spain	41	GURE CAMPOLIBRE	Ghana
18	ALMADRABA 2	Spain	42	MARINE 707	Ghana
19	BERMEOTARAK DOS	Spain	43	MARINE 712	Ghana
20	BERMEOTARAK TRES	Spain	44	TULIPAN C	Ghana
21	EGALABUR	Spain	45	CHRISTOPHE COLOMB	St. Vincent
22	EGALUZE	Spain	46	GERMON	Morocco
23	IZURDIA	Spain	47	JUAN MARIA SOROA	Panama
24	KURTZIO	Spain	48	ITXAS BIDE	Belize

**Table 2.** Landings (in MT) of tunas by vessels that visited the fishing port of Abidjan in 2000 (except Spanish vessels)

Month	Yellowfin YFT	Skipjack SKJ	Bigeye BET	Albacore ALB	Total
January	1,454	1,308	298	1	3,061
February	1,908	453	140	0	2,501
March	3,365	810	118	11	4,304
April	3,968	1,640	169	12	5,789
May	2,591	1,731	191	0	4,513
June	2,728	2,174	459	7	5,368
July	1,614	1,136	367	2	3,119
August	4,605	952	170	0	5,727
September	4,111	1,507	240	0	5,858
October	3,626	921	201	0	4,748
November	1,492	1,841	191	0	3,524
December	1,628	3,967	292	0	5,887
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,090</b>	<b>18,440</b>	<b>2,836</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>54,399</b>

Table 3. Vessel landings (in MT) of tunas at the fishing port of Abidjan (excluding Spanish vessels) and "false fish", from 1996 to 2000

Years	Total tunas	"false fish"
1996	78,929	10,899
1997	50,334	9,221
1998	46,122	9,168
1999	55,045	11,923
2000	54,399	14,000

Table 4. Annual driftnet catches (in MT) of billfish and sharks in Côte d'Ivoire, from 1988 to 2000

Years	Effectiv effort*	Sailfish ( <i>I. albicans</i> )	Blue marlin ( <i>M. nigricans</i> )	White marlin ( <i>T. albidus</i> )	Swordfish ( <i>X. gladius</i> )	Various sharks	Total
1988	2,908	65.6	130.3		12.22	242.2	450.3
1989	2,430	54.5	82.0		6.77	146.7	290.1
1990	2,0	57.9	88.1		7.52	181.5	334.9
1991	4,981	38.2	105.1		18.02	185.9	347.2
1992	6,196	68.8	79.2		13.05	284.0	445.0
1993	7,707	39.5	139.5		14.42	199.5	392.9
1994	12,756	54.4	211.6		19.98	273.2	559.2
1995	14,141	66.3	176.7		19.78	289.0	550.8
1996	14,478	90.6	157.4	0.7	25.76	404.8	679.2
1997	12,874	65.1	222.1	1.8	17.66	286.3	592.9
1998	10,328	35.3	182.4	0.9	25.12	156.4	400.1
1999	15,244	80.1	275.5	5.4	25.72	313.1	699.8
2000	12,145	44.5	205.9	1.2	20.10	47.4	319.1

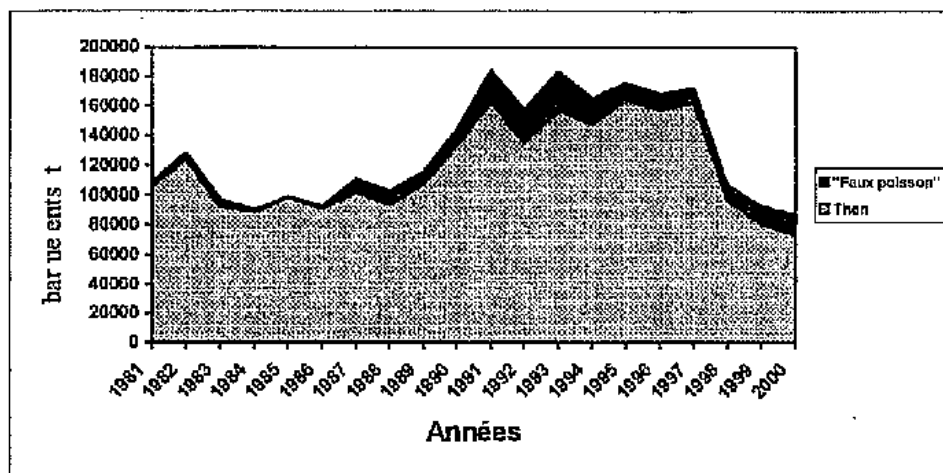


Fig. 1. Total landings of tunas and "false fish" at the fishing port of Abidjan, 1981-2000.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF CROATIA<sup>1</sup>

Ivan Katavić<sup>2</sup>

### 1. National fisheries information

The total Croatian catch of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) and tuna-like fishes in 2002 was 930 MT, a decrease of about 4% from 970 MT in 1999. An estimated 80% of the fish were caught by purse seine and the rest were caught by longline and sport fishing (hooks). Almost the entire catch is transferred to floating cages for growing and fattening. It takes about six to eight months to reach the adequate size and quality after which the total production is exported to the Japanese market. Small fisher (less than 10 kg) will be fed for another year. It is very obvious that this can affect the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BFTSD) statistics and can result in discrepancies between the final catch and the export of the bluefin tuna and catch records. The number of active vessels has increased from 19 in 1999 to 30 in 2000, showing the importance of tuna farming to Croatian fishermen.

### 2. Statistics and research

#### 2.1 Statistics

The Croatian bluefin tuna fishery continues to be regulated by quota, season, gear restrictions and size limits. These regulations are designed to restrict total Croatian landings and to conform to ICCAT recommendations. Croatian vessels fishing in the Adriatic Sea in 2000 caught an estimated 930 MT of bluefin tuna (Table 1). The average size of the fish was 10.06 kg, compared to 24.23 kg in 1999. Small fish (5-10 kg) comprise 81.1% of the total catch, compared to 30.0% in 1999 (Table 2). The catch limit for 2000 was 856 MT. In 1998, Croatia had an under-harvest of 152 MT, when the catch limit was 1,058 MT, and the estimated catch was 906 MT. In 1999, the catch limit was 950 MT, and the estimated catch was 970 MT. The under-harvest from 1998 has been carried over to adjust the 1999 and 2000 quotas. Estimated 2000 catches represent a decrease of 40 MT as compared to the 1999 catch. The 2000 catches were as follows: 914 MT by purse seine, 6 MT by longline, and 9 MT by the hook fishery. The estimated catches of other tuna-like fishes in 2000 are 150 MT of bonito (*Sarda sarda*).

The new National Fisheries Information System for collecting catch data was introduced in 1999 and includes: time, date and geographical position of the catch, name of the vessel and its owner, captain's name, type of fishing gear used, quantities of catch in weight and number, as well as the name of the person who submitted these data. For fish that are to be transferred to cages, the estimated quantity has to be reported within 24 hours, and a final report within 30 days. The total weight is calculated from the total weight of live tunas taken by the buyer, increased by the mortality during transport. Mortality is calculated based on the logbook data. There is still some uncertainty, since almost the total catch is used for farming purposes, which results in contradictions between catch-trade data.

#### 2.2 Research

Research activities were carried out to analyze catch-at-size data for 1999 through 2000 (SCRS/01/91), and showed an increased proportion in the number of small bluefin tuna in the catches, as compared to the data for previous years. These data raise questions on the efficiency of the ICCAT recommendation on the closure of purse seine fishing in the Adriatic Sea from May 1 to 31 to protect juveniles.

Due to the increased activities on bluefin tuna growing and fattening and the uncertainty in catch-trade data, preliminary research has been carried out on the growth rates of bluefin tuna from the Adriatic Sea when the fish are reared in the floating cages (SCRS/01/92). This research is providing some very important indices. As this will

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1. Original report in English.

2. Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Fisheries Directorate.

be a very important issue in the future, we suggest that more effort within the BYP be allocated to studies concerning tuna farming.

Some research has been carried out to analyze biometric data on bluefin tuna from the Adriatic Sea, giving results that, if compared to a future equivalent study on biometric research on west Atlantic bluefin, could offer additional arguments for or against the current two-stock hypothesis.

Croatia has taken part in the stock structure sampling research developed by the BYP in 1999 and which continued through 2001, collecting age 2 bluefin samples, including muscle, liver and otoliths.

### 3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

#### 3.1 Recommendation Concerning the Changes of Closed Season for the Purse Seine Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in the Mediterranean Sea (Rec 98-6)

This recommendation was introduced in 1999 concerning the prohibition of purse seine fishing in the Adriatic Sea during the period from May 1 to 31, instead of the period from July 16 to August 15, that has been adopted for the other parts of the Mediterranean Sea to protect juveniles. Based on the analysis of bluefin tuna catch-size composition during the period from 1999 to 2001 (SCRS/01/91) it has been concluded that an increased proportion in the number of small bluefin tuna in the Adriatic Sea have been caught. In 1999, the percentage of small tunas (5-10 kg) in the total catch was 30.0%, while in 2000 it was 81.1%. Data for 2001, up to the end of August, show 81.3% of small tunas in the total catch. It seems that this recommendation has not achieved its purpose of protecting juveniles. In practice, it has resulted in a shift in fishing effort from and into the Adriatic Sea, thus decreasing the effectiveness of the earlier recommendation to protect juvenile bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea fishing area.

Croatia suggests that this Recommendation be changed, in order to establish the closed season for the bluefin purse seine fishery during the same period in the entire Mediterranean Sea fishing area.

### 4. Inspection schemes and activities

Croatia has nothing to report on inspection schemes and activities at this time.

Table 1. Croatian catches (in MT) of tunas in 2000

Species	Gear	Catch limit	Catch	Estimated catch over/under catch limit	Catches of Age 0 fish	Estimated catches over 15% tolerance of fish < 6.5 kg
Bluefin	PS, LL, hooks	856	930	+74*	0	0
Bonito	PS	—	150	—	—	—

\* The catch limit for 1998 was 1,085 MT and the estimated catch was 906 MT. In 1999, the catch limit was 950 MT and the estimated catch was 970 MT. The underage from 1998 has been carried over to adjust the 1999 and 2000 quota.

Table 2. Weight structure of purse seine catches of bluefin tuna in 1999 and 2000

Year	<5 kg	5-10 kg	11-20 kg	21-50 kg	51-100 kg	>100 kg
1999	0	30.0%	45.4%	23.3%	1.1%	0.2%
2000	0	81.1%	14.6%	4.0%	0.3%	0.0%

## NATIONAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Information on the fisheries

The various fleets of the European Community fish all the major species under ICCAT mandate in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

The total catches of tunas and tuna-like species by these fleets in 2000 amounted to 213,000 MT, i.e. a reduction of 3.4% as compared to 1999.

The national reports of the various members of the European Community contain details and technical information on the different fisheries, by species as well as by fishing gear.

### 2. Research

All the Member States of the European Community have national research institutes or regional laboratories which, in some cases, are supervised by the major universities of the country (a description of these is provided in the national reports of the Member States).

As regards the tropical tuna fisheries, the Member States work in close collaboration with the research institutes of third countries in which the fleets concerned land all or part of their catches.

In 2000, scientists of the European Community and its Member States participated regularly in the scientific meetings organized by ICCAT.

The Community totally or partially finances research programs on highly migratory species, which are implemented jointly with the Member States directly involved. The major studies carried out in 2000 within the framework of these European programs were as follows:

#### *a) Bluefin tuna*

- Biological parameters (BFTMED Program in collaboration with the FAO/COPEMED project)
- Time-area dynamics (STROMBOLI Program)
- Abundance indices of spawners in the Mediterranean
- Sexual maturity, through hormonal and histological analysis
- Tagging

#### *b) Swordfish*

- Analysis of the stock structure in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean by nuclear DNA (FAIR Program).
- Observers on board longliners (catches of juveniles, analysis of by-catches and discards, SHKLL Program).

#### *c) Tropical tunas*

- Improvement in fishing data by time-area strata (oceanographic data) and by fishing type; analysis of a multi-species sampling program (BIOTHON Program).
- Analysis of the association between schools and fishing vessels (baitboats)
- Analysis of by-catches
- Study of environmental conditions of the sub-surface (Gulf of Guinea)
- Observers on board purse seiners (analysis of bigeye catches-BETYP).

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1. Original report in French.



- Review of the current data bases within the framework of the future creation of a European laboratory on tuna research (TESS and ORDET Programs).
- Development of fishing power of the tropical purse seiners (ESTHER Program).

*d) Other tunas*

- Biological parameters and impact of purse seine targeting clupeids on the catches of small tunas.

Parallel to the Community programs, some Member States finance research programs jointly with other Member States or with third countries. Generally, considerable effort is given to national programs aimed at improving data collection, particularly data on fishing effort, biology of the species, target catches and by-catches.

**Bluefin tuna**

- Relationships between biological parameters and the area of recruitment of juveniles.
- Analysis of the trap abundance indices (within the framework of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program).

**Albacore**

- In the Atlantic:
  - Size structure, analysis by sampling of the landings.
  - Relationship between biological parameters and surface fishery catches
  - Reading of water temperatures by tele-detection methods.
- In the Mediterranean
  - Analysis of possible genetic homogeneity of the stock.

**Swordfish**

- Analysis of the criteria of ICCAT Task II and sexing of fish.
- Tagging cruises

**Tropical tunas**

- Analysis of the associations between schools and tuna baitboats.
- Monitoring of the environmental conditions in the Gulf of Guinea.
- Analysis of the causes for the increase in bigeye purse seine catches.
- On-board scientific observers.
- Bigeye tagging cruises.

**3. Statistics**

In 2000, the European Community as well as its Member States continued close collaboration with the SCRS.

The European Community already has a regulation that is binding on its Member States, applicable to all the fleets that fish highly migratory species in their various areas of activity. This instrument applies the ICCAT recommendations.

The objective of this regulation is to respond to the requirements for ICCAT Tasks I and II. The instruments used (fishing logbooks, landings reports, etc.) and the possibility of cross-checking data, result in more rapid and precise monitoring of the catch data.

Since January 1, 2000, the fishing sheets established by the Member States have been replaced by a Community fishing logbook, which complies with ICCAT rules and which is now mandatory for all the fishing areas. Further, in order to create a more precise and homogeneous framework for the collection of fishery statistics, in 2000 the European Community adopted common mechanisms concerning the collection and processing of data, necessary for the development of the Community fishery policy (EC Regulation no. 1543/00 of the Council).

In addition, the Member States have adopted national regulations which often complement the Community instruments, in order to take into account the specific characteristics of the national fisheries.

The European Community finances programs aimed at improving fishery statistics, such as:

- Sampling and logbook correction programs.
- Collection of landing data on bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean (BFTMED Program).

The Member States have also developed catch data collection and processing networks on the various fleets involved. One Member State has taken specific measures to control sport fishing.

#### **4. Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures**

After each ICCAT annual meeting, the Community incorporates the conservation measures adopted into its regulations, so that these are binding for the nationals of its Member States within the time periods stipulated by ICCAT. All the technical conservation measures in force on highly migratory species have been grouped under the EC Regulation no. 973/01 of the Council, which establishes technical measures for the conservation specific stocks of highly migratory fish (J.O. L137/1 of 19 May 2001).

The monitoring measures adopted by ICCAT are also incorporated in Community law in EC Regulation n° 1936/01 of the Council, which establishes monitoring measures applicable to the fishing activities on specific highly migratory stocks (J.O. L236/1 of 3 October 2001).

The European Community would also like to point out its commitment with regard to compliance in 2000 with the moratorium on fishing under floating objects in the Gulf of Guinea, particularly as concerns the coverage rate of the fleet by observers. The Community regrets that this commitment has not been met with the same determination by the other Contracting Parties that fish in the region.

On the other hand, the Member States are making great efforts at the national level to comply with ICCAT's requirements in terms of the limits on fishing effort (capacity/number of vessels), catch limits (management of quotas), and control of the landings by third countries and, above all, the vessels that fly flags of convenience.

#### **5. Complementary conservation and management measures**

The European Community and its Member States have implemented a program of structural adaptation whose objective is to limit fishing capacity and fishing effort of the fleets, based on the state of the target species. For bluefin tuna, this adaptation imposes a 20% reduction in fishing capacity by 2002 on all the Member States concerned.

The European Community has established a monitoring regime applicable to the Community fishing policy which imposes obligations on the Member States regarding measures of control. To this effect, each Member State monitors, inspects, and oversees, in its territory and in maritime waters under its sovereignty, all the activities of the fishing sector and particularly, the fishing, transshipment activities, landing, commercialization, transport, and storage of the fishing products, as well as the registry of vessels and sales (EEC Regulation no. 2847/93 of the Council of 12 October 1993, which establishes a control regime applicable to Community fishing policy. JOCE no. L261 del 20 October 1993, p.1).

Besides these mandatory instruments, the Member States concerned adopted regulations for some species that are more strict than those imposed at the European Community or ICCAT level. These mechanisms, adapted to their national situation, are always aimed at the rational management of the fisheries, as well as a more exhaustive monitoring of these fisheries up to the time of commercialization of the catches. According to the State and the fishery concerned, the following instruments are noteworthy: annual fishing plans, mandatory annual species license (special fishing permits), limit on the number of licenses, revoking of licenses in case of an infraction, detailed fishing sheets, scientific observers on board vessels, notification of entrances to and exits from the ports and fishing areas, limits on by-catches, and vessel fishing quotas.

Some Member States are studying the future application of new measures aimed at controlling fishing activities of highly migratory species and at protecting the resources. These measures would have the objective of reinforcing supervision of the movement of the fish from their capture up to their commercialization.

The European Community has also created specific programs for certain species and gears:

- Driftnets for albacore fishing: A 40% decrease, since 1998, in the number of vessels authorized to use this gear, in relation to the average number of vessels that have used this gear in the 1995 to 1997 period; limit on the length of the nets to 2.5 km, by vessel; prohibition of the use of this gear starting on January 1, 2002; mandatory fishing logbook.
- Scientific observers on board longliners (catches of juveniles).
- Monthly communication of the catches of all species under TACs and quotas, and quarterly transmission for other species.
- Ban on purse seine fishing under floating objects in the Gulf of Guinea.
- Mandatory monitoring of vessels by satellite for all vessels over 24 m in length.

In addition, the European Community has reinforced its control regime in three areas considered as priority: more control after landing, control of third country vessels that fish in Community waters, and cooperation between the Member States and the European Commission.

## 6. Inspection schemes

### 6.1 Member States

#### 6.1.1 On-land and port inspection

The controls on land by the Member States are generally carried out at the landing port and/or at the time of sale when this is by auction. They can also be carried out during transport or at the central markets. These controls are centered mainly on the amounts landed, sizes, age and weight of the fish, and observance of the closed fishing seasons. In some cases, controls can be done during the commercialization process, in order to carry out checks on the data.

Some Member States have created an information network among the different landing ports in order to better supervise the movements of the vessels.

During the landings of tropical tunas in Africa by Community vessels, staff of the scientific institutes conduct systematic controls.

These controls at port are also carried out in the case of transshipment of catches, including from foreign vessels, ICCAT Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties.

#### 6.1.2 Maritime and aerial inspection

In addition to the land means, the Member States also have maritime and aerial means to monitor fishing activities and compliance of Community vessels with the technical and administrative conditions imposed on each fishery. Regular or sporadic aerial and maritime monitoring campaigns are organized during the fishing seasons.

In spite of this, it should be noted that the responsible administrations of some Member States face many difficulties of a practical nature to efficiently monitor the number, which is often high, of landing ports located in their territories.

Since January 1, 2000, the mandatory vessel monitoring by satellite for vessels over 24 m has resulted in improved surveillance at sea.

6.1.3 Means used and results (2000)

- Spain
  - 71 inspectors;
  - patrol vessels from the Navy; 1 plane, 3 helicopters, 30 vehicles;
  - results at the port:
 

Atlantic:	112 vessels inspected (14 infractions);
Mediterranean:	24 vessels inspected (7 infractions);
  - results at sea:
 

Atlantic:	1 vessel inspected (0 infractions);
Mediterranean:	83 vessels inspected (58 infractions);
  - aerial controls: 132 in the Mediterranean (3 infractions); 3 in the Atlantic;
  - third country vessels: 65 inspections
  
- France:
  - man power and maritime means pertaining to the different administrations;
  - bluefin (Mediterranean): 3 motor boats - controls of minimum sizes/weights of the landings at all the stages of commercialization; cross-checking with logbook data and the landings in Spain;
  - albacore (Atlantic): 3 patrol vessels + 1 auxiliary vessel; 8 inspectors: control of fishing gears and by-catches; 156 days at sea; 36 controls; 126 shore-based controls (34 vessels); no infractions.
  
- Italy
 

Within the framework of the Community monitoring regime, which includes monitoring of the implementation of the ICCAT measures, Italy has deployed the following means:

  - man power, maritime and aerial means (different administrations);
  - important development of training of inspectors (specialized in the fishing sector);
  - 285 patrol vessels (8,146 missions);
  - 10 planes, 8 helicopters (848 missions);
  - 12,868 shore-based controls, from landing up to commercialization;
  - 2,187 controls at sea (fishing gears);
  - 5,119 infractions detected for non-compliance with Community regulations;
  - 2 joint missions (Italy/Greece) at sea (control of driftnets; bluefin tuna and swordfish).
  
- Portugal:
  - man power, maritime (Navy) and aerial means;
  - 70 aerial missions;
  - 1 mission at sea;
  - strict controls on land (swordfish, tunas), from landing up to commercialization (minimum sizes, value, statistics); mandatory to go through market auction (fresh fish).
  
- Greece:
  - man power, maritime and aerial means;
  - 2 joint missions (Italy and Greece) at sea (control of driftnets: bluefin tuna and swordfish);
  
- United Kingdom:
  - man power and maritime means;
  - 4 patrol boats;
  - 2 shore-based inspections (2 vessels).
  
- Ireland:
  - 24 land-based inspectors. All the landings are inspected at the port to assure that vessels comply with the regulations.;
  - 6 patrol boats that conduct inspections at different periods;
  - 118 inspections on board the vessel;
  - 72 inspection days;

- 4 alleged infractions detected at sea;
- 2 surveillance planes also carry out missions;
- Other Member States:  
In addition, the other Member States also carry out controls in accordance with Community regulations to assure observance of the ICCAT conservation measures.
- Satellite surveillance centers  
The Member States, in accordance with Community legislation, have created centers of surveillance on the fisheries to monitor the satellite surveillance systems, with the objective of monitoring Community vessels over 24 m length overall.

## 6.2 European Commission

At the same time, the European Commission has an Inspection Unit, comprised of 25 fisheries inspectors, whose function is to supervise the activities of inspection and control carried out by the national services of the Member States.

During the course of 2000, there were 27 inspection missions, that is, 35% of the total inspections carried out were centered on the surveillance of the tuna fisheries, particularly those for bluefin tuna and albacore in the Mediterranean and in the northeastern Atlantic, respectively. These missions amounted to 168 inspection days *in situ*, of which 79 took place at sea, on national patrol boats, in Community and adjacent waters.

The major objectives of this mission were:

- control of the observance of Community regulations relative to drifnet fishing in the Mediterranean and the northeastern Atlantic;
- monitoring of the measures adopted by the Member States in order to assure compliance of Community technical measures in effect in the Mediterranean, especially those that are derived from ICCAT recommendations;
- evaluation of the mechanisms in place by the Member States to regulate access to the fisheries, in particular, the bluefin tuna and albacore fisheries.
- verification of the implementation of Community regulations with regard to reports of catches and landings of highly migratory species;
- evaluation of the control mechanisms in place by the Member States and their implementation;

## 7. Other activities

Technical trials, with financial support from the European Community, are being carried out with a view towards reconversion of the fleets equipped with driftnets. The use of this fishing gear to catch highly migratory species will be definitively prohibited in the Community starting on January 1, 2002.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-FRANCE<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Information on the national fisheries

The total French catches of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea amounted to 67,330.1 MT in 2000, slightly higher than those in 1998 and 1999. However, the catch has shown a declining trend since the mid-1990s, mainly due to the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea, to the decline in the number of tropical purse seiners and to the decrease in the catches of temperate tunas.

#### 1.1 Temperate tunas

##### 1.1.1 Albacore (North Atlantic stock)

In the Atlantic Ocean, albacore fishing was carried out during the 2000 fishing season by the three fleets that normally operate in this fishery: driftnet, pelagic trawl and baitboat. Total catches amounted to 6,018.8 MT, a decrease as compared to the 1999 catches. This decrease is observed for all three fleets, especially of the pelagic trawl fleet which had made a higher catch in 1999 than during the preceding years, particularly 1998 when the catch was the lowest reported since 1991.

Since July 27, 1994, the length of the nets used by the French fleet has been limited to 2.5 km per vessel.

In the Mediterranean, albacore are caught very incidentally by purse seiners (less than 1 MT in the last four years) while sport fishers catch this species actively from mid August to the end of October. The sport fishery catches are not monitored for statistics, but they are estimated to be between 3 and 5 MT depending on the year.

##### 1.1.2 Bluefin tuna (east Atlantic and Mediterranean stock)

The time/area distribution of the fleets in 2000 was similar to that of previous years. The overall French catch of bluefin in 2000 was 7,321 MT (541.5 MT in the Bay of Biscay and 6,779.6 MT in the Mediterranean Sea).

In the Mediterranean, bluefin tuna have been caught mainly by purse seiners since the 1970s. In 1998, the catch statistics were revised for 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1996. Although the 2000 figure (6,779.6 MT) is higher than that of 1999, it still continues the declining trend in the catches of this fleet since 1994 (approximately 11,800 MT in 1994; 9,500 MT in 1995; 8,500 MT in 1996; 7,700 MT in 1997; and 6,800 MT in 1998).

Apparently, the level of catches, particularly those from the Balearic Islands cruise, is in part determined by environmental factors that affect the availability of bluefin tuna to the fishing gears. During the Balearic season, most of the fish caught measured between 190 and 230 cm (140 and 250 kg). The origin of the fishery aimed at large fish is principally attributed to the development of trade with Japan.

The remainder of the fishing season was based on fish with an average weight of 10 to 30 kg (mostly from age classes 2 and 3). The volume of catches in the Fall depends on the abundance of small and medium-sized bluefin tuna along the French-Catalonian coasts. Some vessels explore fishing grounds located in the central Mediterranean; however, the bulk of the fishing effort is still concentrated in the western part of the Mediterranean basin, although there is an increasing gradual extension towards North Africa.

Catches of bluefin tuna in 2000 in the east Atlantic amounted to 541.5 MT, which remains within the average of the last decade. The main target of the French tuna fisheries in the northeastern Atlantic continues to be albacore, with a significant contribution of bluefin tuna catches. The latter species is possibly on the way to becoming the

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<sup>1</sup> Original report in French.

target species of the Bay of Biscay baitboats. The other fleets catch bluefin tuna as by-catch using pelagic trawl or driftnet (this gear will be prohibited for tuna fishing starting January 1, 2002).

## 1.2 Tropical tunas

Taking into account the multi-species nature of tropical tuna fisheries, detailed information by fleet rather than by species will be given. Of note is the important decline in catches (-27%) due to the effect of the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea, and also due to the decrease in fishing effort, in terms of the number of vessels as well as the number of fishing days.

The total catch of tropical tunas in 2000 was 54,022 MT.

### 1.2.1 The purse seine fleet

In 2000, French tuna purse seiners caught 50,213 MT of tropical tunas (29,373 MT of yellowfin tuna, 16,686 MT of skipjack tuna, 4,013 MT of bigeye tuna and 117 MT of by-catches, the latter comprised of 23 MT of albacore, the rest were small tunas). In comparing average catches of the period before the moratorium (1993-1996) with those during the moratorium (1997-2000), results show a significant decrease (-29%), particularly as concerns skipjack (-47%) and bigeye (-50%), while yellowfin catches remained relatively stable (-6%).

This is due mainly to the important decrease in sets on floating objects and to a lesser number of sets on free schools, in the overall context of a decline in fishing effort in terms of the number of days at sea. It should also be noted that the implementation of the moratorium did not produce apparent changes in the general distribution of fishing effort, which is divided among the existing traditional areas surrounding the area of implementation.

Sampling for size and species composition of landings continued on the entire European fleet (France, Spain and the associated NEI fleet) in collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. As a result, adequate catch statistics by species and by size were submitted to ICCAT for the 1991-2000 period; the standardization of previous statistics is under way and a complete series taking into account the free schools/floating object schools stratification should become available this year.

### 1.2.2 The baitboat fleet

In 2000, five French-flagged baitboats operated from Dakar; these vessels caught a total of 3,834 MT, comprised of 416 MT of yellowfin tuna, 1,497 MT of skipjack tuna and 1,921 MT of bigeye tuna. This catch is declining, mainly due to the decline in the fleet, from 7 to 5 units, and to the drop in yellowfin catches from the 1999 level. It should be noted that this decline mainly concerns yellowfin, while bigeye and skipjack catches remained stable.

## 1.3 Other species

### 1.3.1 North Atlantic swordfish

Swordfish are caught sporadically in the northeast Atlantic as a by-catch of the fleets targeting albacore. The 2000 catches amounted to 121.9 MT.

## 2. Research and statistics

French research on tunas and tuna-like species is carried out by the *Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer*, IFREMER (French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea) as concerns species and fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean (northern temperate zone and tropical zone for the French Antilles - Guadelupe, Guyana, Martinique) and the Mediterranean Sea; and by the *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement*, IRD (Research Institute for Development) for the species and fisheries in the tropical Atlantic Ocean.

## 2.1 *Temperate tunas*

### 2.1.1 *Bluefin tuna*

The Mediterranean purse seine fleet is required to maintain a fishing register in accordance with ICCAT norms. The information from these documents is cross-checked against landing information (specifically in Spain as concerns the Balearic cruise) in order to estimate the total catches.

A program financed in part by the European Union (EU) has resulted in 1995 in improved knowledge on French landings in Spain. This comparison was continued in 1996 and 1998. Another program, also partially financed by the EU, and involving all four EU members bordering the Mediterranean Sea (Spain, France, Greece and Italy), started in 1998 to follow up on the work undertaken to collect and improve basic statistics from the Mediterranean Sea. This program, coordinated by France, also studies the reproductive biology of this species.

Another program, also partially financed by the EU and coordinated by France, and aimed at bluefin tuna, started in the spring of 2000. This program, entitled Stromboli, should continue through 2002. Its main objectives are: (i) to collect and analyze historical catch data on Atlantic and Mediterranean traps; (ii) to test, by simulation models, the potential of this species to resist exploitation based on its biological and ecological characteristics; and (iii) to test the possibility of establishing abundance indices from aerial surveys carried out in the Balearic Islands and Sicily.

The aforementioned programs contribute to the objectives of the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP).

### 2.1.2 *Albacore*

Fleets fishing albacore in the Bay of Biscay are required to maintain a European Community fishing logbook. The data included in these logbooks are cross-checked against the sales data in order to estimate the volume of total catches.

For the north Atlantic, biological sampling is carried out on catches landed by some fleets so as to estimate their size structure. Furthermore, some technological trials have been carried out with a view to reconverting fleets affected by the prohibition of driftnets, following the decision taken by the EU to prohibit this gear for albacore fishing starting January 1, 2002. Techniques tested to date mainly include longline, "automatic" trawl line (this technique is identical to the traditional trawl line, but differs from classical trawl line in its handling and maneuver on board) and purse seine.

## 2.2 *Tropical tunas*

As regards tropical tunas, fishery statistics and research are handled in close collaboration with the research institutes of Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. These statistics cover 100% of the fishing logbooks of this fleet.

Since statistical studies carried out within the framework of the European program "ET" (Analysis of the multi-species sampling scheme for tropical tunas) have shown the importance of stratifying sampling, taking into account the "type of school" parameter to adjust the species composition, and to consider the European fleet (France, Spain and NEI) as a single unit, sampling now covers the entire fleet: in 1999, close to 200,000 tropical tunas have thus been sampled to determine the species composition of landings, and more than 100,000 fish were measured to determine the age composition in the landings of each species.

Detailed fishing statistics from the French inter-tropical fleets were submitted on a timely basis to ICCAT. Research carried out on tropical tunas involved the following:

- Analysis of the ethology and dynamics of the school/baitboat association developed by the Dakar fleet, in collaboration with the *Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar-Thiaroye* (CRODT) of Dakar (MAC Program, baitboat-associated schools). This program, which was started in 1991, ended in 2000, and the analysis of the interesting and novel results is expected in 2001 and 2002.



- Analysis of data from the Bigeye Year Program (1997-1998, program co-financed by the EU), in particular estimating the by-catch of billfishes by the European purse seine fleet.
- Deployment of oceanographic buoys (PIRATA Program) for real-time monitoring of environmental conditions of sub-surface layers in the Gulf of Guinea (these observations, which are interesting for tropical seiners, are accessible in real time on the Internet).
- Development and updating of the GAO oceanographic data base, which will facilitate easy access to validated data by various time-area strata.
- Lastly, the IRD was closely related to the development of the Bigeye Year Program (BETYP), which did not start until 1999. Within this framework the IRD collaborates in the collection of fishery statistics on the Ghanaian purse seine and baitboat fleets, together with the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), and will participate in the four oceanic cruises by the Japanese research vessel *Shoyo-maru*.

### 3. Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

#### 3.1 Bluefin tuna

##### 3.1.1 Implementation of ICCAT Recommendations

In accordance with the 1994 Recommendation, French catches of bluefin tuna between 1995 and 1997 have not exceeded the 1994 level. On the contrary, catches gradually declined from 1994 to 1998, so that the 1998 catch was 37% less than that of 1994 (the 1994 Recommendation implied a 25% reduction). In 2000, bluefin tuna catches amounted to 7,321 MT, slightly less than the quota allocated to France within the European Union.

French purse seiners operating in the Mediterranean were inactive between July 16 and August 15, 2000, in accordance with the 1998 Recommendation.

Lastly, the Mediterranean purse seine fleet was required to turn in an EU logbook in conformity with ICCAT requirements.

##### 3.1.2 National measures

The fourth *Plan d'Orientation Pluriannuel*, POP IV (Multi-annual Orientation Plan), for 1997 to 2001, is the major instrument of direct limitation of the capacity of the EU fleet. Within the framework of the POP IV, the EU Commission classified the stocks fished by the Community fleets according to their level of catch. This classification was proposed by experts of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (CSTEP), which is comprised of independent scientists and is in charge of advising the Commission. When a stock is considered as over-exploited, a limit is set on capacity and, if necessary, on fishing effort of the fleets fishing that stock. The level of the reduction depends on the degree of over-fishing. Nonetheless, if no over-fishing is reported, no increase is allowed.

In the case of bluefin tuna, fleets fishing this species should reduce their fishing effort by 20% during the POP IV Plan. This regulation applies to the French fleet.

On the other hand, bluefin tuna fishing by purse seiners in the Mediterranean Sea requires authorization, through a system of fishing licences that are limited through a ministerial decree and are issued annually. These licences can be withdrawn from vessels that do not comply with the regulatory measures in effect, or that do not conform with the conditions required for obtaining or holding the fishing permit.

### **3.2 Albacore**

#### **3.2.1 Implementation of ICCAT Recommendations**

In accordance with the 1998 Recommendation, the number of fishing vessels fishing albacore is limited to the average number of vessels present in the fishery between 1993 and 1995. This limit is implemented by means of a Special Fishing Permit (see below), in force since 1995.

#### **3.2.2 National measures**

A Community regulation limits the length of driftnets used to fish albacore to 2.5 km. Besides, albacore fishing requires authorization within the framework of a Special Permit System (PPS). This regime, which covers all the gears present in the fishery, was implemented in 1995. The total number of PPS per gear (pelagic trawl, driftnet, baitboat) that can be issued is set each year at a meeting of the *Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins* (CNPMEM), and approved by a ministerial decree. In the case of driftnets, there is a supplemental restriction imposed by Community Regulation CE 1239/98, that prohibits this fishing gear for albacore starting January 1, 2002. This regulation also foresees, starting in 1998, a reduction of 40% as compared to the 1995-1997 level of the number of vessels fishing with driftnets.

In addition, fleets fishing albacore off the Bay of Biscay are required to submit EC logbooks.

### **3.3 Tropical tuna fisheries**

#### **3.3.1 Implementation of ICCAT Recommendations**

In 1993, ICCAT recommended that effective fishing effort of vessels targeting yellowfin tuna not exceed the 1992 level. France is complying with this recommendation, since the number of French flag purse seiners as well as the number of baitboats has declined overall since 1992. Yellowfin catches have also shown a decreasing trend since 1992. In general, catches of tropical tunas have tended to decrease in recent years, due in part to the reduction of the fleet and in part to the decline in effort deployed by the vessels in that area, due to the moratorium on fishing under floating objects.

The moratorium on objects fishing has been rather satisfactorily respected by the French purse seine fleets during the period from November 1, 2000 to January 31, 2001. A total of 13 observers were on board French purse seiners in the area. In terms of the number of fishing days, 71% of the fleet was covered by observers.

#### **3.3.2 National measures**

The French and Spanish boat owners took the initiative of not fishing under floating objects in the Gulf of Guinea from November 1997 to February 1998. This voluntary measure was extended to the following year. Considering the interest of this measure and taking into account that to attain its maximum efficiency the measure should be respected by all Contracting Parties, ICCAT adopted a Recommendation in 1998 aimed at extending this measure to all purse seiners concerned.

## **4. Inspection schemes and activities**

### **4.1 Bluefin tuna**

France avails itself of the aerial and naval monitoring facilities of several of its administrations (National Navy, Maritime Affairs, National Police and French Customs) along the Mediterranean coast. These facilities regularly carry out cruises to monitor fishing, including some activities aimed specifically at bluefin tuna. Violations are transmitted to the Justice Department.

The patrol boat *Patron Louis Renet*, of Maritime Affairs, carried out 28 controls at sea on board French vessels. The monitoring scheme was supplemented on the Languedoc-Roussillon coast by the coastal patrol boat *Catalane*. The patrol boat *Grebe*, of the National Navy, carried out surveillance missions throughout Mediterranean waters under French jurisdiction. No violation was reported.

As concerns the overall control beyond the fishery itself, it should be noted first of all that the majority of bluefin catches taken by French vessels is exported to Asia (particularly to the Japanese market) and that most of the tuna landings of this same fleet take place in Spain. Cross-checking is carried out between the logbook data and Customs data.

This situation, which is difficult for France to control, does not however prevent monitoring those catches which are landed in national territory. In this regard, bluefin tuna are monitored for commercial size and weight at the time of landing and at all stages of their commercialization. These activities were carried out in 2000. Five violations for sale of under-sized fish were reported; three of them involved 1,564 kg of tuna which were destroyed.

Veterinarian controls were carried out at the Rungis, a market of national interest (MIN) (in the Paris area, one of the most important French MINs). Some under-sized fish were detected, and wholesalers were therefore reminded of the regulation (any arrival of fish not respecting the norms must be rejected).

Lastly, controls of landings in France have not shown any violation. It should be noted that, as is the case with inspections at sea, the way the fish are kept on board (ice water tank and 15% tolerance) makes it difficult to accurately monitor the quantities retained.

#### 4.2 *Albacore (north Atlantic stock)*

The monitoring of the albacore fishery carried out in 2000 mainly concerned the length of driftnets on board (limited to 2.5 km by a Community regulation), verifying the presence of possible undesirable by-catches, and checking for compliance with Community and French regulations concerning the fishery (positioning buoys), working conditions and vessel safety.

Three vessels were used for at-sea monitoring (*Tenace*, *Malabar* and *Iris*), from Maritime Affairs. Annex 1<sup>2</sup> provides detailed information on the trips of each vessel. Also, the trawler *Iseran*, chartered by the CNPMM for at sea assistance, had an on-board inspector from Maritime Affairs. Finally, some planes, in the course of their specific missions, participated in fishing surveillance by locating vessels present in the area and by guiding the inspection surveys.

In addition, satellite vessel monitoring improved the surveillance of the campaign, even if the requirement to have this equipment did not extend to all driftnet vessels (vessels less than 24 m in length).

Besides the inspectors on board *Iris*, other inspectors from Maritime Affairs embarked on the other four vessels: six inspectors during 90 days on National Navy vessels, two inspectors during 60 days on the trawler *Iseran*. Also, an inspector from the Community was on board the *Malabar* from July 27 to August 10, 2001.

Throughout the campaign, 36 controls were carried out on 34 vessels at sea, as well as 120 controls on 34 vessels before leaving port, and six controls on five vessels upon return. Two violations were observed concerning the possession of spare nets and reports of these were prepared.

## 5. Other activities

### 5.1 *Implementation of a pilot program to monitor vessels*

France has implemented a satellite monitoring system for all tuna vessels whose length exceeds 24 m (or 20 m between perpendiculars). This mechanism derives from a general regulation adopted by the European Union and goes beyond the requirements of the pilot program foreseen in the 1997 Recommendation. Vessels are thus required to use buoys with satellite positioning, starting January 1, 2000, and the French Administration was in charge of creating a satellite monitoring center for fishing vessels (VMS), located in the regional center for surveillance and rescue operations in the Atlantic (CROSS Etel). This system affects all purse seine fleets fishing for tropical tunas, all purse seiners fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, as well as some vessels that fish albacore in the north Atlantic.

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2. See Secretariat note, page 423.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-GREECE<sup>1,2</sup>

### 1. General information

Fishing activities concerning large pelagics in Greece were carried out in 2000 in the Aegean, Ionian and Levantine Seas. Landings of fish products are carried out at a large number of fishing ports because of the complicated geomorphological profile of the Greek coasts (highly dispersed islands and extensive coasts, continental and insular).

The vessels involved in fishing for bluefin tuna fishery and tuna-like species in 2000 had special permits that were based on the provisions of Ministerial Decision No. 280060/273385/00, in accordance with EC Regulation No. 2742/99 and on national legislation.

The category, number and characteristics of the fishing vessels targeting bluefin tuna and tuna-like species (swordfish, albacore, etc.) are shown in Table 1.

The overall length of the majority of the small-scale fishing vessels was between 8-15 m and these vessels used hand line and longline. The overall length of the purse seiners was up to 23 m.

### 2. Statistics

The total catches of bluefin tuna in 2000 amounted to 622 MT live weight, representing an increase of 374 MT as compared to 1999. This increase should not be seen as an uncontrollable recourse to the stock, but as a fishing activity of a few hundred small fishing vessels that strictly comply with the management of this stock.

In specific terms, Greece was penalized in 1999 by a reduction in quota, with the right to fish only 235 MT. This was due both to ICCAT recommendations and to EC regulations. In accordance with these instruments, the Greek authorities halted fishing activities in 1999 prior to the end of the fishing year, which caused a chain of protests from the fishing sector. In 2000, the quota shares among EC Member States gave the right to Greek fishermen to carry out more fishing trips. In any case, it is clear that dispositions concerning management of the stock are strictly followed. The national authorities have instituted a series of rules concerning access to the stock.

According to provisional data of the National Statistics Service, about 270 MT have been exported. Provisional data from the transformation industry show 7 MT of bluefin tuna as raw material, 58 MT of albacore and 110 MT of Atlantic bonito. The final catch data on tuna and tuna-like species for 2000 were reported to the Secretariat.

### 3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

*Catch quotas management system.* EC Council Regulation No. 2742/EC/99 established the TAC of bluefin tuna for each Member State of the EC for 2000. Based on the requirements of this regulation, Greece issued a Ministerial Decision for 2000. In accordance with that Decision, the fishing for bluefin tuna, swordfish and albacore can be conducted only by vessels that have a special permit. That permit is postponed after verification that the established TAC has been fished. The owners of these vessels are obliged to report their landings of bluefin tuna and tuna-like species to the port authorities, including information on the landing port.

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1. Original report in English.  
2. Directorate General for Fisheries.

#### 4. Research

Since 1998, the University of Athens (Department of Zoology-Marine Biology) has participated in several joint research projects for the study of the biology, fishery, dynamics and discards of swordfish and bluefin tuna. The Institute of Marine Biology of Crete coordinates research projects on statistical data, on data concerning fishing effort, and on size composition of the catches of bluefin tuna and swordfish.

The financing of these projects is supported by the European Community and the national budget.

**Table 1. Category, number and characteristics of Greek vessels targeting bluefin tuna and tuna-like species (swordfish, albacore, etc.)**

<i>Category</i>	<i>Number of vessels</i>	<i>Capacity (in GRT)</i>	<i>Power (in KW)</i>
Small-scale fishery	503	4,854	30,232
Purse seiners	20	660	3,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>5,514</b>	<b>33,840</b>

## NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-IRELAND<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Administration

Eighteen (18) vessels participated in the driftnet fishery in 2000. These vessels were required to obtain a specific authorization for each fishing trip. These authorizations were issued by the Sea Fisheries Inspectorate of the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources. All vessels which engaged in the driftnet tuna fishery in 2000, to which Council Regulation 686/97 and Commission Regulation 1489/97 on VMS apply, were fitted with the relevant VMS equipment.

### 2. Evaluation of the fishing activity

The 18 vessels which took part in the fishery spent a total of 965 days fishing for albacore. Landings of albacore by driftnet and fixed gill net amounted to 3,464 MT in 2000 valued at some IEP 5.5 M.

### 3. Control of fishery by land-based inspectorate

The Fishery was subject to rigorous monitoring by the Sea Fisheries Inspectorate of the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources, which is comprised of 24 Inspectors in 2000.

The Sea Fisheries Inspectors checked all vessels concerned before they engaged in the fishery to ascertain whether they held an authorization and to ensure compliance with all the relevant requirements of the EC Regulations. In addition, all landings by the vessels in question were monitored and examined by the Inspectors.

### 4. Deployment of patrol vessels

The Irish Naval Service designated six of its fishery patrol vessels to engage in patrolling the fishery. These vessels patrolled the fishery on different dates during the campaign, and they carried out 118 boardings of vessels during a total of 72 patrol days. Alleged infringements were detected in four instances. The vessels concerned were subsequently inspected in port by the land-based inspectors and legal proceedings initiated.

### 5. Deployment of aerial surveillance

The tuna fishery was also monitored by the Irish Air Corps using two dedicated fishery patrol CASA aircraft.

### 6. Experimental fishing

All persons intending to fish tuna by any other means than under an authorization for driftnet tuna fishing are legally required to obtain a permit for exploratory fishing under the Experimental Fishing Programme.

Three pairs of vessels fished with pair pelagic trawls in 2000 over a 45 day period in August-September. Four vessels were involved in trolling trials. Under the Experimental Fishing Programme, three vessels were authorized to engage in experimental "anchored" gillnet trials. These experiments were not funded but observers from the *Bord Iascaigh Mhara* (the Irish Sea Fisheries Board) were on board at all times to monitor and collect biological samples. Indicative prices received for the Experimental Programme catches are as follows: Pair pelagic: IEP 1.40-2.50 per kg (Average IEP 2.00/kg); Trolling: IEP 2.40-3.20 per kg (Average IEP 2.90/kg); and Gillnet: No information available.

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1. Original report in English.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-ITALY<sup>1,2</sup>

### 1. Introduction

As last year, the general situation is one of unease and discontent in an industry that, despite the Government's efforts to confront and find solutions for the many problems affecting it, continues to show distrust as it fails to see any signs of a tangible improvement.

Indeed, the adoption of EC Regulation No. 2579/2000 concerning the possibility of exhausting the quota for blue fin tuna in 2000 has increased the climate of distrust. The industry had great expectations but the publication of the Regulation on 17 November 2000, i.e. practically at the end of the fishing year more or less made its application ineffective.

If one also considers that the fishing quota for 2001, following difficult negotiations at ICCAT, has remained unchanged from the previous year (EC Regulation No. 2848/2000 of 15 December 2000) and that the participation of other countries in the allocation of the general ICCAT quota for blue fin tuna (allocation criteria) can no longer be delayed, Italy's prospects for tuna fishing are not at all encouraging.

However, Italy reaffirms that it is strongly committed to cooperating, at both the international and Community level, in adjusting all the management rules to bring them into line with the new situation in the sector.

### 2. Structure of the Italian industry

#### 2.1 In 2000

##### 2.1.1 Bluefin tuna

The majority of blue fin tuna were caught in 2000 using purse seine, while longline catches, unlike in 1999, fell to fourth place, behind recreational and game fishing and tuna traps.

According to the official documentation received by the authorities, catches of blue fin tuna in 2000 were as shown in **Table 1**.

As regards the progress of fishing during the fishing year, the peak month was June (around 57% of the total catch), which together with July accounted for 95% of the total (**Table 2**).

The most important fishing zone was the north-central Tyrrhenian Sea, which accounted for more than 61% of the total catch, followed by the Sicilian Channel, which accounted for around 25% (**Table 3**).

##### 2.1.2 Swordfish and other tunas

Implementation of the "*piano spadare*" continued and the number of vessels using driftnets was reduced to 103.

However, because of fishing activities using other gear, catches of swordfish increased to an estimated 7,500 MT.

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1. Original report in English.

2. Directorate-General for Fisheries & Aquaculture, Department for Market Policies.

As regards albacore, after a decline in catches the previous year, due in part to the technical changes introduced, the year was a good one, with total catches of albacore at around 3,600 MT.

Catches of other minor tunas fell somewhat to around 3,800 MT.

## *2.2 In 2001*

As in previous years, the quota available for 2001 was allocated among the different types of fishing by a Ministerial Decree of 23 April 2001.

The Decree of 27 July 2000 (establishing criteria for the allocation of the fishing quota for bluefin tuna) gave all those claiming the right to fish for bluefin tuna, either professionally or recreationally, the possibility of being included on the relevant lists maintained by the Directorate-General for Fisheries.

After a long and detailed examination of all the documentation submitted, on dated 23 April 2000, the Government adopted all the relevant Decrees containing the lists of vessels authorized to fish professionally and their respective individual quotas, as well as the lists of tuna traps and of recreational anglers.

The aim of the latter list was to begin to determine the number of people involved and the tonnage taken from the stock of bluefin tuna.

The anglers involved were highly critical, since an activity that had previously been left completely free is now, to a certain extent, being subject to regulation, and appealed to the Administrative Court (TAR). Although it has not yet been officially notified, a ruling has been issued suspending the provision concerned (Article 5 of the Decree) and this is currently negating the Government's efforts to begin dealing with this problem.

On the basis of the abovementioned lists, the Italian fleet in 2001 consisted of 87 purse seiners, 64 longliners, and five tuna traps.

Beyond the composition of the fleet, the structure of the Italian large pelagic fishing industry has remained substantially the same as regards the species caught. As noted in last year's report, the fattening of bluefin tuna, caught using purse seines, in floating cages is becoming more widespread and important.

The legal, economic and, more generally, managerial consequences of this are such that the Commission has recently taken up the matter, organizing consultations between Member States with a view to arriving at an official position on the issue and on the operational consequences at ICCAT.

Italy is heavily involved in the wide-ranging examination of this issue being called for on all sides and, in particular, has already begun a series of research projects using image-analysis programs to evaluate and determine the number of live fish fattened in cages (certification of biomass).

## **3. Research and statistics**

The continuing feeling of discontent among tuna fishers is still creating serious difficulties for Italian researchers involved in biological and statistical surveys with existing systems.

Once again, the data collected are fragmentary and do not fully satisfy the general managerial requirements. However, again this year the Italian authorities have submitted the data requested to all the bodies concerned, and in each case the most reliable data available. Future prospects are, however, more optimistic.

As is known, EC Regulation No. 1543/2000 is now in force. The Regulation provides for the collection of fisheries data at the Community level on the basis of precise criteria and in a more homogenized and organized manner than in the past.



Italy has moved quickly to draw up, on the basis of the Regulation, a national data-collection program. This is linked to all the research activities already financed and has already been presented at Community level where it was warmly received.

The plan provides in particular for the collection of a range of data on those species of interest to Italy and covered by ICCAT, such as bluefin tuna, swordfish, albacore and Atlantic bonito, from fishing effort to full biological data and from catches of target species to the size of by-catches.

The results expected from the program in the long term will certainly represent a great step forward for all concerned in promptly and fully complying with Community and international requirements in this field.

#### 4. Application of ICCAT conservation and management measures

The rules adopted in application of ICCAT conservation and management measures are listed below:

- Ministerial Decree of 27 July 2000 establishing criteria for the allocation of fishing quotas for bluefin tuna;
- Ministerial Decree of 23 April 2001 allocating the national quota for bluefin tuna among the different fishing methods;
- Ministerial Decree of 23 April 2001 establishing management measures for the fishing of bluefin tuna using purse seines;
- Ministerial Decree of 23 April 2001 establishing management measures for the fishing of bluefin tuna using long lines;
- Ministerial Decree of 23 April 2001 establishing management measures for the fishing of bluefin tuna using tuna traps;
- Ministerial Decree of 23 April 2001 establishing management measures for recreational fishing of bluefin tuna.

#### 5. Inspection activities

##### 5.1 In 2000

Recently the problem of inspection has taken on greater importance, with a view to the correct application of management measures decided upon at the Community and international level.

Italy has attempted to fulfil this requirement through closer cooperation between the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policy (Department for Market Policies of the Directorate-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture) and the Ministry of Transport and Navigation (*Comando Generale del Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto* - General Command of Harbourmasters' Offices).

Inspections by the *Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto*, both to prevent and detect infringements, are carried out not only on the documentation authorizing all the different types of fishing practiced but also during fishing activities at sea, at ports of landing and at the marketing stage (transport, sale and processing of catches), covering the entire fisheries sector all the way down to fish-product markets.

To that end, the National Fisheries Inspection Center each year issues instructions on these matters in order to inform and keep up to date those involved in carrying out inspections.

In addition, training courses are organized for fisheries inspection staff, either at authorized centers or at local offices of the *Comando Generale*.

In 2000, five courses were held at the *Istituto IRPEM-CNR* in Ancona for a total of 90 people. The number of courses will be increased in 2001.

Inspection and monitoring along a coastline stretching for over more than 8,000 kilometers and with almost 800 landing points demands a vast organization and a large commitment of equipment and staff.

This activity is carried out by either the *Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto – Guardia Costiera* or by other police bodies (*Arma dei Carabinieri* (Carabincers Force) and the *Corpo della Guardia di Finanza* (Customs Service).

*Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto – Guardia Costiera*

In 2000, a total of 285 sea-going vessels stationed in 13 operational commands were used, as well as 10 planes and 8 helicopters.

As part of the general activities, a total of 8,146 fisheries inspections were carried out using sea-going vessels and 848 using aircraft. Land-based staff carried out 12,339 checks on the landing, distribution and sale of catches, 2,187 checks on fishing gear and 529 checks on fish markets, resulting in a total of 5,119 penalties and seizures.

A total of 55,233 kg of fishery products and 669 sets of fishing gear were seized.

In 2000, two international monitoring and inspection missions were carried out, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policy and the Greek and Community authorities.

*Arma dei Carabinieri*

A total of 122 sea-going vessels and 9 aircraft were used in 2000.

As part of general activities, a total of 17,652 fishing inspections were carried out using sea-going vessels and 13 using aircraft.

Land-based staff carried out 2,936 checks on the landing, distribution and sale of catches, 5,972 inspections of fishing gear and vessels, and 499 checks on fish markets, which resulted in a total of 7,262 penalties and seizures.

A total of 673,897 kg of fishery products and 1,250 sets of fishing gear were seized.

*Corpo della Guardia di Finanza*

In 2000, the specialized activities of this police service led to the detection of 1,105 violations, resulting in the seizure of 98,884 kg of fishery products and 2,351 sets of fishing gear.

The full report submitted to the Directorate-General for Fisheries by the *Comando Generale del Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto*, which gives a fuller and more detailed description of the activities carried out, is attached as Annex 1<sup>3</sup>.

Although the situation with regard to operations was not fully satisfactory, particular attention was, of course, paid to species covered by ICCAT, i.e. bluefin tuna and swordfish. The service was aided by the favorable decisions handed down by magistrates, which allowed an improvement in the application of the rules (Annex 2).

Finally, mention should be made of the prompt and wide-ranging cooperation by the Italian authorities, both central and local, during the numerous inspections carried out by the European Commission over the period concerned.

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8. See Secretariat note, page 423.

### 5.2 In 2001

The cooperation referred to above has extended this year to the drafting of a "Fisheries Monitoring and Inspection Plan", which is being implemented this fishing year and the results will be analyzed and described in the relevant Annex (Annex 3).

Local agencies continue to be required to pay particular attention to highly migratory species covered by ICCAT and they have again been asked to take great care to apply the regulations promptly and strictly (Annex 4).

In accordance with the relevant Community rules, all the Maritime Directorates have now been sent the Mediterranean and Atlantic logbooks.

To ensure that the logbooks are kept and distributed correctly, the relative instructions have been issued (Annex 5).

### 6. Establishment of a satellite monitoring system

EC Regulation No. 2847/93 (as amended by EC Council Regulation No. 686/97 of 14 April 1997) establishes a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy and mandates that all coastal Member States of the European Union must establish a satellite-based system for locating and monitoring the activities of fishing vessels flying the national flag with a view to protecting the available fishery resources (VMS - vessel-monitoring system).

The operations which started last year are now all complete and the land-based equipment is in place. Equipment has now been installed, in accordance with the rules, on 382 vessels. In the light of the above, the system will probably be operational before the end of this year.

Table 1. Bluefin tuna catches (MT) by EC-Italy, by fishing gear, in 2000

<i>Fishing gear</i>	<i>Total catch (MT)</i>	<i>%</i>
Longline (LL)	287.000	7.46
Purse seine (PS)	2,801.114	72.84
Recreational & game fishing (SPOR)	382.500	9.95
Tuna traps (TRAP)	352.524	9.17
Other (OT)	22.256	0.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,845.394</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 2.** Bluefin tuna catches (in kg) by EC-Italy, and percentage per month, in 2000

<i>Month</i>	<i>Catches (kg)</i>	<i>%</i>
January	3,065	0.10
February	2,480	0.08
March	16,007	0.51
April	27,428	0.88
May	578,622	18.60
June	1,778,182	57.17
July	582,259	18.72
August	69,906	2.25
September	29,566	0.95
October	6,930	0.22
November	4,445	0.14
December	11,480	0.37
<b>Total January-December</b>	<b>3,110,370</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Tuna traps	352,524	
Recreational & game fishing	382,500	
<b>Total catches</b>	<b>3,845,394</b>	

**Table 3.** Bluefin tuna catches by EC-Italy, by macro area (port of landing) in 2000

<i>Macro area</i>	<i>Catches (kg)</i>	<i>%</i>
Upper and mid-Adriatic	159,495	5.13
Lower Adriatic and Ionian Seas	227,268	7.31
Sicilian Channel	791,131	25.44
Tyrrhenian Sea	1,918,839	61.69
Sardinia	7,703	0.25
Liguria	5,934	0.19
<b>Total macro areas</b>	<b>3,110,370</b>	<b>100.00</b>
Tuna traps	352,524	
Recreational and game fishing	382,500	
<b>Total catches</b>	<b>3,845,394</b>	

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-PORTUGAL<sup>1,2</sup>**1. General information on Portugal's tuna-fishing industry**

Portuguese vessels fishing for tuna and similar species operate throughout the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

In 2000, Portuguese vessels caught a total of 6,716.5 MT of tunas: 2,169.6 MT in the north Atlantic, 3,237.7 MT in the east Atlantic, 1,233.4 MT in the south Atlantic, and 75.8 MT in the Mediterranean.

The overall catch in 2000 was about 22.5% less than in 1999, which was not due to a scaling down of activity but to the scarce occurrence of some tuna in Portugal's EEZ subareas of the Azores and Madeira.

This was a repetition of 1999, and the adverse effects of these severe reductions are felt both by the fleet and by the industry.

The breakdown of the catch by main species is as follows: 1,507.3 MT of bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*), 1,306 MT of skipjack (*K. pelamis*), 1,124.2 MT of swordfish (*X. gladius*), 501.8 MT of bluefin tuna (*T. thynnus*), and 764.7 MT of albacore (*T. alalunga*).

The fishing methods used are: surface longline, pole and line (live bait) in the Azores and Madeira and hand line and troll (mainly in the case of Madeira). Traps are used to catch tuna in the waters off the southern Portuguese mainland.

**1.1 Bluefin tuna**

Bluefin tuna are found along the coast of mainland Portugal, and in the Azores and Madeira. Portugal's bluefin tuna catches come from the east Atlantic and the Mediterranean. In this area tuna are caught in March, April and May.

Most of the catches are made by vessels registered in Madeira's ports, with the quantities concerned peaking in February-May and September-October. In the Azores, this species tends to be caught in April-June, with year-to-year variations registered.

The catches occur along the entire Portuguese coast with, however, appreciable numbers caught in traps on the southern coast.

The pound-net catches are duly monitored by the competent authorities, and the data concerned (fishing effort, landings and size of the major target species) are then sent to ICCAT.

Pound-net catches normally occur between April and October, but the peak periods for the various species do not coincide, viz. bluefin tuna are caught mainly in June and July.

Table 1 shows the definitive catches of this species, which are noteworthy.

Part of Portugal's catch of bluefin tuna is intended for export to Japan, as confirmed by a total of 48 validated Statistical Documents (Table 2).

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1. Original report in English.

2. Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development & Fisheries, Directorate-General for Fisheries & Aquaculture.

### **1.2 Swordfish**

Swordfish are found in Portuguese waters throughout the year. Portuguese catches occur in the north Atlantic, the south Atlantic, and the Mediterranean.

Of the Community's ICCAT quota for 2000 for this species, Portugal was allocated 763 MT in the north Atlantic, North of the 5°N parallel.

The Portuguese quota was, by *Despacho* No 16 898/2000 of 8 August 2000, allocated among groups of vessels by port of registration.

In the case of the fleet registered in mainland Portugal a quota for swordfish catches north of the 5°N parallel was set for every vessel. Fisheries control was carried out, vessel by vessel, on the basis of catches and landings. Fishing was brought to a close, again vessel by vessel, as each individual quota filled. Elsewhere, catches were checked on the basis of fishing logs/catch declarations and landings at fish auction markets.

A total of 503.6 MT of swordfish caught north of the 5°N parallel was landed. These catches were made by 26 vessels registered in ports situated in mainland Portugal and licensed for surface longlining for that species, plus by-catches of vessels, mainly from small ports, with licenses for the use of other gear.

A total swordfish catch of 203 MT was reported for the 27 vessels registered in ports situated in the Azores which were licensed to fish for that species north of the 5°N parallel.

The total swordfish catch for vessels registered in ports located in Madeira was 24.2 MT.

In the south Atlantic, south of the 5°N parallel, swordfish catches of 391.8 MT, compared to a total national quota of 385 MT, were made by large surface longliners registered in ports located in mainland Portugal. Such vessels have the capacity to operate far distant from home waters and they supplement their activity with other catches.

The total catch for the six vessels licensed to operate in the Mediterranean was 13 MT.

### **1.3 Bigeye tuna**

Bigeye tuna are found throughout the year but mainly from March onwards and, above all, in April-June in waters off Portugal, Madeira and the Azores.

Bigeye, a major species in terms of Portugal's tuna catches, are caught mainly by vessels licensed for pole and line fishing (live bait).

Of the approximately 300 Portuguese vessels licensed to fish for bigeye tuna, about 60 have a length overall of more than 24 meters.

The bigeye tuna catch was taken mainly by vessels registered in ports in the Azores (967.3 MT) and Madeira (383.9 MT).

Bigeye catches by vessels registered in mainland Portuguese ports were minor.

### **1.4 Other tunas**

Other types of tuna caught by the Portuguese fleet are yellowfin, albacore and skipjack.

Yellowfin tuna are found in Portuguese waters, but there are also appreciable catches by the fleet operating in the south Atlantic.

The total reported catches of yellowfin in the north and south Atlantic are on the order of 194 MT.

Albacore are caught in the north and south Atlantic.

In the Azores, fishing for albacore tends to be regarded as an autumnal activity since the species is present mainly towards the end of the year. Catches vary greatly from year to year, are directly related to the quantities found in Portugal's EEZ. The total annual catch has, in a short space of time, ranged from 90 MT to 6,500 MT, evidence that the quantities present in Portuguese waters (mainly in the Azores) also vary greatly.

As reported earlier, Portugal's catch of long-finned tuna in 2000 totaled 278.3 MT, while catches for Madeira, the Azores and mainland Portugal amounted to 35.7 MT, 241 MT and 1.6 MT, respectively.

The Azores fleet specializing in this type of tuna uses only live bait (BB) and catches mainly adult fish.

Albacore catches by vessels registered in Madeira and operating in the south Atlantic totaled about 486.1 MT.

Skipjack tuna are found in the waters off Madeira, usually in the second half of the year, and, in July, August and September, in the Azores. The 2000 catch of 1,306 MT was substantially below that for 1999 (1,780 MT), and the reduction is again related to the presence of skipjack in Portuguese waters.

## **2. Implementation of ICCAT management and conservation measures**

### **2.1 Bluefin tuna**

Portugal has been implementing ICCAT's recommendations on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, in particular as regards fishing quotas, the closure of fisheries in the Mediterranean and the validation of Statistical Documents.

The number of licenses granted in 2000 was about the same as in 1999.

### **2.2 Swordfish**

Since the landings of swordfish are from vessels registered at several Portuguese locations, sound management implies that Portugal's quota should, as in previous years, be distributed between the vessels registered in mainland Portugal, those registered in Madeira and those registered in the Azores, with due account taken of the traditional activity of the vessels concerned.

In accordance with the ICCAT recommendation that establishes the TAC and the quotas by country for 2000, *Despacho* No. 16 898/2000 of 8 August 2000 distributes Portugal's quota between 26 vessels registered in ports situated in the mainland.

A total of 27 vessels were granted licences for surface longlining in the Azores. To avoid any misunderstanding, decisions not to grant a licence for surface longlining specify that the vessel is not allowed to catch any swordfish.

The total swordfish catch by the Madeira fleet in 2000 was 24.2 MT.

## **3. Inspection and control**

Portuguese legislation requires that all fresh fish be landed at fish auction markets, thus allowing checks to be carried out in respect of minimum size, quantities and species.

Fisheries rules also require that vessels record their catches and landings in a fishing logbook/declaration of landing. This requirement is the subject of rigorous checks, and the information concerned is cross-checked with the figures for landings at fish auction markets.

In this connection, a Monicap VMS control system has been installed on all Portuguese vessels of an overall length of less than 24 meters and is being stalled on all vessels of an overall length of more than 15 meters registered in mainland Portuguese ports.

In the case of swordfish and bluefin tuna, effective checks have been carried out regarding the size of catches and the minimum size of the fish. Immediate action is taken if infringements come to light regarding swordfish fishing.

The checks cover vessels licensed to fish for swordfish and the by-catches of other vessels.

Checks carried out by the competent authorities in 2000 led to the drawing up of an infringement report and the seizure of 1,962 kg of swordfish. A further four possible cases of infringements are being investigated.

Under Portuguese law, vessels of third countries wishing to land their catch in a Portuguese port must notify the inspection department in advance.

Landings are checked in cooperation with the Customs Service.

In the Azores the introduction of swordfish quotas was accompanied by rigorous checking of catches, in particular of fishing logs, through legislation adopted for that purpose.

Under the fisheries monitoring plan for the Azores a total of 41 "blue boxes" have been installed on board vessels of an overall length of more than 24 meters, thus enabling swordfish vessels to be even more closely monitored thanks to the VMS already installed.

Supervision and control: a total of 70 air patrols were carried out in likely areas of the continental shelf with a view to checking surface longline licences and one mission was carried out jointly with the navy and targeted a specific vessel, but without result.

At-sea these operations are also controlled by the Portuguese Navy and Air Force under the coordination of the Inspectorate-General for Fisheries.

In the case of Madeira all fresh or chilled fish must also be sold at fish auction markets.

#### 4. Research and statistics

The agencies responsible for fisheries research are IPIMAR (Fisheries and Sea Research Institute), the University of the Azores (Department of Oceanography and Fisheries) and Madeira's Regional Directorate for Fisheries (Fisheries Research Laboratory).

In the case of mainland Portugal, monitoring has, since 1995, concerned catches using pound nets located on the southern coast, focusing in particular on compliance with the minimum size requirements, especially for bluefin tuna.

The Azores Fisheries Observation Program (POPA) was, in 2000, in its third year. In addition to guaranteeing dolphin-safe status and carrying out the monitoring concerned for more than 50% of the tuna fleet, it also monitors other fleets and fishing methods, in particular swordfish fishing.

Again under POPA a cooperation protocol was drawn up with ICCAT for the tagging of bigeye tuna in the Azores.

After three years of activity, POPA has contributed to gathering data in support of the sustained management of marine resources in waters off the Azores and, more generally, the protection and conservation of the oceanic environment.

In light of the findings of the research carried out in Portugal following ICCAT recommendations and in addition to the involvement of Portuguese scientists in ICCAT working groups, systematic biological data has been compiled on an annual basis, from sampling to the computerization and analysis of statistical data.



Table 1. Bluefin tuna catches (MT) by EC-Portugal, by area and gear

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>January-June</i>	<i>July- December</i>	<i>Total</i>
Mainland Portugal	Trap	10.6	29.5	40.1
	Surf	0.4	0.8	1.2
Azores	BB	0.3	0.7	1.0
Madeira	BB	0.7	0.4	1.1
	LL			397.6
Mediterranean				60.8
<b>Total</b>				<b>501.8</b>

Table 2. Bluefin tuna catches (in kg) exported to Japan by EC-Portugal

<i>No. of BFT Statistical Docs.</i>	<i>Presentation</i>			<i>Live weight</i>			<i>Total live weight</i>
	<i>GG</i>	<i>Loin</i>	<i>Dressed</i>	<i>GG (1.16)</i>	<i>Loin (1.67)</i>	<i>Dressed (1.25)</i>	
48	96,706	686	27,824	112,179	1,146	34,780	148,105

**Table 3.** Catches (in MT) of tunas and tuna-like species by the Portuguese fleet in 2000

<i>Fishing gear</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>2000</i>
TRAP	North Atlantic	BFT	401
		BON	159
		BLT	3,132
		SKJ	5
		BIL	47
SURF	North Atlantic	BFT	12
		YFT	4
		ALB	16
		SKJ	9
		swo	1,944
		BON	67
		BLT	1,766
		BUM	127
		TUS	196
		SAI	44
		BIL	5,341
		OTH	25
		PS	North Atlantic
swo	7		
BON	382		
BLT	45		
TUS	372		
LLHB	North Atlantic	OTH	8
		SKJ	101
		SWO	5,133
		BLT	1
		BUM	16
		TUS	935
		SAI	49
LLHB	South Atlantic	BIL	642
		OTH	15
		swo	3,911
		BUM	19
		TUS	88
LLHB	Mediterranean	SAI	83
		BIL	49
		swo	133
		TUS	4
LL	Mediterranean	BIL	13
		BFT	608
LL	East Atlantic	BFT	3,976
		ALB	215
		swo	114
		OTH	254
		BET	12,147
BB	East Atlantic	SKJ	12,839
		FRI	86
		YFT	95
		ALB	255
		BET	12,147
BB	South Atlantic	SKJ	12
		ALB	4,861
		BET	1,463
		YFT	1,848
		FRI	86

NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-SPAIN<sup>1,2</sup>**1. General information**

Spanish catches of tunas and tuna-like species in 2000 in the Atlantic and Mediterranean amounted to 110,470 MT (112,062 MT in 1999), of which there were: 24,850 MT yellowfin; 10,688 MT bigeye; 37,277 MT skipjack; 16,398 MT albacore; 12,419 MT swordfish; 6,246 bluefin tuna; and 2,641 MT of other tunas and tuna-like species.

As in past years, through the Information and Sampling Network (RIM), considerable effort was made to collect scientific data to adequately comply with ICCAT scientific tasks. For the species overall, in 2000, size sampling was carried out on 253,227 fish and species identification was conducted on 100,000 additional fish. A total of 41 scientific papers were presented to the 2001 SCRS (see Annex 1)<sup>3</sup>.

**2. The fisheries****2.1 Tropical tunas and Canary Islands tunas**

## – Tropical fisheries: purse seine

Among the tuna fisheries in the eastern inter-tropical Atlantic, the most important is that carried out by large purse seiners of various nationalities, of which the Spanish fleet is one of the major fleets. This fishery is directed at yellowfin and skipjack, with by-catches of other species, such as bigeye and small tunas.

In 2000, there was no change in the number of vessels with respect to the last two years; thus 19 vessels continued to operate in this fishery. The vessel carrying capacity (calculated taking into account the time each vessel spent at the fishing grounds) increased slightly, from 9,988 MT (in 1999) to 10,517 MT in 2000. Effort, expressed in standardized days fishing, decreased to 5,880 days (as compared to 5,943 days in 1999).

The catches taken by this purse seine fleet increased to 64,710 MT (63,547 MT in 1999). The breakdown, by species, is as follows: Yellowfin 24,050 MT (18,599 MT in 1999); skipjack 33,445 MT (38,912 MT in 1999); bigeye 6,427 MT (5,021 MT in 1999); and other species 789 MT (1,015 MT in 1999).

CPUE, in MT/standardized fishing days, was 4.09 MT/day for yellowfin (3.12 in 1999); 5.69 MT/day for skipjack (6.55 in 1999); and 11.05 MT/day for the species overall (10.69 in 1999). The average catch per set decreased from 36.5 MT in 1999 to 30.1 MT in 2000. The average weights of the fish caught were: 11.0 kg for yellowfin, 2.0 kg for skipjack, and 3.5 kg for bigeye.

## – Tropical fisheries: baitboat

This fishery was carried out by seven baitboats that operated from the port of Dakar (Republic of Senegal). The target species are yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack. In recent years, these vessels fish the major part of their catches under tuna "spots" (or "manchas"). The total catches amounted to 4,611 MT for all species combined (4,324 MT in 1999). The breakdown by species is as follows: yellowfin 454 MT (787 MT in 1999), skipjack 2,660 MT (1,488 MT in 1999), and bigeye 1,497 MT (2,049 MT in 1999). Effort was 519 days fishing, less than that of 1999, which was 898 days.

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1. Original report in Spanish.  
2. Instituto Español de Oceanografía.  
3. See Secretariat note, page 423.

## – Canary Islands tunas

This fishery takes place in the Canary Islands waters and off the African coast close to the Islands, and is carried out by baitboat vessels. The number of vessels that operated in 2000 was 363; these vessels carried out a total of 3,178 trips, with an estimated duration of 4,034 days at sea.

In 2000, catches amounted to 3,743 MT (12,870 MT in 1999), which was the lowest catch of the series considered (1975-2000). This important reduction was due to the conclusion, at the end of 1999, of the fishing agreement between Morocco and the European Union. The breakdown by species is as follows (the figures in parentheses correspond to 1999): bluefin 26 MT (32 MT); yellowfin 146 MT (524 MT); albacore 240 MT (1,972 MT), bigeye 2,167 MT (6,191 MT); skipjack 1,120 MT (4,119 MT); and other species 44 MT (31 MT). The average weights of the fish caught were: yellowfin 17 kg, albacore 22 kg, bigeye 16 kg, and skipjack 3.6 kg.

## 2.2 Temperate tunas

### – Bluefin tuna

The Spanish bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean remained stable due to the catch limit imposed by country quota regulation, although this measure permitted a slight increase in the catches, which reached 6,246 MT, a 16% increase with respect to the previous year (5,357 MT).

The bluefin tuna catch in the eastern Atlantic amounted to 3,474 MT in 2000, which represents a slight decrease of 2% as compared to 1999. There were notable variations by gears. Thus, trap catches declined by 25% (1,416 MT), while the catches of the baitboat fisheries increased by 31% (1,921 MT). Of these, 1,200 MT were caught in the Cantabrian Sea, 694 MT in the Strait of Gibraltar area, and 26 MT in the Canary Islands. Bluefin tuna catches by hand line also increased to 126 MT.

In the Mediterranean, 2,772 MT were caught, which represents an increase of 16% as compared to the previous year (2,003 MT). By gear, purse seine (1,676 MT) and longline (463 MT) catches comprised 77% of the total Mediterranean catches, and overall, these catches increased by 12% for the same level of purse seine fishing effort. Hand line catches amounted to 67 MT and while surface gear catches were 38 MT.

### – Albacore

The total catch taken by the Spanish surface fleets in the fisheries of the Cantabrian Sea and adjacent waters of the eastern Atlantic, North of 35°N, were 15,512 MT in 2000. Baitboat catches were 10,499 MT, with a nominal effort of 5,406 days fishing. The troll fishery caught 5,064 MT, with a nominal effort of 12,346 days fishing. There were 590 artisanal vessels that participated in the fishery (130 baitboats and 460 trollers). There were no catches in 2000 by the baitboat and troll fleets in the autumn fishery in the Atlantic area, southwest of the Iberian Peninsula.

The Spanish albacore fishing fleet in the Mediterranean is not highly developed, and shows annual fluctuations related to the presence/absence of the troll/baitboat fleets and to greater or lesser surface longline activity directed at this species. In 2000, only 152 MT of albacore were caught, which represents a decrease of 70% as compared to the previous year. This decrease is due to the decline in catches by baitboat (88 MT), surface longline (49 MT), and surface gears (5 MT) and, to a greater degree, to the absence of vessels and troll catches mentioned above.

### – Swordfish

In 2000, swordfish were caught by the Spanish fleet, mainly by surface longline in the North and South Atlantic and in the Mediterranean Sea. The total catch within the area regulated by ICCAT was 12,419 MT, of which 10,983 MT were caught in the Atlantic and 1,436 MT were from the Mediterranean. The fishing areas where the Spanish fleet operated were the same as in previous years. The traditional fleet of surface longliners that fish the North stock continued their fishing strategy based on the economic maximization of the activity, without clearly defining the target species, maintaining a bi-species fishery, varying the target species several times during the same trip. In addition, this fleet has introduced "American" type longline. A similar change in fishing strategy has

also been detected in the fleet that operates in the South Atlantic, although this change is more recent and of lesser intensity. While the number of vessels authorized to fish has remained constant with respect to 1999, these vessels have been affected by drastic, domestic management measures limiting their fishing activity throughout the year.

The Spanish catch of swordfish in 2000 in the Mediterranean amounted to 1,436 MT, almost all of which was caught by surface gears. This catch represented an increase of 39% as compared to the 1999 catch, with a 31% increase in fishing effort, thus returning to effort levels exerted in 1998, while in 1999 a major component of fishing effort was directed to other species using other gears, due to the problem of the presence of juveniles and to low market prices. Swordfish catches by "picdribola" longline amounted 75 MT.

#### – Small tunas

Small tuna species are caught mainly by trap and surface gears. Frigate tuna (*Auxis* spp) catches amounted to 1,040 MT, an increase of 23% as compared to the previous year. Catches of Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*) were 354 MT, a decrease of 20%. Minor quantities (10 MT) of Atlantic black skipjack (*Euthynnus alletteratus*) were also caught.

### 3. Research and statistics

#### 3.1 Tropical tunas and Canary Islands tunas

Fourteen (14) documents were presented to the 2000 SCRS on the various fisheries for tropical tunas and the Canary Islands fisheries.

#### – The tropical purse seine fishery

The main sources of data on this fishery are the fishing logbooks that are completed by the vessel captains on a daily basis and/or when a set is made. The coverage rate attained in 2000 was 83% of the catches. Sampling of the catches was carried out at the major landing and/or transshipment ports: Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and Dakar (Republic of Senegal).

As regards the size composition of the catches, there were 91,679 tunas sampled throughout 2000: 41,333 yellowfin, 19,759 skipjack, 19,930 bigeye and 10,657 other species. In addition, 98,754 fish of various species were sampled for species composition.

Since 1990, this fishery has undergone a change in fishery patterns, which has consisted of the massive introduction of artificial floating devices. As a result of this change, research in recent years has been concentrated on the monitoring and analysis of this new fishing technique.

In 1999, two research projects financed by the EU were carried out, in collaboration between the IRD and the IEO: *ESTHER* (a study on the development of fishing power of the Spanish-French tropical purse seine fleet) and *TESS* (a review of the current tropical tuna data bases and their integration in the future European laboratory on tunas ORDET). Both projects ended in the second quarter of 2000, and in both cases the final reports are being prepared. Within the *ESTHER* project, a purse seine trip was carried out in the Atlantic Ocean, while two trips were made in the Indian Ocean, one on a purse seiner and the other on a support vessel.

In 2000, the BIOTHON project was initiated, financed by the DG XIV of the EU, in collaboration with the IRD. The main objective of the project is to reinforce the current level of sampling for species composition and size at the major landing ports of the tuna purse seine fleet, to assure improved coverage of the time-area strata exploited by these fleets. The project is expected to be finalized in February, 2002.

#### – Tropical tunas: baitboat fishery

The fishing logbooks that are completed by the vessel captains are the source of information on this fishery. The coverage rate is estimated to be very close to 100%. A sampler-reporter at the port of Dakar (Senegal) collects

information on size distribution of the different species in the catches. For several years, the most important catches of this fishery have been made under objects ("spots"). Sampling is usually carried out on all the species at the port of Dakar (the major landing port).

– Canary Islands tunas

There is an information and sampling network at the 10 major tuna landing points in the Canary Islands. This network is comprised of 10 reporter-samplers at the ports of: La Restinga (Hierro Island); Playa Santiago and Valle Gran Rey (La Gomera Island); Santa Cruz de La Palma and Tazacorte (La Palma Island); Playa de San Juan and Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Tenerife Island); Arguineguin and Mogán (Gran Canary Island); and Arrecife de Lanzarote (Lanzarote Island). There is also a collaborating reporter-sampler for vessels that unload at the port of Algeciras (Peninsula). There is 100% coverage for the catch data. The number of samples decreased sharply since part of the fleet was not fishing. Thus the number of samples in 2000 was 112 (376 in 1999), with 7,401 fish measured (40,410 in 1999). By species, 450 yellowfin, 2 albacore, 5,549 bigeye, and 1,399 skipjack were sampled.

In 2000, within the BETYP, a new bigeye tagging cruise was carried out in Canarian-African waters. During the cruise, a total of 505 fish were tagged: 463 bigeye, 1 yellowfin and 41 skipjack. The sizes of the bigeye tuna tagged were between 40 and 112 cm. There were 314 recoveries of fish tagged by the four trips carried out within the program (298 bigeye, 8 yellowfin and 8 skipjack).

### 3.2 Temperate tunas

– Bluefin tuna

Task I and II were compiled in the appropriate format from data obtained by the Information and Sampling Network (RIM) and by observers on board, weighted to the landing data by species, gear and port. A total of 18,628 bluefin tuna were sampled in the Mediterranean, Spanish South Atlantic area and Cantabrian Sea (944 samples, 15,353 and 2,331 samples, respectively). This disproportion in the sampling levels and coverage rate between the first two areas is due to the complicated unloading systems on the Mediterranean coast (trucks, aquiculture, etc.), which warranted having samplers at the processing plants and export points located in the Cartagena and Mazarrón areas. These samplers work closely with the IEO which has resulted in the development of conversion factors applicable to the improvement of the ICCAT bluefin tuna statistical document. The catches of the Cantabrian baitboat fishery are characterized by a large number of age 1 and age 2 fish (50% and 27%, respectively).

There were a total of 18 scientific papers presented to the SCRS concerning bluefin tuna research in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean: three on statistics (SCRS/01/101, 121, 124), three on stock structure (SCRS/01/77, 78 and 143), six on biology (SCRS/01/82, 127, 128, 129, 130 and 135), five on abundance indices (SCRS/01/126, 131, 132, 133 and 157), and one on environmental effects (SCRS/01/134).

In 2000, research projects were carried out on bluefin tuna that were co-financed by the European Union and the IEO. The EU FAIR-97/3975 project presented resulted (SCRS/01/078) on electronic tagging experiences using pop-up type tags whose objectives are related to knowledge on the migratory patterns of tuna spawners in the Mediterranean and Atlantic, spawning area fidelity and stock mixing.

The EU project 99/022 (Stromboli) centered on the analysis of the time and area trends of bluefin tuna catches in the Mediterranean, and in the development of a new abundance index in the spawning area (Balearic Islands) through systematic aerial observations. This project ends in 2002. Diverse research on bluefin (and swordfish) biological parameters were carried out within the FAO/COPEMED Program (see section on other activities and document SCRS/01/130).

In the framework of the project entitled "Standardization of the Spanish Baitboat CPUE Series for Eastern Atlantic Juvenile Bluefin Tuna", co-financed by the European Union (DG XIV, Study 00/024), standardized indices of abundance by age were obtained for the Bay of Biscay baitboat fishery (SCRS/01/132), the effect of the fleet characteristics (SCRS/01/131) and the environmental parameters in the new indices (SCRS/01/134) were analyzed, and their influence in the Virtual Population Analysis of the East Atlantic and Mediterranean stock was evaluated (SCRS/01/133).

-- Albacore

A total of five documents were presented on this species (SCRS/01/68, 69, 70, 101, and 136). The ICCAT Tasks were compiled from information on the baitboat and troll fisheries obtained through the Information and Sampling Network (RIM) at the major ports of the Cantabrian Sea and the South Atlantic region (13 ports) and from surveys, which represent an 85-95% coverage of the total landings. The size distribution is obtained from sampling (baitboat: 15,231 fish, or 0.9% coverage rate; troll: 28,237 fish, or 4% coverage rate). A description of the surface fleet activities in 2000 is also provided (SCRS/01/138).

Some results of the MAR98-0233-CO2 project, financed by the Spanish Inter-ministerial Commission on Science and Technology (CICYT) were presented: an update of the tag-recovery data base (SCRS/01/069) and a description of the migrations of albacore and structure of the Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks (SCRS/01/170). An analysis was carried out of tag-recovery data to estimate natural mortality and the results of various models are presented (SCRS/01/068). The estimates of albacore by-catches by the Atlantic longline fleet are provided (SCRS/01/101).

In the Mediterranean, ICCAT Task I and II data were presented in the appropriate format. There were 629 albacore sampled in the surface longline fishery that targets this species.

-- Swordfish and associated species

In 2000, the compilation of data continued for ICCAT tasks, through surveys and port sampling, voluntary submission of fishing logbooks, and scientific observer trips on long-distance longline vessels. There were 102,082 swordfish sampled in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, which represents an overall size sampling coverage of 29% of the total fish landed. This sampling coverage was about 33% for the Atlantic fisheries. Biological sampling of swordfish continued to obtain size-sex variables by time-area strata. The combination of these sources of information has resulted in the compilation of ICCAT Task II data on swordfish in 5x5-month-fleet type.

A document on the North Atlantic swordfish fishery and four documents on the by-catches of this fleet were presented to the SCRS. The documents studies swordfish abundance indices by age for the North Atlantic Ocean (SCRS/01/150), size-weight relationships of swordfish and pelagic sharks considered as associated species of the swordfish fishery (SCRS/01/148), as well as scientific estimates on the landing of species considered as accessory species: large pelagic sharks (SCRS/01/049), billfishes (SCRS/01/102), and tunas (SCRS/01/101).

Voluntary tagging carried out by the commercial fleet in the Atlantic continued to be encouraged, and scientific observers continued opportunistic tagging of swordfish and other species such as pelagic sharks and billfishes. Contacts with the fleet were intensified, aimed at a quantitative and qualitative improvement in the recovery of tagged fish. In 2000, about 300 recoveries of various species (mainly pelagic sharks) were made in the Atlantic by longliners. All the tags and their information were transmitted to the respective tagging laboratories, mainly in the United States, Ireland and Spain. In recent years progressive improvement has been noted in the quantity and quality of the tagging information provided by the fleet. Furthermore, the providing of information for the longline fleet concerning tagging and tag recovery techniques as well as the use and possible appearance of electronic tags continued.

Further, the SGPM and the IEO collaborated in the development of a logbook to determine and identify the accompanying species in the swordfish fishery (draft phase) to facilitate the vessel captains' identification of the species, the most accurate coding information and communication in the logbooks.

In 2000, the *FAIT CT-3941* project continued, co-financed by the European Union in which scientists from Greece, Italy and Spain participated. This project is based on nuclear DNA analysis to continue studies on swordfish stock structure in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, for which about 1,500 tissue samples with wide geographic coverage have been collected up to now.

The *SHKLL* project also continued, aimed at evaluating the levels of landings of pelagic shark species caught as by-catch by the Spanish surface longline fleet; this project concluded in December 2000.

For the Mediterranean, ICCAT Tasks I and II were prepared in the appropriate format. The work of obtaining information and samples at ports (RIM) and on-board observer activities continued. A total of 14,594 swordfish caught by surface longline were sampled. Scientific documents on Mediterranean swordfish were presented (SCRS/01/050) that analyzed the problem of the availability of juveniles to longline and sexual maturity through the histological analysis of gonads, respectively. The EU 97/074 project ended which dealt with the minimum size regulation imposed by EEC regulation, which provides information on the causes of the impact on juveniles in the Mediterranean, as well as the measures recommended for the protection of these fish. The *EU-97/SIDS* Project continued, concerning the study of sexual maturity (and sex identification) through analysis of hormone levels in blood and tissue.

### 3.3 Other activities

#### – Mediterranean tunas

The FAO-COPEMED project on large pelagics continued, coordinated by Oceanographic Center of Malaga of the IEO, which conducted its research activities mainly on the different aspects of bluefin and swordfish biology. Six scientific documents were presented to the SCRS concerning the activities of this important project (SCRS/01/126, 127, 128, 130, 135, and 157), such as biometric relationships, sex ratio by size class, size-age relationships, sexual maturity and standardized abundance indices.

With regard to bluefin tuna, the Institute of Technology and Food of the Basque Region (AZTI) presented a document to ICCAT on environmental effects (SCRS/01/033); the University of Girona presented other papers on stock structure (SCRS/01/143 and 144).

A list of the scientific documents is given in Annex I.

## 4. Application of ICCAT conservation and management measures on tuna

### 4.1 Swordfish

In accordance with ICCAT measures, the Spanish Administration has continued with its legislative efforts to manage and monitor the fishing activity of the fleets that catch swordfish in the area of the Atlantic Ocean that is regulated by this Commission.

Currently there are two closed lists of vessels that are authorized to fish swordfish, through the approval of the Annual Fishing Plans. These lists encompass each one of the areas North of the 5°N parallel, and South of the same parallel.

The vessels on both lists authorized to fish within the framework of the respective fishing plans are required to transmit their catches monthly, their entries and exits from the port and the fishing ground, as well as landing declarations. These measures allow the Spanish Administration to carry out monitoring and control of the fisheries and adopt, if necessary, supplemental regulatory measures.

In 1998, a closed list was developed for the fleet that fishes South of 5°N, which was finalized that same year. In December, 1999, through a Resolution of the General Director of Fishery Resources, the Fishing Plan for 2000 was adopted, which included the breakdown of vessel quotas. In December, 2000, by means of a Resolution of the Director General of Fishery Resources, the Fishing Plan for 2001 was approved, also including the breakdown of vessel quotas.

In 1999, a closed list was prepared on the fleet that fishes North of 5°N. In December of that same year, through a Resolution of the Director General of Fishery Resources, the Fishing Plan for 2000 was approved, which included the breakdown of vessel quotas. Further, in December, 2000, the Fishing Plan for 2001 was adopted.



There is pressure on Community markets by the imports of swordfish from third countries through landings at Member States, such as Belize and Honduras, in particular, as well as other countries which, up to now have not been complying with the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

In order to comply with the quota and the ICCAT recommendations on swordfish, the following measures have been taken:

- South Atlantic

In December, 2000, through a Resolution of the Director General of Fishery Resources, the Fishing Plan for 2001 was approved, which included the breakdown of the vessel quota.

- North Atlantic

The Administration developed a Resolution for 2002, with the allocation of the vessel quota for North of 5°N parallel.

#### **Quota allocated by ICCAT for swordfish for 2000**

- North Atlantic

Of the quota allocated by ICCAT for 2000, the amount corresponding to Spain was 4,595 MT.

- South Atlantic

Of the 2000 quota allocated by ICCAT, 5,950 MT corresponded to Spain.

#### **4.2 Northern albacore**

In compliance with the recommendation on limiting fishing capacity directed at northern albacore, a list was developed of Spanish vessels that were present in the fishery for this species during the 1993-1995 period. None of these vessels used driftnets as their gear, but instead they used hook gears.

In order to monitor the limit on fishing capacity in 2000, a list of vessels was developed that could target albacore. The total number of vessels was 829.

On the other hand, it should be noted that a Ministerial Order of 17 February 1998, regulates tuna fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, making it mandatory for the companies of boat owners of authorized vessels to transmit monthly reports on the fishing days, by effort area, as well as the catches by species and fishing areas.

#### **4.3 Tropical tunas**

As concerns compliance with the recommendation on bigeye and yellowfin, Spain continued its observer program. Furthermore, during the moratorium periods (November, December 2000, and January 2001), the observer coverage of the purse seine fleet reached 100%.

### **5. Implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, 2000**

In 2000, Task 1 data corresponding to bluefin tuna were 3,474 MT for the Atlantic and 2,772 MT for the Mediterranean, for a total catch of 6,246 MT, compared to an available quota of 6,365 MT.

The total number of export documents (BFTSDs) validated by the Spanish Chambers of Commerce in 2000 amounted to 1,641, with a volume of exports, as indicated in the two bi-annual reports, that amounted to 9,700 MT. Of this amount, 8,567.428 MT corresponded to exports of bluefin tuna from Spanish flag vessels, 901.733 MT corresponded to French flag vessels, and 231.07 MT to Italian flag vessels.

Of the 8,567,428 MT that corresponded to Spain, 5,783.7 MT were from farmed tuna.

## 6. Inspection scheme and activities

### 6.1 Introduction

Inspection activities relative to ICCAT, carried out by the Monitoring Authorities of the Kingdom of Spain, are centered in the Atlantic area and in the Mediterranean area, and take place throughout the entire year on vessels that catch and/or transport species under ICCAT mandate.

During the spring and summer seasons, concurrent with the fishing seasons for Atlantic bonito (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the northeastern Atlantic, and bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) in the Mediterranean area, the General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing, through the Under-Secretary General of Fishery Inspection, in cooperation with the Spanish Navy (General Fishery Surveillance Plan), reinforced the human and material resources involved in inspection and surveillance activities during this period.

### 6.2 Resources

#### – Man-power

The General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing, through the Under-Secretariat General of Fishing Inspection, designated 71 inspectors, which represents an effective increase of 24 inspectors as compared to last year to monitor the fisheries activities relative to the ICCAT scheme.

#### – Material means

The material means used are as follows:

*Maritime.* Patrol vessels of the Spanish Navy designated to carry out monitoring activities.

*Land-based.* 30 four-wheel drive vehicles that pertain to the General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing of Spain are distributed all along the coast.

*Aerial.* Three "Augusta 109" helicopters ("Alcotán I", "Alcotán II" and "Alcotán III") which pertain to the Spanish General Secretariat of Maritime Fishing, and a plane ("Roche") of the Casa C212-400 type.

### 6.3 Results

	<i>Number of vessels inspected</i>	<i>Number of infractions</i>
<b>Atlantic</b>		
Port inspections	112	14
At-sea inspections	1	0
Aerial sightings	4	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Mediterranean</b>		
Port inspections	24	7
At-sea inspections	83	58
Aerial sightings	132	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>68</b>

#### 6.4 Activities of third country vessels

##### – Summary of third country inspections

Third country vessels were inspected, pertaining to Contracting Parties or to Non-contracting Parties, which corresponded to the following flags:

Antigua & Barbuda	1
Netherlands Antilles	7
Belize	6
Cuba	2
Cyprus	2
Philippines	1
Honduras	3
Iceland	1
Japan	12
Lithuania	5
Malta	2
Mauritania	1
Panama	19
St. Vincent	2
Chinese Taipei	1

## NATIONAL REPORT OF EC-UNITED KINGDOM<sup>1</sup>

### 1. The fishery

UK participation in the 2000 tuna fishery started on 3 August and ended on 6 September. Only two English vessels took part in the fishery, the *Charisma BA45* and the *Excellent PZ513*. Of the two vessels that took part, one vessel made two trips to the grounds the other vessel made one trip. No Scottish pair trawlers took part in the fishery during 2000 because of increasing fuel prices and concerns over the viability of the fishery.

The fishery was peaceful and no incidents of gear conflict were reported.

Most of the fishing took place within Irish limits. One vessel spent a couple of days in international waters to the west of Ireland and the other vessel spent four days in international waters at the bottom of Trouser Leg (SW Approaches). In all, 32 days were spent by English vessels in the tuna fishery in 2000 (11 days steaming/searching and 21 days fishing). Tuna landings by English vessels were made into Newlyn and Padstow. The catches are shown in **Table 1**.

Tuna prices averaged £1.57 per kilo. This was considered to be poor. There were no landings abroad.

### 2. Enforcement

Prior to their departure to the fishing grounds, UK vessels had their driftnets measured to ensure compliance with EC Council Regulation No. 894/97 which prohibits keeping on board one or more driftnet whose individual or total net length exceeds 2.5 km. No problems were encountered. Allowances were made for cetacean gaps and strops between the panels of nets.

Information received suggested that UK fishing effort in the 2000 tuna season was limited and therefore the level of Royal Navy involvement required at sea was comparatively low. Contingency plans were made to provide back up and support to UK vessels as and when necessary. An off-shore patrol vessel was kept in the western Patrol area on tuna standby within 24 hours of the tuna grounds for the whole period of UK involvement in the tuna fishery.

No EC observers were taken on board Royal Navy vessels this year, as the level of UK involvement in the fishery was relatively small.

### 3. Conclusion

The fishery this year was peaceful with no incidents reported. The number of English vessels taking part in the tuna fishery continues to decline.

Details on port and sea inspections, the deployment of patrol vessels, and the fleet activities and catches are shown in **Tables 2, 3 and 4**.

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1. Original report in English.

Table 1. Tuna landings by UK vessels in 2000

<i>Species</i>	<i>Weight (kg)</i>
Albacore	14,305
Sharks	1,353
Swordfish	67
Stonebuss	19
Other (mixed)	17

Table 2. Details of inspections carried out at port and at sea

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>PLN number</i>	<i>Date/location of inspection at sea/in port</i>	<i>Result of inspection</i>	<i>Type of infringement</i>	<i>Follow-up of infringement</i>
Charisma	BA45	3/08/00 Padstow in port	2,213 m	—	—
Excellent	PZ513	22/08/00 Newlyn in port	2,483 m	—	—

Table 3. Deployment patrol vessels

<i>Name of patrol vessel</i>	<i>Period of deployment</i>	<i>No. of days on patrol*</i>	<i>No. of driftnetters sighted by nationality</i>	<i>No. of boardings by nationality</i>
Alderney	24-26/7/2000	3	—	—
Shetland	27/7/2000-7/8/2000	12	—	—
Anglesey	9-25/8/2000	17	—	—
Lindisfarne	26/8/2000-15/9/2000	21	—	—
Shetland	16-26/9/2000	11	—	—
Alderney	27-29/9/2000	3	—	—

\* These figures include days on standby, i.e. within 24 hrs. of the time fishing.

Table 4. Activity and catches of the fleet (number of actual fishing days in month)

	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>
Driftnet	—	—	—	—	18	3	—
Troll	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Line	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Live bait	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pelagic trawl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## NATIONAL REPORT OF FRANCE (ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON)<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Introduction

St. Pierre and Miquelon is a French overseas territory with 7,000 inhabitants. Due to its island nature and its geographic location, the socio-economic equilibrium of the territory rests, in large measure, on maritime fishing, a traditional activity and the major economic sector of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

In spite of the general decline in reported fisheries resources in recent years, the fishing industry continues to be a fundamental sector for St. Pierre and Miquelon. This industry employs more than 250 people on board the vessels and in the companies that transform the sea products.

This situation places the territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon among the communities dependent on fishing.

The overseas territory borders on the areas of responsibility of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and participates in the work of this organization. After the adherence of the European Community to ICCAT in 1997, France continues to be a member of the Commission on behalf of the overseas territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which is not covered by the provisions of the Treaty of Rome concerning Community fishing policy.

### 2. Information on national fisheries

The fishing activities of St. Pierre and Miquelon take place mainly on stocks in waters under French jurisdiction or sovereignty, off the coasts of the overseas territory.

These activities fall within the framework of agreements between France and Canada that oversee the common management and conservation of the fishery resources that are found in French and Canadian waters, and which are based on the recognition of the reciprocal rights on the fishing stocks concerned.

The local fishing activities result from regional organizations that cover the sectors and the coastal stocks of the territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Within this framework, France adhered in 1994 and on behalf of the overseas territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon to the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and, in 1997, to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and since then has participated in the work of these organizations.

### 3. Research and statistics

The responsibility for the scientific and research activities of fishing for St. Pierre and Miquelon rests on the French Institute of Research for the Exploration of the Sea (IFREMER), which has a permanent delegation in St. Pierre and Miquelon. The IFREMER participates in the scientific and research work developed within the framework of the international organizations.

The IFREMER also provides technical support for the work on statistical monitoring of the catches that are the competence of the legal administrations of the State that are present in St. Pierre and Miquelon.

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1. Original report in French.

#### 4. **Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures (as concerns the bluefin tuna stock relevant to ICCAT)**

Bluefin tuna fishing, which is carried out in St. Pierre and Miquelon, within the possibilities that ICCAT offers, constitutes. Taking into account the level of quota available, bluefin fishing is a supplemental activity for the small companies of the artisanal fisheries of the islands.

Fishing is dependent upon the vessels concerned having an authorization (a license) issued by the competent administrative authorities in accordance with the pertinent national regulations on maritime fishing. This mechanism carries out a constant and strict control of fishing effort.

The individual authorizations (licenses) to fish bluefin tuna issued to St. Pierre and Miquelon vessels (a dozen vessels are involved) establish some technical measures for fishing. These measures mainly include the characteristics and conditions for use of the fishing gears. In 2000 only two floating lines were authorized with a maximum of two hooks for each vessel. These gears should be under the constant surveillance of the vessels that use them (resolution extended in 2001).

It is the responsibility of the vessel captains to report all catches to the administration. These reports result in optimum control of the fishery and permanent statistical monitoring of the use of the available quotas.

#### 5. **Inspection scheme and activities**

The overall regulations mentioned in section 4 and applicable St. Pierre and Miquelon vessels are subject to controls by the competent authorities and can result, in case of an infraction, in legal actions and the withdrawal or suspension of the fishing authorizations issued.

The administrative offices of the State present in St. Pierre and Miquelon also exercise their competence in relation to ICCAT Resolution 94-9 concerning vessel sightings. The corresponding actions carried out are centered on the collection of information on the transshipments of bluefin tuna products registered at the port of St. Pierre by foreign vessels (new Japanese vessels in 2000 that correspond to 470 MT of products landed).

The data collected are presented to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Resolution 94-9.

#### 6. **Catches in 2000**

The catches from marine fishing by St. Pierre and Miquelon for 2000 are broken down as follows:

##### *Under ICCAT:*

- 0,444 MT of bluefin tuna. These catches are below the quota allocated by ICCAT since the French artisanal fishing did not have access to the EEZ of the coastal State whose waters are adjacent to the French EEZ.

##### *Under NAFO:*

- 470 MT of black halibut: NAFO divisions 3L and 3M (international waters). 212 MT of shrimp caught under the French allocations by a charter vessel flying the flag of a NAFO Contracting Party. This charter was carried out in accordance with the rules established by NAFO.

##### *Under fishing agreements between France and Canada:*

- NAFO division 3Ps:
  - Cod: 4.682 MT
  - Haddock (*Sébaste*): 196 MT

Witch (*Plie gris*): 7 MT

Plaice (*Plie canadienne*): 41 MT

- NAFO division 2J 3KL:  
Black halibut: 272 MT (Canadian EEZ)

*National stocks: The full amount in NAFO division 3 Ps:*

- Queen crab (*Crab des neiges*): 511 MT
- Lumpfish (*Lompe*): 536 MT
- Whelk (*Bulot*): 205 MT
- Other species: 229 MT



NATIONAL REPORT OF GHANA<sup>1</sup>*Paul Bannerman*<sup>2</sup>**1. Introduction**

The Ghanaian tuna fishery comprises mainly skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*). Baitboats and purse seiners fishing off the EEZ of Ghana catch these tuna species.

**2. Fleet**

The total number of vessels fishing tuna resources is 36, comprised of 26 baitboats and 10 purse seiners. The gross tonnages of the baitboats range from 250-500 and that of the purse seiners ranges from 400-1000. (Purse seining was reintroduced commercially in Ghana in 1996.)

**3. Resources**

Tunas are grouped under the large pelagics occurring in Ghanaian waters that are part of a large community in the entire Atlantic Ocean. Skipjack tuna has been the most abundant species in the catches in the past 10 years followed by yellowfin and bigeye, respectively. Tuna baitboats are the main exploiters of tunas in Ghanaian waters, using anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) as the main bait for their operations. In addition to the use of anchovy to attract tunas, about 300 bamboo rafts ("payaos") are used by the Ghanaian tuna fleet as Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). Purse seiners of late work in association with baitboats often sharing the catch.

**4. Research and catch statistics**

The Marine Fisheries Research Division of the Fisheries Department is the Government agency responsible for tuna research and statistics in Ghana. Catches for the year 2000 dropped to 53,000 MT from a high of 85,000 MT in 1999. This decrease of about 37% was attributed to the low effort exerted in the fishery due to high operational costs, which rendered most vessels inoperative. Skipjack landings comprised about 66% of the catches, followed by yellowfin (30%), and bigeye (4%). **Table 1** shows the landings in 2000. **Table 2** shows the landings and fleet size for 1990 to 2000.

Sampling of the three major species of tuna was carried out from the port of Tema to determine among others, length frequency distribution for stock assessment purposes. Data (Task I, II and III) for 2000 were forwarded to ICCAT. ICCAT logbook recovery has improved to about 55% in 2000. Size ranges of tuna caught in 2000 are shown in **Table 3**. The mean sizes of tunas caught in 2000 are shown in **Table 4**.

**4.1 Bigeye tagging program (BETYP)**

ICCAT initiated a tagging program aimed at a better understanding of the biology and dynamics of the species. As part of the program, another tagging cruise was carried out in the southeast Atlantic Ocean. Scientific Officers from the Marine Fisheries Research Division (MFRD) participated. Over 5,000 tunas were tagged and released.

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1. Original report in English.  
2. Fisheries Department, Ghana.

including 332 bigeye tuna. As of September 2001, over 150 tunas have been recaptured. Preliminary analysis of the early recoveries has begun (SCRS/01/099).

#### 4.2 Improvement in statistics

With the recent innovation of the use of FADs in the fishery, purse seiners in association with baitboats often share their catches. This collaboration has led to a mixture of varying sizes of fish often landed by the baitboats which leads to some problems in stratification by gear. With the help of the BETYP and tuna scientists from IRD based in Abidjan, significant efforts at improving sampling have been initiated (SCRS/00/121 and SCRS/01/100). A final workshop to streamline sampling techniques for this complex but important fishery is to be held in 2002.

#### 4.3 Billfish Program

Beach sampling of the billfishes continued off the western coast of Ghana. Data for 1999 are yet to be submitted. These data, including catch and effort as well as length frequencies, will also be submitted to ICCAT. Table 5 shows billfish catches (MT) for 2000.

Table 1. Total landings (in MT) in 2000

<i>Gear</i>	<i>Yellowfin</i>	<i>Skipjack</i>	<i>Bigeye</i>
Baitboat	8,579	23,108	421
Purse seine	7,331	11,878	1,230

Table 2. Landings (in MT) and fleet size, 1990- 2000

<i>Year</i>	<i>Ghanaian catches</i>	<i>Flag</i>		<i>Gear</i>		<i>No. of vessels</i>	
		<i>Ghana flag</i>	<i>Foreign flag</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>PS</i>	<i>BB</i>	<i>PS</i>
1990	40,803	40,803	0	40,803	0	33	0
1991	37,794	37,794	0	37,794	0	29	0
1992	30,774	27,685	3,089	27,685	3,089	28	1
1993	36,856	36,856	0	36,856	0	25	0
1994	36,973	36,973	0	36,973	0	26	0
1995	33,905	33,905	0	33,905	0	30	0
1996	37,255	37,255	0	33,266	3,989	31	2
1997	53,625	53,625	0	38,338	15,287	28	5
1998	65,568	65,568	0	43,497	22,071	27	6
1999	83,552	83,552	0	47,196	36,357	25	8
2000	53,255	53,255	0	32,364	20,891	26	10

**Table 3.** Size ranges (in cm) of tunas in 2000

<i>Gear</i>	<i>Skipjack</i>	<i>Yellowfin</i>	<i>Bigeye</i>
Baitboat	31-66	32-73	34-71
Purse seine	31-71	30-149	33-121

**Table 4.** Mean sizes (in cm) of fish caught in 2000

<i>Gear</i>	<i>Skipjack</i>	<i>Yellowfin</i>	<i>Bigeye</i>
Baitboat	45.54	47.80	47.23
Purse seine	46.85	47.99	50.34

**Table 5.** Billfish catches (in MT) in 2000

<i>Sailfish</i>	<i>Blue Marlin</i>	<i>White marlin</i>	<i>Swordfish</i>
275.2	639	7.99	116.54

## NATIONAL REPORT OF JAPAN<sup>1,2</sup>

### 1. Fisheries Information

#### 1.1 Type of fisheries

Longline is the only tuna-fishing gear deployed by Japan at present in the Atlantic Ocean. Two other fishery types, baitboat and purse seine, stopped fishing in the Atlantic in 1984 and 1992, respectively.

#### 1.2 Statistical coverage

Logbook coverage of the Japanese longline fleet in the Atlantic has been very good (90-95%). Current coverage, which completed collation in electronic form for 2000, is estimated to be about 40%. Data processing is behind schedule due to the late arrival of logbooks and additional data verification conducted prior to the data processing. The coverage for 1999 is also lower than normal, at about 85%. The National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) has already received logbooks of more than several hundred trips from all oceans, and these are being processed so that the improved statistics for 1999 as well as for 2000 will be made available soon. Due to the low coverage, all catch statistics for 2000 will be subject to a larger revision in the future. Caution is required when readers refer to the 2000 catch figures and effort distribution, as the catch estimate for some species, for example bluefin tuna, was based not only on computerized logbooks but also on those not yet entered, while the former were compiled only from computerized data.

With regard to the implementation of conservation measures on north Atlantic swordfish, Japan instructed its fishermen to release all swordfish caught in the north Atlantic (north of 5°N) since February 2000. Since then, all the catches have been returned to the water. However, there was some confusion among the fishermen on how to report these releases. Thus, the Fishery Agency of Japan (FAJ) repeatedly requested fishermen to submit the release information in the correct format. Because of this problem, the estimation on the amount of these releases has not been completed and could not be included in this report. A provisional estimate was made available at the 2001 SCRS, and a more comprehensive estimate will be made available later.

All statistics on catch in this paper are raised so that they represent total statistics.

#### 1.3 Trends in fishing effort

The number of Japanese longliners that operated in the Atlantic in 2000 was estimated to be 220 (Table 1). This number is slightly lower than in 1999, and the lowest of the past 12 years, and corresponds to two-thirds of the highest number recorded in 1981. On the other hand, the number of fishing days in 2000 was 28,000, a decline of 8,400 days, or more than 20% as compared to 1999. The average fishing days per boat declined to 127 days/boat, the lowest since 1992.

The geographical distribution of longline fishing effort in 2000 and 1999 (Figure 1) shows that much of the fishing effort was exerted in the northeastern Atlantic, the tropical eastern Atlantic, as well as waters off South Africa.

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1. Original report in English.

2. Fisheries Agency of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100, Japan; National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5 chome, 7-1, Orido, Shimizu, Shizuoka-pref., 424-8633, Japan.

### 1.4 Catch trends

The 1999 catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes (excluding sharks) in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea by the Japanese fishery is estimated to be 36,995 MT (Table 2). This is a 3,000 MT decline or 9% from 1998 and is the lowest since 1988. It is worth noting that the total amount of fishing effort is similar to 1993 and 1995 but the total catch is only two-thirds of those years. This difference is attributable to the decline in bigeye catches (by 11,000 MT), yellowfin (by 3,000-5,000 MT) and swordfish (by 3,000-4,000 MT), as shown in Table 3. The 2000 provisional catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes is 35,797 MT, and this is nearly equal to the 1999 figure, although the total fishing effort is reduced by more than 20%.

Table 3 indicates catch by species for total Atlantic since 1980. The area breakdown of catch by species is also shown in Table 4 for the two most recent years (1999-2000). In both years, bigeye tuna, which is the most important species, accounted for about 65% of total catch of tuna and tuna-like species. In terms of weight, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna and swordfish are the next important species, in this order. The 2000 swordfish catch was reduced in the north Atlantic as all catches of this species were discarded since February 2000. In 2000, the catches by species were nearly the same except for southern bluefin tuna, swordfish and albacore from 1999. Southern bluefin tuna increased by 700 MT while swordfish and albacore catches decreased by 1,100 MT and 150 MT, respectively.

The catch by area breakdown (north-south or east-west) in Table 4 indicates there is no change in the geographical distribution of catch. The geographical distribution of fishing effort (Figure 1) appears similar to the two most recent years.

The geographical distributions of catches, by species, are shown in Figure 2 (bluefin tuna), Figure 3 (bigeye tuna), Figure 4 (swordfish) and Figure 5 (blue marlin). In general, the distributions of bigeye tuna and swordfish reflect the geographical pattern of fishing effort between 40°N and 40°S. In contrast, the catches of bluefin tuna and blue marlin are limited to north of 40°N and the inter-tropical area between 20°N and 20°S, respectively.

### 1.5 New developments or shifts in the fishery

No new development or shift in the fishery was observed between 1999 and 2000. However, it has been reported that little fishing effort was exerted in the western part of the Gulf of Guinea due to the poor fishing conditions for bigeye tuna.

Two changes, that took place five to eight years ago, were the introduction of new materials for longline gear and the extension of the bluefin fishing area towards the northeast in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. Information on the material for the main and branch lines indicates the use of nylon material is widely used and stabilized by the Japanese fleet since 1998 as shown in Table 5. The current use of nylon gear for both main and branch lines was about 75%, while the percentage of longliners that do not use nylon material on any line decreased to 11%. Since the others include unknown material, the actual use of nylon gear would be higher than this figure.

Bluefin tuna have been caught in similar areas and times in the two most recent years (Figure 2). The major fishing grounds are off Gibraltar and the Mediterranean Sea during April and May, from south of Iceland to south of Newfoundland between August and January, and these move counter-clockwise.

## 2. Research and statistics

The NRIFS is in charge of the collection and compilation of Atlantic tuna fishery data necessary for scientific research on Atlantic tuna and billfish stocks. The required statistical data were routinely reported to the ICCAT Secretariat and the results of scientific research were also presented at the regular meetings and inter-sessional workshops of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

### 2.1 Fishery data

The NRIFSF submitted almost final 1999 catch data, catch/effort, and partial size frequency data (Task I, II and biological sampling) of the longline fishery to the ICCAT Secretariat. The compilation of the same data for 2000 is in progress as usual. The preliminary 2000 catch estimates are given in this report. Provisional catch-at-size data for bluefin tuna were created for 2000.

In accordance with the Commission's recommendation on the bigeye tuna observer program adopted at the 1997 annual meeting, four observer trips on longline boats in the Atlantic were conducted during June and November in 2000, and two trips were made in 2001 in the north Atlantic. One trip is now being carried out and others are scheduled for later this year on bluefin fishing boats. The areas covered by the trips in 2000 were off Dakar (11°N-20°N, 25°W-39°W), off Iceland (50°N-61°N, 17°W-43°W), off New Foundland (49°N-52°N, 30°W-49°W), and off Grand Banks (39°N-44°N, 42°W-52°W). The summary report regarding data collection, size measurements and biological sampling on tunas and other fishes including sharks of these cruises was presented as an SCRS paper, except for the first trip, which was already reported to the 2000 SCRS (Matsumoto and Miyabe 2000).

### 2.2 Tuna biology and stock assessment

The biological and stock assessment studies carried out by the NRIFSF on Atlantic tunas and billfishes have continued.

As one of the activities of the Bigeye Year Program, which the Government of Japan is partly financing, a cruise of a high-tech research boat (*Shoyo-maru*) sent from Japan was completed in the tropical Atlantic Ocean between September 2000 and February 2001, spending 157 days in total. The major objectives were to broaden understanding on the biology of bigeye tuna aimed at improving stock assessment (such as a better estimation of age-specific natural mortality, migration pattern, food web, how the fishing process interrelates with fish behavior) and to study the behavior of small tunas around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). Five scientists from the NRIFSF and four scientists from the IRD, France, participated in this cruise. A total of 24 longline operations and 47 IKMT net tows were made. During this cruise, 564 catches of 24 species were recorded in the longline operations. The number of fish tagged and released was 165. Of these, 19 bigeye were tagged with archival tags, 6 (4 bigeye and 2 blue marlin) were tagged with pop-up tags, and 5 of these were successfully popped off. Oceanographic observations were also made (42 CTD casts and 59 XBT casts). Samples (such as gonads, otolith, tissue, etc.) and data collected on this cruise were shared and more detailed studies will be conducted by the interested scientists. A brief summary of the results was presented to the 2001 SCRS (Matsumoto *et al.*, 2001).

Regarding the Bluefin Year Program, Japan continued bluefin tagging with archival tags in Croatia, but on a reduced scale, in January 2001 in the Adriatic Sea. Sixteen (16) fish with sizes ranging between 77 cm and 95 cm (10-15 kg) were released. The procedures used in this tagging were similar to previous experiments (Yamashita and Miyabe 2000). These fish were caught by purse seine in June 2000 and reared in a pen located in Zadar, Croatia, since then. A researcher from the Japanese Marine Resources Research Center was sent to Croatia for this project. To date, 16 fish have been recovered from 1999 releases but none from 2001 releases. Data were successfully retrieved from the tags. Although these recoveries were still limited to the area around the Adriatic Sea, they did provide valuable information on detailed vertical movements, temperature preference and changes of internal body temperature. The provisional results of those recoveries were given in the same paper.

With respect to the stock boundary of north and south Atlantic swordfish, tissue samples from two additional locations were analyzed, and the results were investigated together with the past studies. They indicate that there are at least two distinct swordfish stocks in the Atlantic: one in the north higher than 20°N and the other in the south lower than 10°N, and the allele frequencies are stable within each stock through a somewhat long period (1990 to 1998 in the north and 1994 to 1999 in the south). The recent study indicates that samples collected from 8°N had the same allele frequencies as the stock in the south Atlantic. In order to assess the extent and dynamics of these stocks around 5°N, which is the line currently separating north and south stocks, it is highly recommended that intensive Atlantic-wide sample collection be carried out between 10°N and 20°N for genetic analysis.

This year, the NRIFSF participated in the following ICCAT related meetings, in addition to the regular SCRS meetings: the First Informal Meeting for the Design of an Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Statistical Model (February 6-8, Madrid), the Workshop on Environment and Recruitment (May 7-12, Madrid), the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee for Advice on the Implementation of the ICCAT Relational Database Management System (May 14-15, Madrid), the ICCAT Assessment Methods Working Group (June 11-15, Madrid), the Workshop on Bluefin Tuna Mixing (September 3-7, Madrid), and the Shark Data Preparatory Meeting (September 11-14, Dartmouth, Canada).

### 3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

#### 3.1 Catch quota and management system on the number of bigeye tuna vessels

##### 3.1.1 Reporting by radio

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) requires that all tuna vessels, except those fishing for bluefin tuna (see 3.1.2 below) in the Atlantic Ocean submit the following information every ten-day period (early-, middle- and late-period of a month) by radio or facsimile to the FAJ:

- i) Position (longitude and latitude) of each vessel in order for the FAJ to know the movement of all vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean.
- ii) Catch weight of bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue marlin, white marlin and bigeye tuna (Ministerial Order of April 2, 1975 and supplemented on December 13, 1991 for swordfish and February 20, 1998 for blue marlin and white marlin, and on July 30, 2001 for bigeye tuna).

##### 3.1.2 Reporting via VMS

About 130 Japanese longline vessels fishing for bluefin tuna in the Convention Area are required to report their catches and vessel positions in real time. The current satellite monitoring devices on-board, whose installation started in 1992, are now old and are malfunctioning on some vessels. The FAJ is in the process of renewing the system and hopes to have all the Japanese vessels in the Convention Area equipped with a new system.

##### 3.1.3 Catch quotas management

###### i) Catch quotas

The FAJ sets catch quotas for western and eastern Atlantic bluefin as well as for northern, southern Atlantic swordfish, blue marlin, white marlin and bigeye tuna, respectively, by a Ministerial Order in accordance with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

###### ii) Fishing year

The FAJ sets the "Fishing Year (August to July)" for the purpose of proper quota management for bluefin tuna, swordfish, blue marlin, white marlin and bigeye tuna. The 2000 quotas for these tunas were applied to the 2000 Fishing Year which started on August 1, 2000 and ended on July 31, 2001.

##### 3.1.4 Number of fishing vessels

The FAJ has submitted a list of all the tuna vessels fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area based on the 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Vessels Fishing for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Convention Area*. The FAJ is collecting data on the exact number of vessels actually fishing for bigeye tuna in the Convention area by means of a mandatory check in/out reporting system via radio as well as by VMS based on the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 Meters Length Overall*.

### **3.2 Minimum size limits**

In accordance with ICCAT recommendations, the FAJ prohibits the catch of undersized fish by Ministerial Order, with the exemption of a certain percentage of tolerance. The catch prohibition of undersized bluefin and yellowfin was established by a Ministerial Order on April 2, 1975, which has been amended several times to cover undersized bigeye, swordfish, etc. The latest amendment of this Order was in the spring of 1997 to implement the 1996 ICCAT recommendation on bluefin weighing less than 1.8 kg.

All Japanese pole and line vessels reluctantly ended their operations in the Convention area to observe the 1972 recommendation that prohibits any taking and landing of yellowfin tuna weighing less than 3.2 kg because of their high by-catch rate.

### **3.3 Time and area closure**

As a domestic measure, the FAJ has prohibited Japanese longline vessels from operating in the Mediterranean from June 1 to July 1 by Ministerial Order, in accordance with the 1993 ICCAT recommendation. The FAJ also prohibited Japanese longline vessels from operating in the Gulf of Mexico.

### **3.4 Result of the implementation of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) Program**

From January 1 to December 31, 2000, Japan collected 9,484 BTSDs (9,257 for fresh/chilled product and 227 for frozen product). Of these, 4,573 BTSDs, or 48% of the total, were validated by non-Contracting Parties. By product weight, 2,182 MT of the 15,458 MT (or 14% of the total) were imported from non-Contracting Parties. There were 5,004 MT of farmed tuna imported from Spain (4,335 MT) and Croatia (670 MT). There were 267 MT of re-imported tuna. Chinese Taipei is a main exporting fishing entity and it exported 1,012 MT in product weight. Japan has not imported any bluefin tuna products validated by Belize (since 1996), Honduras (since 1994) or Panama (since 1998).

## **4. Inspection schemes and activities**

### **4.1 Assignment of patrol vessels**

Since 1976, Japan has dispatched patrol vessels to the north Atlantic and the Mediterranean every year for a certain period of time to monitor and inspect Japanese tuna vessels. The FAJ dispatched two patrol vessels to the north Atlantic and the Mediterranean in 2000. These vessels also collected information on activities of non-Contracting Parties.

### **4.2 Random inspection of landings at Japanese ports**

All Japanese tuna fishing vessels that land their catches at any Japanese port must report their landing plans in advance. The FAJ randomly inspects landings of those Japanese longline vessels to enforce the minimum size limit and catch quotas.

### **4.3 Management of transshipment at foreign ports**

A permit issued by the FAJ is required for any Japanese tuna vessel to transship tuna or tuna products to reefers at foreign ports. The FAJ monitors the weight by species, the time and place of each transshipment, and conducts inspection of landings at Japanese ports when reefers return to Japanese ports.

## **5. Other activities**

### **5.1 Annual catch statistics**

Each longline vessel flying the Japanese flag and licensed to engage in tuna fisheries by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is legally required to submit a catch report to the Minister within 30 days after the end of a cruise or when the vessel has entered a port. The submission of this report is established by a



Ministerial Order of January 22, 1963. The above-mentioned catch report includes daily information on the vessel's noon position, the number and weight of the catch by species, the quantities of gear used, surface water temperature, etc. The information on the catch report submitted is examined and compiled into the database by the NRIFSF.

### *5.2 Collection of biological data collected on board longline vessels*

The information necessary for stock analyses, such as length, weight and sex of fish caught, is collected by fishermen as a voluntary measure.

### *5.3 Collection of trade data*

The Ministry of Finance collects trade data, such as quantity, value, export country, etc. of imported products. Japan improved its Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS code) in 1993 in response to the 1992 ICCAT resolution to collect all data on the various types of bluefin tuna products, e.g. fillet, meat (round, dressed, etc.) and the status of products (e.g. frozen, fresh or chilled). Japan also improved its HS code in 1997 and 1998 regarding swordfish to collect more accurate import data on this fish species.

### *5.4 Effort limitation*

The numbers of longline vessels that can operate in the western Atlantic north of 35°N and the Mediterranean in the 2000 fishing year was limited to 130 and 25, respectively. Furthermore, the FAJ requires all the longline vessels operating in the northern part of the east Atlantic Ocean to submit an advance notice of their planned operations to the FAJ, which enables the FAJ to instruct the relevant fishing vessels to shift fishing grounds, if necessary.

### *5.5 Restriction of re-flagging of vessels*

No Japanese tuna longline vessel is authorized to operate on the high seas unless the Government of Japan issues a license. This license is not issued to vessels flying flags of States other than Japan. No Japanese vessel can escape from the FAJ's control even when a vessel is conducting fishing operations in waters far distant from Japan, since a Japanese port is designated as its operation base and all the products are brought into Japan. The export and lease of Japanese longliners and purse seiners are strictly and closely controlled by the FAJ to avoid their use for operations that may diminish the effectiveness of international conservation measures. The Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association resolved that the exporting of Japanese longline vessels be prohibited. In support of this industrial initiative, the government partly financed the industry to scrap second-hand tuna longline vessels so that they do not become a source of IUU fishing vessels through export.

### *5.6 Legislation for the enhancement of the conservation and management of tuna stocks*

A new law was enacted in June, 1996, with the objective of implementing the measures necessary to enhance the conservation and management of tuna stocks and to develop international cooperation for the conservation and management of tuna stocks. This law establishes that the Government of Japan may restrict the imports of tuna and tuna products from a foreign country that is recognized by the relevant international organization not to rectify its fishermen's activities and thus is diminishing the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures adopted by the international organizations.

The objective of this law is to support and reinforce ICCAT activities, ensuring the strength of tuna resource conservation and the stability of the tuna supply.

Since November, 1999, the FAJ has implemented a mandatory reporting system, based on this law, to obtain more information on the activities of flag-of-convenience (FOC) vessels whose products enter the Japanese market. All importers and persons in charge of transport vessels are required to report detailed information on the fishing vessels that caught and transport their tuna. An up-to-date FOC list, the amount of products that entered the Japanese market, and other information are available on the FAJ Internet home page.

### ***5.7 Prohibition of import of Atlantic bluefin tuna, swordfish and bigeye tuna***

In accordance with the 1996 ICCAT recommendation, Japan prohibited the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Honduras and Belize on September 3, 1997. Japan also prohibited the import of Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea, the import of Atlantic swordfish and its products in any form from Honduras and Belize on August 1, 2000, and the import of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Equatorial Guinea on August 1, 2001, in accordance with ICCAT recommendations. The import prohibition on Atlantic bluefin tuna from Panama was lifted on April 3, 2000. Japan conducts DNA examination against other species of imported tuna from Honduras and Belize to prevent false import of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

### ***5.8 Scientific observers***

According to the 1996 ICCAT recommendation concerning bigeye and yellowfin tuna, the FAJ has dispatched scientific observers on board Japanese longline vessels. In the 2000 fishing year, the number of observers was increased to five to collect data not only on bigeye and yellowfin, but also on swordfish and other species. The results of these observations have been analyzed by the NRIFSF.

### ***5.9 Non-purchase guidance***

In accordance with the resolution calling for further actions against IUU fishing activities adopted in 1999, the FAJ has instructed importers, transporters and other concerned people to refrain from engaging in the transaction and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species caught by the IUU fishing vessels since December, 1999. In addition, to ensure the effectiveness of the 1999 IUU resolution, since April 2001, the vessels whose name and/or flags were changed but had records of IUU fishing have also been subject to administrative guidance, unless they are proved not to be engaged in IUU fishing activities any more.

### ***5.10 Scrapping of IUU vessels***

Implementing the Japan-Chinese Taipei Action Programs to eliminate IUU fishing vessels, the Government budgeted a total of about US\$28 million (32.7 billion Japanese yen) to scrap the IUU tuna longline vessels of Japanese origin. A total of 62 vessels will be scrapped by 2003. Twenty-two vessels (22) have been delivered to the Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) for scrapping by October, 2001. A total of 26 vessels will be scrapped in 2001.

### ***5.11 Establishment of OPRT***

The Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) was established in December 2000 in Tokyo, Japan. The organization consists of representatives from fishers, importers, distributors, processors and consumers. One of the main tasks of the OPRT is to compile and analyze the import data of tunas and provide them to OPRT member flag states as feedback for their verification of the reported catch data. Another OPRT task is to inform Japanese retailers and consumers of the products caught by IUU fishing vessels. For this purpose, the OPRT is studying the possible introduction of labeling to differentiate the catches of duly licensed and controlled vessels from IUU fishing vessels in the Japanese market. Representatives from the fishers of Japan and Chinese Taipei are the founding members of the OPRT.

Table 1. Annual number of Japanese tuna boats operated in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1980-2000

Year	Longline			Purse seine	Pole-and-line
	Number of boats	Fishing days (sets in 100)	Fishing days per boat	Number of boats	Number of boats
1980	300	247	82	-	12
1981	320	297	93	-	10
1982	269	307	114	1	7
1983	182	175	96	1	4
1984	212	252	119	1	2
1985	205	279	136	2	-
1986	190	208	110	2	-
1987	146	172	118	2	-
1988	183	260	142	2	-
1989	239	345	144	1	-
1990	235	359	153	1	-
1991	242	339	140	2	-
1992	248	292	118	2	-
1993	307	399	130	-	-
1994	240	380	158	-	-
1995	252	399	158	-	-
1996	288	471	164	-	-
1997	280	414	148	-	-
1998 <sup>1</sup>	251	393	157	-	-
1999 <sup>1</sup>	224	364	163	-	-
2000 <sup>2</sup>	220	280	127	-	-

1. Almost final.

2. Preliminary.

Table 2. Japanese catches (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes by type of fisheries, Atlantic and Mediterranean, 1980-2000

Year/Type of fishery	Longline (Home-based)	Purse seine	Pole-and-line	Total
1980	35,437	-	14,068	49,505
1981	37,636	-	16,178	53,814
1982	50,794	2,250	10,620	63,664
1983	25,596	2,733	5,577	33,906
1984	39,096	2,906	565	42,567
1985	48,497	5,226	-	53,723
1986	33,241	5,805	-	39,046
1987	29,300	5,171	-	34,471
1988	47,326	5,887	-	53,213
1989	58,514	4,453	-	62,967
1990	54,930	4,361	-	59,291
1991	46,883	7,516	-	54,399
1992	48,515	2,794	-	51,309
1993	52,917	-	-	52,917
1994	55,930	-	-	55,930
1995	55,161	-	-	55,161
1996	51,439	-	-	51,439
1997	39,234 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	39,234 <sup>1</sup>
1998 <sup>2</sup>	39,773	-	-	39,773
1999 <sup>2</sup>	36,995	-	-	36,995
2000 <sup>3</sup>	35,797	-	-	35,797

1. This figure includes 8 MT of bluefin tuna discards in the west Atlantic.

2. Almost final.

3. Preliminary.

**Table 3.** Catches (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes taken by the Japanese longline fishery, 1980-2000

Year	Bluefin	Southern bluefin	Albacore	Bigeye	Yellow-fin	Sword-fish	Blue marlin <sup>1</sup>	Black marlin	White marlin	Sailfish <sup>2</sup>	Spear-fish	Others	Bluefin discards	Sub-total	Sharks	Grand Total (including sharks)
1980	4,935	2,788	1,369	20,477	2,839	2,108	308		106	55		452		35,437	-	
1981	4,386	2,506	2,298	21,044	4,145	2,233	468		143	94		319		37,636	-	
1982	3,826	1,135	1,350	32,867	6,062	3,728	1,132		111	173		410		50,794	-	
1983	3,997	505	1,318	15,141	2,069	1,899	440		44	69		114		25,596	-	
1984	3,246	1,636	800	24,310	3,967	3,789	833		76	97		342		39,096	-	
1985	2,523	1,468	1,467	31,602	5,308	4,323	1,090		126	122		468		48,497	-	
1986	1,664	389	1,209	22,801	3,404	2,660	508		129	99		378		33,241	-	
1987	2,140	1,120	851	18,575	3,364	2,294	438		134	43		341		29,300	-	
1988	2,536	548	1,128	31,664	5,982	4,055	823		144	79		366	-	47,326	-	
1989	2,523	625	1,214	39,419	6,971	5,593	1,555		146	78		390	-	58,514	-	
1990	2,186	1,202	1,324	35,024	5,919	7,307	1,216		126	88		538	-	54,930	-	
1991	3,754	1,331	1,346	29,489	4,718	4,688	905		121	88		443	-	46,883	-	
1992	3,985	525	1,048	34,128	3,715	3,541	1,017		248	43		265	-	48,515	-	
1993	3,858	1,688	951	35,053	3,096	6,386	928		82	60		815	-	52,917	-	
1994	3,038	595	1,156	38,502	4,782	5,631	1,524	6	92	53	38	513	-	55,930	3,221	59,151
1995	5,171	1,444	775	35,477	5,228	4,666	1,409	1	57	54	29	850	-	55,161	2,200	57,361
1996	4,542	1,219	902	33,171	5,251	3,697	1,680	2	112	51	29	783	-	51,439	1,367	52,806
1997	3,412	301	838	26,489	3,539	2,765	1,349	1	58	36	31	415	8	39,242	1,304	40,546
1998 <sup>3</sup>	4,247	882	819	24,335	5,172	2,385	1,019	2	50	49	39	774	-	39,773	1,469	41,242
1999 <sup>3</sup>	3,436	835	998	24,183	3,794	2,042	892	0	44	28	50	693	-	36,995	1,118	38,113
2000 <sup>4</sup>	3,523	1,538	685	23,885	3,448	886 <sup>5</sup>	775	1	33	40	29	954	-	35,797	788	36,585

1. Blue marlin and black marlin were not separated until 1993.

2. Sailfish and spearfish were not separated until 1993.

3. Almost final figures.

4. Preliminary data.

5. The gross estimates of discards were presented to the 2001 SCRS and more precise estimates will be made available later.

Table 4. Area breakdown of Task I catches (MT) taken by the Japanese longline fishery. ICCAT area definition is used for tunas and billfishes. For other species, North-South, and East-West are separated at 5°N and 30°W, respectively.

1999<sup>1</sup>

<i>Species</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Medit.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bluefin tuna	365	2,690	3,055	0	381	3,436
Southern bluefin tuna	0	835	0	835	0	835
Albacore	412	586	446	882	0	998
Bigeye tuna	7,543	16,641	14,236	9,948	0	24,183
Yellowfin tuna	1,513	2,281	2,444	1,350	0	3,794
Swordfish	485	1,553	1,212	825	5	2,042
White marlin	11	33	27	17	0	44
Blue marlin	301	591	489	403	0	892
Black marlin	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sailfish	11	37	10	19	0	28
Speutfish	13	37	18	32	0	50
Skipjack tuna	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue shark	200	693	360	532	1	893
Other sharks	52	172	91	134	0	224
Other fishes	43	650	63	630	0	693
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,949</b>	<b>26,779</b>	<b>22,451</b>	<b>15,277</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>38,113</b>

1. Almost final.

2000<sup>2</sup>

<i>Species</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Medit.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bluefin tuna	492	2,895	3,387	0	136	3,523
Southern bluefin tuna	0	1,538	0	1,538	0	1,538
Albacore	328	356	358	326	0	685
Bigeye tuna	7,330	16,555	13,339	10,546	0	23,885
Yellowfin tuna	1,206	2,242	1,926	1,522	0	3,448
Swordfish	161	725	179	707	3	886
White marlin	13	20	18	15	0	33
Blue marlin	204	570	336	438	0	775
Black marlin	0	1	0	1	0	1
Sailfish	3	37	7	33	0	40
Spearfish	9	19	13	16	0	29
Skipjack tuna	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue shark	108	355	217	245	1	463
Other sharks	41	284	58	267	0	325
Other fishes	109	845	74	880	0	954
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,004</b>	<b>26,442</b>	<b>19,912</b>	<b>16,534</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>36,585</b>

2. Preliminary.

Table 5. Annual deployment rate of longline materials for the main and branch lines in the Atlantic, 1994-2000

Year	Main line	Branch line	Main and branch lines	
	Nylon	Nylon	Nylon	Others
1994	34%	41%	29%	54%
1995	61%	63%	51%	27%
1996	75%	76%	66%	16%
1997	82%	82%	75%	11%
1998 <sup>1</sup>	86%	81%	76%	10%
1999 <sup>1</sup>	87%	82%	79%	10%
2000 <sup>2</sup>	85%	80%	76%	11%

<sup>1</sup> Almost final.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary.

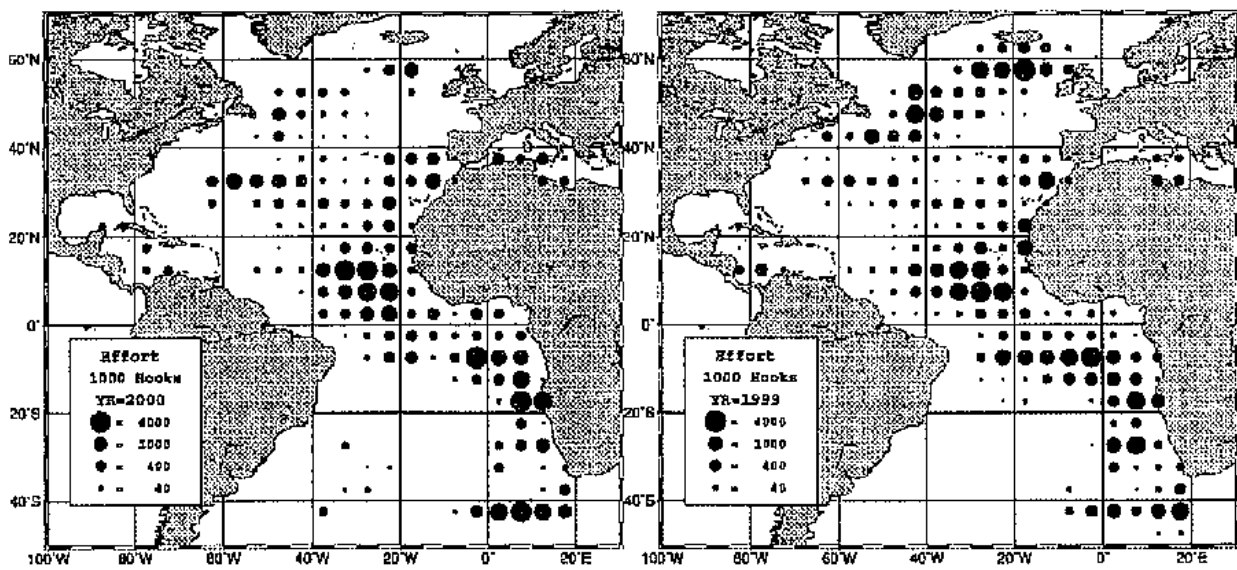


Fig. 1. Geographic distribution of longline effort (number of hooks) in the Atlantic in 2000 (left) and in 1999 (right). Coverage for 2000 is much lower than 1999, especially in the latter half of the year, so that the figure for 2000 should be viewed with caution.

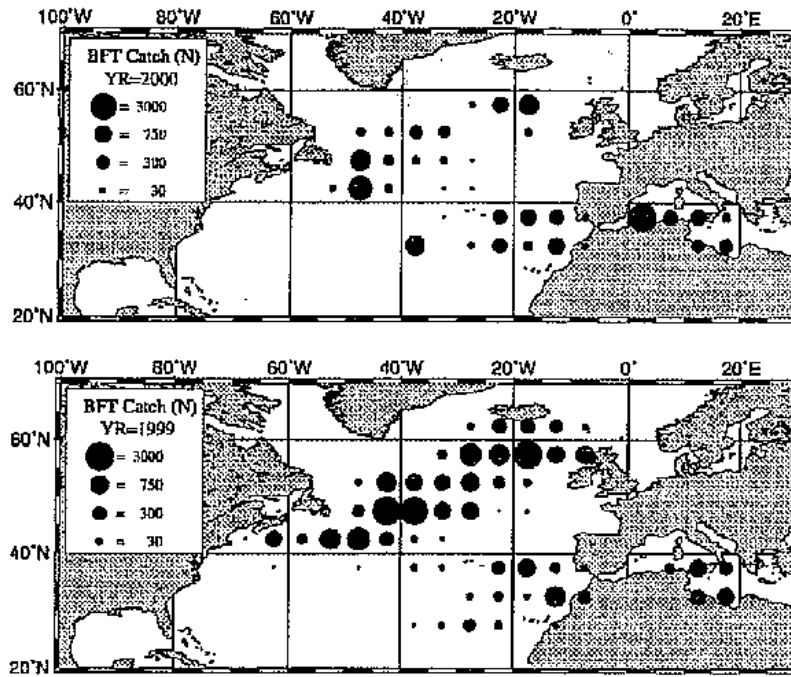


Fig. 2. Geographic distribution of the bluefin catch (in number) in the Atlantic, in 2000 (upper figure) and 1999 (lower figure). Coverage for 2000 is much lower than for 1999, especially in the latter half of the year, so that the figure for 2000 should be viewed with caution.

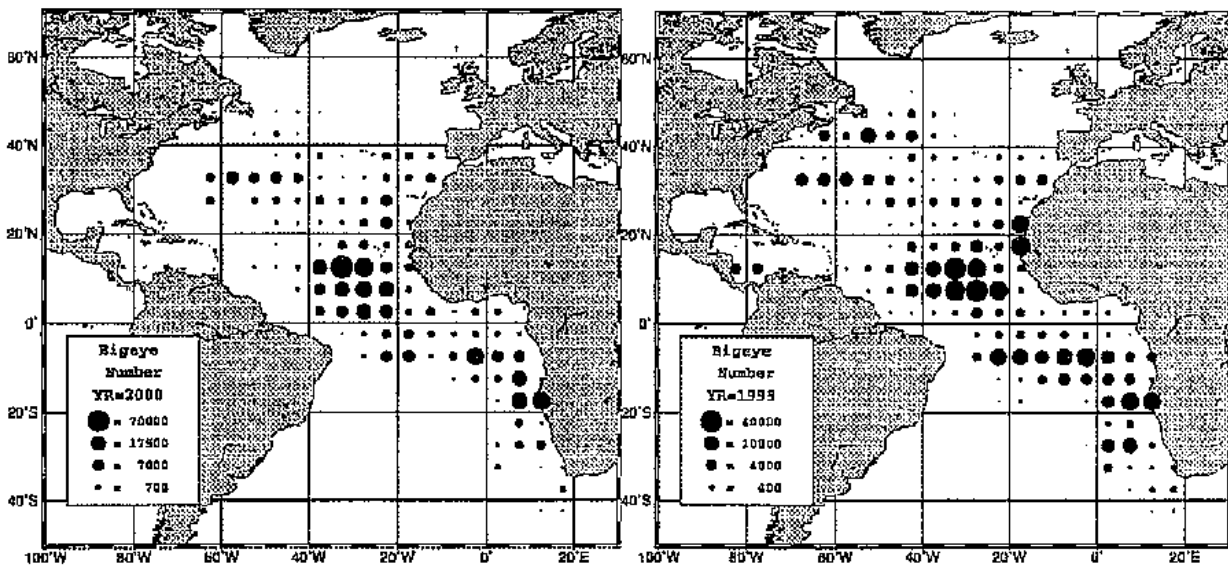


Fig. 3. Geographic distribution of the bigeye catch (in number) in the Atlantic, 2000 (left) and 1999 (right). Coverage for 2000 is much lower than for 1999, especially in the latter half of the year, so that the figure for 2000 should be viewed with caution.

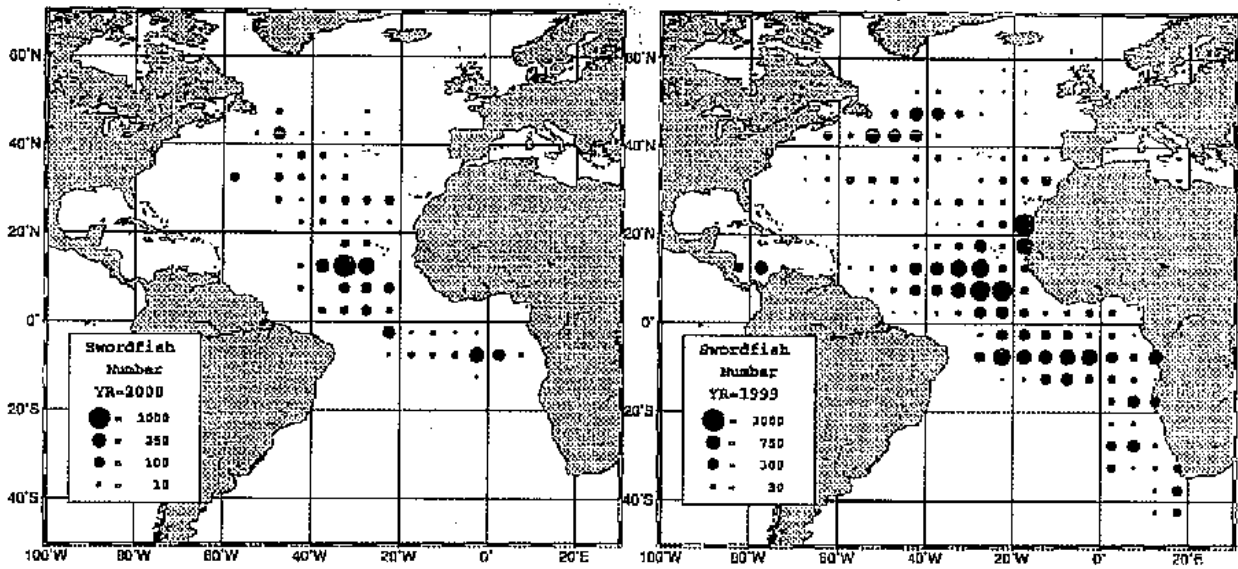


Fig. 4. Geographic distribution of the swordfish catch (in number) in the Atlantic, in 2000 (left) and 1999 (right). Coverage for 2000 is much lower than for 1999, especially in the latter half of the year, so that the figure for 2000 should be viewed with caution.

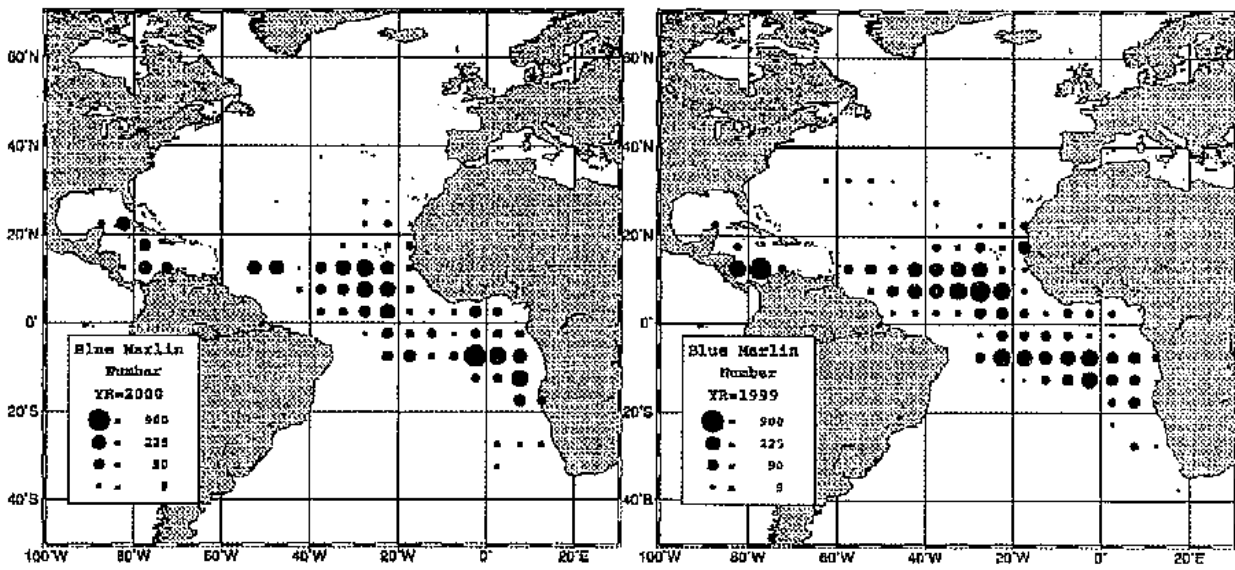


Fig. 5. Geographic distribution of the blue marlin catch (in number) in the Atlantic, in 2000 (left) and 1999 (right). Coverage for 2000 is much lower than for 1999, especially in the latter half of the year, so that the figure for 2000 should be viewed with caution.



NATIONAL REPORT OF KOREA<sup>1,2</sup>**1. Fisheries Information**

The Korean longline fishery for Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species has shown a gradual decline year after year since 1985, not only in terms of number of fishing vessels but also in terms of catches. During the 1990-2000 period, the average number of Korean tuna longliners active in the Atlantic was less than 10 each year with 1,700 MT of annual catch, corresponding to about one-tenth of the annual catch of the early 1980s. In particular, since 1998 there has been a decreasing trend in the annual catches of tuna and tuna-like fishes by the Korean fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. The decline was attributed to the decrease in the number of vessels engaged in fishing activities (Table 1). In recent years, most of the fishing operations by Korean longliners have been carried out in the eastern south Atlantic Ocean.

In 2000, the annual catch of tunas and tuna-like fishes by the Korean fishery amounted to 292 MT, representing an increase of 5.4% from the previous year's figure. While bigeye and yellowfin tuna made up the major component of the total Korean catch as in the past years, accounting for 49% and 24%, respectively, an occasional catch of southern bluefin tuna has been reported since 1997, comprising 21% of total catch.

**1.1 Bigeye tuna**

Bigeye tuna has been the most important tuna species for the Korean tuna longline fishery, in production as well as from an economic standpoint, since the beginning of the 1980s when the deep-longline fishing technique was introduced. Due to the decrease in the number of longliners, the bigeye catch has continuously decreased and has remained at less than 1,000 MT during the 1990-2000 period. The 2000 bigeye catch was 70 MT, a decrease of 39 MT from the previous year's catch.

**1.2 Yellowfin tuna**

Yellowfin tuna is the second most important target species of the Korean tuna longline fishery in the Atlantic. However, in 2000, the catch of this species amounted to 143 MT, an increase of 52.1%, as compared to 94 MT the previous year. Thus, yellowfin tuna was the dominant species in the catch composition in 2000.

**1.3 Southern bluefin tuna**

Although most of the southern bluefin tuna catch by the Korean fishery was made in the south Indian Ocean, some catch also was taken by a few longliners in the south Atlantic Ocean on a seasonal basis. The 2000 catch of this species was 62 MT, which accounts for about 21% to the total catch, and an increase of 121% as compared to 1999.

**1.4 Other tunas and billfishes**

Albacore, swordfish, and other billfish species were also caught in small quantity by the Korean longline fishery. Small quantities of skipjack tuna were caught in 2000. Nominal catches of other tunas and billfishes from the Korean tuna longline fishery are not available for the respective fish species.

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1. Original report in English.

2. National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI).

**2. Research and statistics**

Routine scientific monitoring work was carried out by National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) as in past years. This monitoring covers the collection of catch and fishing effort statistics from Korean tuna longliners in the Atlantic Ocean.

**3. Implementation of ICCAT tuna management measures**

To implement the recommendations adopted by ICCAT, Korea has introduced domestic regulations. Those include a minimum size limit for bigeye, yellowfin, bluefin tuna and swordfish. With a view towards protecting the spawning stock of northern bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea, a new domestic regulation has been in effect since 1995.

**Table 1.** Normal catch (MT) of tuna and tuna-like fishes by Korean fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean, 1980-2000

Year	# of vessels	BFT	YFT	ALB	BET	SBF	SKJ	SWO	BUM	WHM	SAI	OTH	Total
1980	54	-	5,869	1,487	8,963	-	4	683	94	18	85	1,749	18,952
1981	56	-	6,650	1,620	11,682	-	47	447	126	85	65	1,584	22,306
1982	52	-	5,872	1,889	10,615	-	21	684	50	69	52	1,781	21,033
1983	53	3	3,405	1,077	9,383	-	530	462	131	15	3	1,215	16,224
1984	51	-	2,673	1,315	8,943	-	29	406	344	62	86	927	14,785
1985	45	77	3,239	901	10,691	-	20	344	416	372	101	1,293	17,454
1986	28	(156)	1,818	694	6,084	-	11	82	96	71	16	1,093	9,965
1987	29	(1)	1,457	401	4,438	-	6	75	152	27	21	1,048	7,625
1988	29	(12)	1,368	197	4,919	-	3	123	375	19	15	782	7,801
1989	33	(45)	2,535	107	7,896	-	6	162	689	135	33	944	12,507
1990	17	(20)	808	53	2,690	-	-	101	324	81	41	240	4,338
1991	9	(229)	260	32	801	-	-	150	537	57	30	267	2,134
1992	8	(101)	219	-	866	-	-	17	38	1	1	321	1,463
1993	4	(573)	180	-	377	-	-	-	19	2	1	308	887
1994	4	684	436	-	386	-	-	-	-	91	1	27	1,625
1995	4	663	453	-	423	-	-	-	61	1	-	114	1,715
1996	16	683	381	-	1,250	-	-	26	199	37	6	156	2,738
1997	12	613	257	5	796	10	-	33	70	24	1	115	1,924
1998	5	-	65	-	163	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	290
1999	9	-	94	-	124	28	-	-	-	-	-	31	277
2000	9	-	143	-	70	62	7	-	-	-	-	10	292

(-) Estimated by ICCAT Secretariat (ICCAT Report 1994, Vol. 2)

NATIONAL REPORT OF LIBYA<sup>1</sup>*M. Y. Tawil***1. Introduction**

Bluefin tuna continue to comprise an important component of the Libyan fishery since the fishing of this species represents an ancient tradition, dating back to 1919, and is a part of the Libyan diet. There are more than six tuna factories along the western Libyan coast and most of their production is consumed locally.

Fishing activities targeting bluefin tuna were carried out using trap nets, purse seiners and longliners, and differ from one year to another, depending on several factors, such as fishing activities, weather conditions, over-fishing, etc.

**2. Description of the fisheries and data on catch and effort**

In 2000, a total catch of 44.345 MT of bluefin tuna and 4.560 MT of little tuna were reported by three trap nets, whereas a total catch of 1018.425 MT of bluefin, 7.635 MT of swordfish, and 2.852 MT of cartilaginous fish were caught by longline and one purse seiner. Of these, 486.500 MT were caught in the east Atlantic (Table 1).

**2.1 Traps**

Three traps were in operation in 2000, as follows:

**2.1.1 Zreg tuna trap**

This trap, as reported previously, is located off the western Libyan coast, east of Tripoli, between 32°26'10"N and 14°54'20". Fishing, which takes place at a depth of 36 m where the sea bottom is a mixture of sand and rock, starts with a leader net of 3.200 km from the coast and the total body length of the net is 475 m. In 2000, four net liftings were carried out (Table 2).

**2.1.2 Gazira tuna trap**

This trap is situated about 5 km east of the Zreg tuna trap, between 32°20'N and 15°09'E. The net was assembled at a water depth of 40 m. The bottom quality of the area is a mixture of sand and rock, similar to the previous trap. The leader net is 3,200 m from the coast, while the length of the body net is 480 m.

In 2000, only three net liftings were carried out (Table 3).

The total landings of fish during this year was less than in previous years due to bad weather conditions during the season as well as to extensive fishing operations carried out by purse seiners targeting bluefin tuna.

**2.1.3 Zeletin tuna trap**

This trap is located about 80 km west of the Zreg tuna trap, between 32°32'N and 14°27'E; the bottom of the area is a mixture of sand and rock.

Fishing operations are usually carried out at a depth of 38 m; the length of the leader net was 3,600 km, whereas the body of the net was 454 m.

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1. Original report in English.

In the 2000 fishing season, this trap carried out only one net lifting on 1/6/2000; the total catch was 70 bluefin tuna and the total weight was 3,276 kg.

## **2.2 Surface longline**

As indicated in the 1999 report, the Libyan fleet that uses surface longline to catch bluefin tuna consists of six fishing vessels. In 2000, these vessels were operated by a Libyan-Spanish fishing company in the same area described above. Details on the fishing operations are shown in **Table 4**.

Also during the same year, another six longline vessels were in operation in Libyan waters in joint ventures with other countries. **Table 5** shows their activities during the 2000 season.

A detailed daily catch record by an observer on board one of the Libyan longliners is presented in **Table 6**. The mean catch was 14.9 fish per day; the average weight of each fish was about 109 kg. The relation between the number of fish and the number of working days are shown in **Figure 1**; the relation between the weight of the fish and the working day is shown in **Figure 2**.

## **2.3 Purse seine**

In the 1999 report, it was noted that the Libyan fleet consisted of five fishing vessels constructed in Holland. In the 1990-1991 period, four of those vessels were sold to the private sector. Unfortunately, no reports were submitted and only one of these vessels reported its catch, which was 10.068 MT.

# **3. Biological parameters**

## **3.1 Size distribution and biometric relationship**

Most of the samples were collected from the trap nets after landing and classified according to the net lifting; length, weight and sex were recorded from each trap when possible. In addition, the collection of spines, muscle and some eggs have been recorded. All the samples were pooled together due to the short distance separating the two locations. The information obtained is as follows:

### **3.1.1 Length frequency distribution**

About 400 bluefin tuna were measured for fork length, which ranged from 115 to 270 cm (**Table 7**). The histogram (**Figure 3**) shows that the majority measured from 135 to 165 cm.

### **3.1.2 Length-weight relationship**

A total of 195 bluefin tuna samples were analyzed for length and weight (**Table 8**); the relationship  $Y = 1.3625 X - 1423$  and  $R^2 = 0.8405$  is shown in **Figure 4**.

### **3.1.3 Sex ratio**

A total of 192 bluefin tuna samples were analyzed for sex. The number of females was 97 and the number of males was 95. **Table 9** shows the percentage frequency distribution of females, while **Figure 5** shows the histogram of the distribution.

Table 1. Libyan catches (MT) in 2000

<i>Fishing method</i>	<i>Bluefin tuna</i>	<i>Atlantic black</i>		<i>Swordfish</i>	<i>Sharks</i>
		<i>skipjack</i>			
Trap	44.345	4.560		—	—
Longline	1,002.357	—		7.635	2.752
Purse seine	16.068	—		—	—
<b>Total from:</b>					
Mediterranean	1,062.770	4.560		7.635	2.852
Atlantic (PS)	486.500	—		—	—
<b>Total catch</b>	<b>1,549.270</b>	<b>4.560</b>		<b>7.635</b>	<b>2.852</b>

Table 2. Number of net liftings (by date and no. of fish caught) in the Zreg trap

<i>No. of net Lifting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of fish</i>	<i>Sex</i>		<i>Not identified</i>	<i>Weight (in kg)</i>
			<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>		
1	02/6/2000	15	1	4	11	670
2	08/6/2000	91	42	46	3	5,400
3	13/6/2000	133			133	6,650
4	21/6/2000	31	8	22	1	1,400
<b>Total</b>		<b>270</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>14,120</b>

Table 3. Number of net liftings (by date and no. of fish caught) in the Gazira trap

<i>No. of net lifting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No. of fish</i>	<i>Weight(in kg)</i>
1	03/6/2000	292	18000
2	11/6/2000	158	10068
3	27/6/2000	33	2157
<b>Total</b>		<b>483</b>	<b>30225</b>

**Table 4.** Number of longliners of the Libyan-Spanish company, working days, and total catch in 2000

<i>No. of vessels</i>	<i>No. of working days</i>	<i>BFT (in MT)</i>	<i>SWO (in MT)</i>	<i>Carti. Fish (in kg)</i>
1	24	58.681	320	450
1	16	24.366	240	
1	34	80.522	795	55
1	26	38.294	78	68
1	24	87.500	835	
1	30	54.500		
<b>Total: 6</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>343.863</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>573</b>

**Table 5.** Number of longline vessels (joint ventures with other countries), working days, and total catch in 2000

<i>No. of vessels</i>	<i>No. of working days</i>	<i>BFT (in MT)</i>	<i>SWO (in MT)</i>	<i>Carti. Fish (in kg)</i>
1	35	100.568	1,040	647
1	35	129.399	1,148	350
1	35	107.629	561	228
1	35	115.110	210	—
1	35	97.382	1,000	755
1	35	108.128	1,408	299
<b>Total: 6</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>658.216</b>	<b>5,367</b>	<b>2,279</b>

**Table 6.** Data on the activity of one Libyan longliner, by haul (information obtained by observer)

<i>No. of working days</i>	<i>No. of fish</i>	<i>Weight of fish (kg)</i>
1	26	1,895
1	34	3,725
1	40	2,064
1	10	1,629
1	4	360
1	5	840
1	8	1,318
1	18	3,166
1	17	2,898
1	10	1,429
1	4	530
1	2	75
1	16	1,510
1	18	1,802
1	11	1,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24,366</b>

**Table 7.** Length frequency distribution of bluefin tuna caught in Libyan waters in 2000

<i>Class (cm)</i>	<i>Relative frequencies</i>	<i>Class (cm)</i>	<i>Relative frequencies</i>
115	12	170	12
120	18	175	11
125	22	180	12
130	40	185	5
135	33	190	3
140	45	195	4
145	45	200	2
150	42	210	1
155	41	220	1
160	34	250	1
165	18	270	1

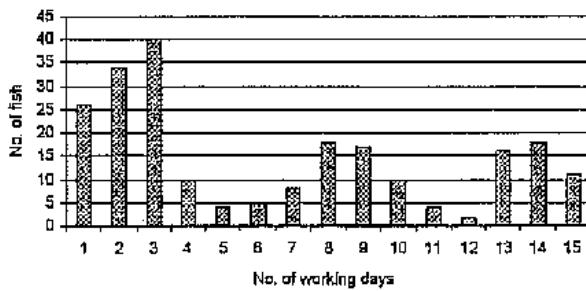
Table 8. Lengths and weights of bluefin tuna caught in Libyan waters in 2000

No.	Length cm	Weight kg	No.	Length cm	Weight kg	No.	Length cm	Weight kg
1	113	26	57	139	48	113	151	65
2	115	20	58	139	43	114	151	70
3	116	30	59	139	45	115	152	67
4	116	25	60	140	55	116	152	78
5	117	30	61	140	45	117	152	54
6	120	31	62	141	45	118	152	50
7	120	31	63	141	53	119	152	54
8	122	25	64	141	51	120	153	57
9	122	31	65	141	53	121	153	70
10	122	30	66	141	52	122	154	60
11	123	32	67	142	35	123	154	63
12	123	37	68	142	62	124	154	75
13	124	-	69	143	50	125	154	60
14	125	30	70	143	53	126	155	50
15	126	38	71	143	65	127	155	60
16	127	31	72	143	62	128	155	65
17	127	33	73	143	60	129	155	71
18	128	35	74	144	50	130	156	70
19	128	37	75	144	54	131	156	77
20	128	35	76	144	52	132	156	70
21	129	38	77	144	56	133	156	74
22	129	41	78	145	62	134	157	50
23	130	43	79	145	54	135	157	74
24	130	46	80	145	45	136	157	70
25	131	30	81	145	60	137	157	62
26	131	40	82	145	54	138	158	76
27	131	43	83	145	45	139	158	81
28	132	42	84	145	45	140	159	78
29	132	48	85	146	65	141	159	68
30	133	42	86	146	62	142	159	60
31	133	48	87	146	72	143	160	52
32	135	35	88	146	57	144	160	85
33	135	44	89	146	45	145	160	74
34	135	45	90	146	42	146	160	71
35	135	47	91	146	53	147	160	85
36	135	47	92	146	65	148	160	52
37	135	48	93	146	50	149	161	80
38	135	48	94	147	50	150	161	85
39	135	51	95	147	48	151	162	80
40	135	52	96	147	64	152	163	81
41	136	40	97	147	55	153	163	76
42	137	50	98	148	60	154	163	90
43	137	46	99	148	62	155	164	70
44	137	40	100	148	65	156	165	91
45	137	50	101	148	69	157	165	90
46	137	40	102	149	50	158	165	85
47	137	60	103	149	57	159	166	60
48	138	40	104	150	32	160	166	80
49	138	50	105	150	60	161	166	80
50	138	51	106	150	60	162	167	57
51	138	60	107	150	65	163	167	92
52	138	58	108	151	39	164	168	90
53	138	50	109	151	50	165	169	77
54	138	50	110	151	51	166	170	98
55	139	52	111	151	50	167	171	85
56	139	52	112	151	58	168	172	85
169	172	82	178	178	108	187	187	110
170	172	92	179	179	113	188	194	135
171	172	100	180	180	100	189	194	108
172	172	85	181	180	110	190	200	150
173	173	85	182	183	113	191	200	160
174	173	87	183	184	110	192	209	140
175	176	90	184	185	121	193	250	285
176	177	95	185	186	105	194	258	235
177	178	102	186	187	100	195	267	147

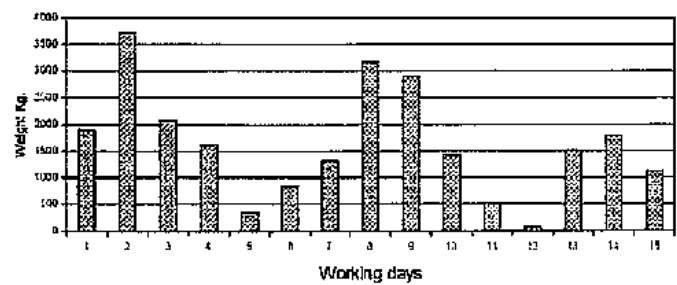


**Table 9.** Percentage of females in the size frequencies of bluefin tuna caught in Libyan waters in 2000

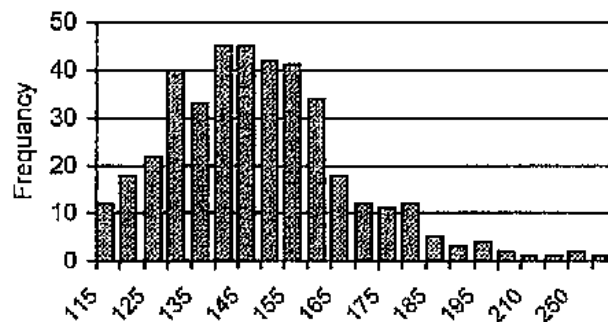
Size frequency	Total	Number of females	Number of males	% females
115	9	5	4	55.5
120	9	3	6	33.3
125	13	8	5	61.5
130	18	10	8	55.5
135	13	10	3	77.0
140	23	13	10	56.5
145	15	8	7	53.3
150	14	8	6	57.1
155	19	12	7	63.1
160	15	9	6	60.0
165	7	4	3	57.1
170	6	3	3	50.0
175	8	4	4	50.0
180	6	1	5	16.6
185	4	1	3	25.0
190	1	0	1	100.0
195	3	3	0	100.0
200	2	2	0	100.0
220	2	1	1	50.0
260	2	1	1	50.0
280	1	1	0	100.0



**Fig.1.** Relation between the number of fish and the number of working days, by one Libyan longliner in 2000.



**Fig. 2.** Relation between weight and working days by one Libyan longliner fishing bluefin tuna in 2000.



**Fig. 3.** Histogram of length frequency distribution of bluefin tuna caught in Libyan waters in 2000.

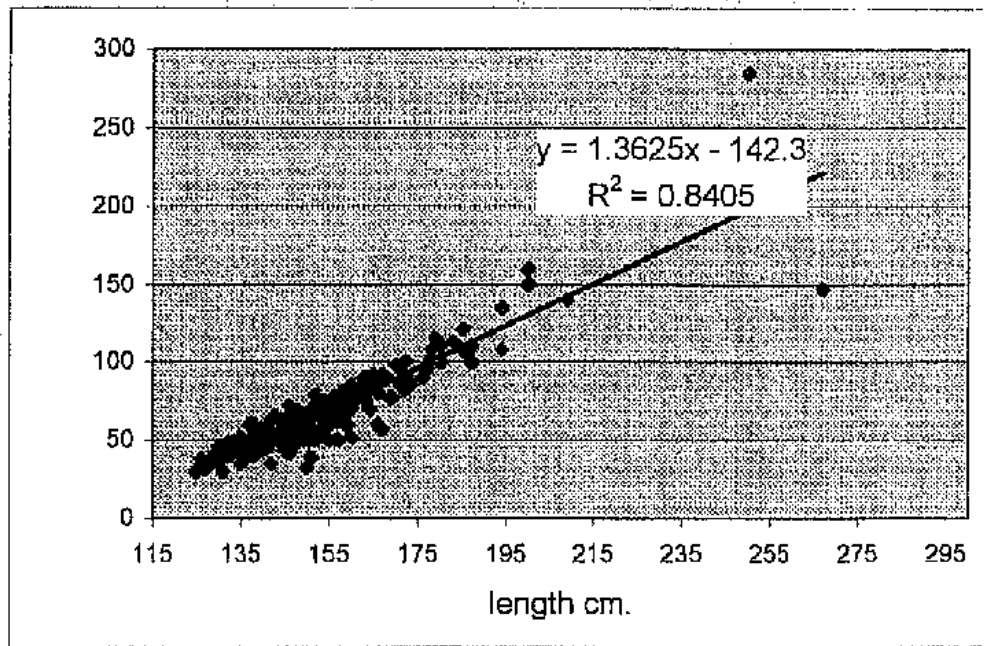


Fig. 4. Relation between length and weight of bluefin tuna caught in trap nets in Libyan waters in 2000

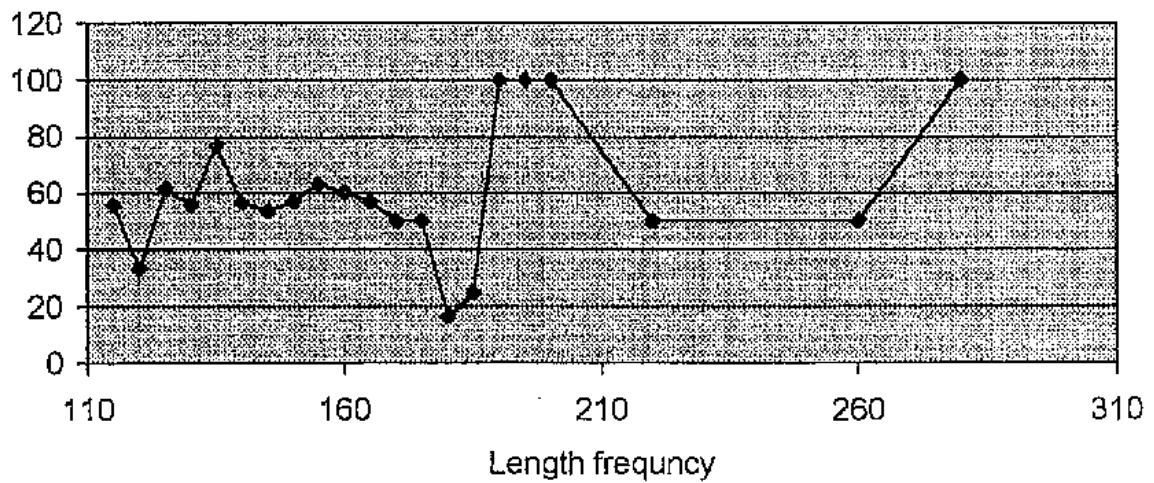


Fig. 5. Histogram showing the female percentage frequency distribution.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF MOROCCO<sup>1</sup>

*A. Fahfouhi<sup>2</sup>, T. El Ktiri<sup>2</sup>, and A. Srour<sup>3</sup>*

### I. Introduction

The fishing for tunas and tuna-like species has always been an important activity of the maritime fishing sector and occupies a place of relevant importance within the international economy sector of this sector.

In effect, due to Morocco's geographic location and its temperate climate, Moroccan waters constitute the northern limit of distribution of a significant number of tuna species and an area of obligatory passage of large tunas in their migrations between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Tuna fishing is carried out seasonally, during the two movements of the tunas along the Moroccan coasts, which take place from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean between April and June, and from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic between July and November.

### 2. Information on the fisheries

#### 2.1 Tuna catches

The major species of tunas caught by Moroccan fishers and also by the foreign vessels that fish in the Moroccan EEZ within the framework of bilateral agreements are bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, swordfish and small tunas (skipjack tuna, Atlantic bonito, and frigate tuna).

#### 2.2 Fishing areas

The bluefin and swordfish fishing areas are located in the Mediterranean. The major landing ports of these species are Tangier, El Hoceima, Nadar and Ras Kebdana.

Bigeye tuna and the small tunas (Atlantic bonito, frigate tuna and skipjack) are mostly caught off the Atlantic coast. Bluefin tuna catches by the traps were made mainly in the Atlantic.

The major landing ports are Agadir, Casablanca, Safi, Mohamedia, El-Jadida, Mehdiya and Larache.

#### 2.3 Fishing techniques

Tunas and tuna-like species are caught mainly by four fishing gears:

##### 2.3.1 Traps

This gear is mainly directed at bluefin tuna. In 2000, five traps were set in national waters: one in the Mediterranean and four in the Atlantic. This number is the same as that of 1999, which shows that fishing effort has been maintained at the same level.

The active period of the traps is between the months of April and June in the Atlantic, and from June to October in the Mediterranean.

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1. Original report in French.  
 2. A. Fahfouhi, T. El Ktiri, Ministère des Pêches Maritimes.  
 3. Institut National de Recherche Halieutique.

### *2.3.2 Hand line*

This gear is used mostly by a large community of artisanal fishers that have a fleet of about 100 artisanal vessels (less than 5 m in length, with a GRT less than 2 MT).

This fishing activity targets large size bluefin tuna. It is carried out during the entire year, with a two to three-month halt in activity (April to June).

### *2.3.3 Purse seine*

This gear is used by about 250 purse seiners that only fish tunas occasionally and as by-catch. This fishing activity is carried out essentially in the Atlantic and the species caught, mostly large tunas, have sizes and weights that are below those of fish caught by other fishing gears.

It should be noted that this fishing gear catches a large amount of by-catches, comprised mainly of small tunas.

### *2.3.4 Driftnets*

About 300 coastal vessels fish using this gear, of which 60% are based in Tangier and operate in the Mediterranean.

These vessels also fish swordfish during the migrations of these fish along the Moroccan coasts from April until November. It should also be noted that these vessels take by-catches of bluefin tuna.

## **3. Catches**

The national fishery statistics on tunas and tuna-like species are shown in the tables. During the course of this year, there were tuna and tuna-like catches amounting to 13,296 MT, i.e., a 13% increase as compared to the 1999 catches.

This increase is due to the increase in catches of small tunas (5,981 MT as compared to 4,246 MT in 1999).

In terms of weight, bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna and swordfish represent 6%, 22% and 21% of the total weight, respectively. As regards small tunas, these comprise 45% of the total weight.

### *3.1 Bluefin tuna*

In 2000, bluefin tuna catches amounted to 2,923 MT. Mediterranean catches underwent a 7% reduction as compared to the previous year, i.e. from 29% to 22%.

Trap catches contributed approximately 54% of the total catches of bluefin tuna. Purse seine catches contributed approximately 23% of the total catches of this species.

The hand line fishery contributed about 650 MT, which represents 22% of the total catch of bluefin tuna.

### *3.2 Swordfish*

This year, swordfish catches in the Mediterranean decreased by 23% with respect to the average of the 1996-1999 period, with catches of 2,708 MT.

Swordfish catches in the Atlantic amounted to 114 MT, with the total catches of this species at 2,822 MT.

Mediterranean catches comprised 96% of the total catches of swordfish in Morocco. Driftnets contribute about 90% of the national catches. Catches by other gears represent only 10% of the total catch.

### 3.3 Bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna catches underwent an increase of approximately 10% this year, as compared to the 1999 catches (from 700 to 770 MT).

This species is caught mainly by the coastal fleet that operates in the Atlantic in the Moroccan EEZ.

### 3.4 Small tunas

Catches of small tunas (including skipjack) have shown a 41% increase this year, as compared to last year, i.e. from 4,246 MT to 5,981 MT. Approximately 84% of the catches are made in the Atlantic.

Catches of these species, by gear and area, are summarized in Table 4.

### 3.5 Catches by foreign vessels

According to the reports of Japan, the catches taken in the Moroccan EEZ by Japanese vessels amount to about 100 MT. These catches were mainly bluefin and bigeye tunas.

## 4. Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

### 4.1 Minimum size limits

In accordance with the ICCAT recommendations, the Ministry of Maritime Fishing has prohibited the catch of under-sized fish through a Ministerial Decree<sup>4</sup>, which amends and supplements the Ministerial Decree of 3 October 1998, establishing the minimum commercial size of species caught in Moroccan waters.

### 4.2 Limit on fishing effort

In accordance with Circular no. 3.887 of 18 August 1992, investments in naval construction were suspended starting on that date, in order to assure compatibility between fishing effort and the stock levels.

### 4.3 Monitoring of fishing activities

The major objectives of the monitoring of fishing activities are to assure strict application of the current regulations, to sanction offenders and, at the same time, contribute to the management of the resource, supplementing the instruments already in force such as technical measures, catch and fishing effort limits.

The control encompasses the overall fishing sector and centers mainly on fishing activities, transshipment, landing, commercialization, transport and storage of the fishing products, as well as landing records and sales.

The monitoring at sea is centered on checking the characteristics of the fishing gears (control of conformity of the gear and the size of the mesh in relation to the target species and the geographic area), inspection of fishing activities (such as fishing logbooks, legality of the fishing activity in relation to the fishing season and quota), and the cargo (minimum size, quantities by species).

The statistical data collected during the controls also result in monitoring of the catch levels. Organization of the monitoring is carried out in the following manner:

#### 4.3.1 Controls at sea

These are carried out by the maritime control authorities and by members of the corps of scientific observers. The means that the controllers have at their disposal are: patrol boats, planes and satellite monitoring systems (GPS).

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4. See Secretariat note, page 423.

The control is carried out on board the vessels and at the time of catch. The notations made in the fishing logbooks are monitored, as is the observance of technical measures (size, species, gear, fishing area, and quota).

As regards the traps, it should be noted that a scientific observer is always present and his mission is to monitor the sizes, species and tonnage, and to collect biological data.

At the end of the fishing season, generally after the trap is removed from the water, the observer presents a detailed report on the trap's activity.

#### *4.3.2 Controls on land*

These are carried out by delegates from the Ministry of Maritime Fishing, delegates from the National Fisheries Office, and by representatives of the team of Scientific Observers that make up the Monitoring Commission.

These inspections are directed or random. They are carried out at the time of landing, during the transport of the product, transformation process and during commercialization.

The documents used for this control are the landings declarations, transport documents, which are also subject to verification by the authorities that control highway traffic, and the sales documents.

#### *4.4 Sighting and satellite monitoring of fishing vessels*

Within the framework of a rational management of fisheries resources and in order to assure better monitoring of the fleet activity over a wide geographic area, the Ministry of Maritime Fishing has created a structure for the use of satellite systems, GPS systems or other data transmission systems.

At the same time and in order to contribute efficiently to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) in the ICCAT Convention area, the electronic systems that are already implemented by the authorities in charge of control, will be reinforced with supplemental control mechanisms.

It should also be noted that the Ministry of Maritime Fishing oversees the National Center of Control of Fisheries.

#### *4.5 Trade data*

With regard to exports, checking has been carried out in collaboration with the services of the currency exchange office and customs, under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, to verify the reported quantities of exports.

### **5. Research activities**

The National Institute of Fisheries Research, through its Regional Center in Nador, is involved in various activities that it develops in coordination with the COPEMED project and which concern the study of the biology and exploitation of tunas, particularly in the Moroccan Mediterranean. These studies are mainly centered on swordfish and bluefin tuna (abundance indices, estimates of fishing effort, population studies, etc.).

Morocco's active participation in all the scientific and technical activities organized by ICCAT should also be noted.

Table 1. General statistics on tuna fishing (in MT)

<i>Species</i>	<i>Atlantic</i>	<i>Mediterranean</i>	<i>Atlantic+ Med</i>
Bluefin tuna	2,228	695	2,923
Bigeye tuna	770	0	770
Swordfish	114	2708	2822
Small tunas	5,003	978	5,981
Others	440	360	800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>4,696</b>	<b>13,296</b>

Table 2. Moroccan catches (in MT) of bluefin tuna, by area and by gear, 1991-2000

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000*</i>
Atl.	Trap	482	94	387	494	210	699	1,240	1,518	852	1,540
	PS	46	462	24	213	458	323	828	37	709	660
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gill	3	6	4	13	10	13	0	31	30	28
Med.	Hand	0	0	0	373	816	541	455	544	600	650
	Gill	13	4	6	16	92	30	17	18	6	6
	PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trap	912	201	73	703	127	15	63	2	30	39
Tot. Atl.		530	562	416	720	678	1,035	2,068	1,866	1,591	2,228
Tot. Med.		925	206	79	1,092	1,035	586	535	564	636	695
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,455</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>1,621</b>	<b>2,603</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>2,923</b>

\* Provisional.

**Table 3.** Catches (in MT) of swordfish, by area and by gear, 1991-2000

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Atl.	Trap	5	21	2	11	12	7	5	2	13	3
	PS	4	3	8	5	7	98	10	10	11	22
	Gill	9	4	2	13	32	322	13	179	60	51
	LL	92	41	27	7	28	35	239	0	35	38
Med.	LL	508	807	517	527	169	273	245	323	259	205
	Gill	1,186	1,883	2,068	2,109	1,518	2,461	4,653	2,905	2,979	2,503
	PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trap	12	2	4	18	9	0	2	0	0	0
Tot. Atl.		110	69	39	36	79	462	267	191	119	114
Tot. Med.		1,706	2,692	2,589	2,654	1,696	2,734	4,900	3,228	3,238	2,708
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,816</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>2,628</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>3,196</b>	<b>5,167</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>3,357</b>	<b>2,822</b>

**Table 4.** Provisional catch data (in MT) on small tunas, by area and by gear, 2000

<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Atl black skipjack (LTA)</i>	<i>Atlantic bonito (BON)</i>	<i>Skipjack (SKI)</i>	<i>Frigate tuna (FRI)</i>	<i>Plain bonito (BOP)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Atl.	Trap	0	26	0	0	0	26
	Hand	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gill	12	150	1,018	90	53	1,323
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PS	89	1,987	180	492	995	3,743
Med.	Trap	0	115	1	227	0	343
	Hand	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Gill	0	0	0	536	10	546
	LL	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PS	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tot. Atl.		12	2,163	1,198	582	1,048	5,003
Tot. Med.		89	115	1	763	10	978
<b>Total</b>		<b>101</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>5,981</b>



## NATIONAL REPORT OF NAMIBIA<sup>1</sup>

### 1. National fisheries information

The tuna fishery in Namibia consists of a surface baitboat fishery and a longline fishery, targeting albacore, bigeye tuna, and swordfish, with some minor catches of yellowfin tuna. Namibian companies have their own vessels and through charter arrangements foreign flagged vessels fished on behalf of Namibian right holders.

The Namibian Government, however, has replaced the existing fishing rights for tuna pole and line and "sashimi" longline fishing with a new fishing right called Large Pelagic Fishing. Holders of these fishing rights are now permitted to target tunas and other large pelagic species, including swordfish and other billfish, as well as large pelagic sharks.

Apart from some swordfish and bigeye tuna catches, most of the catches by Namibian licensed vessels were made within Namibia's Exclusive Economic Zone.

#### 1.1 Baitboat fishery

A total of 59 pole and line vessels were licensed by Namibia during 2000, of which only 24 were actively fishing during the season. Of these vessels, 32 were Namibian registered vessels and 27 were chartered vessels from South Africa. The baitboats landed a total of 2,631 MT, comprised of 2,240 MT of albacore, 107 MT of bigeye tuna, 17 MT of swordfish, 7 MT of yellowfin tuna, and 260 MT of other species. The baitboats are operating during the summer months with the majority of the catches being made from January to April.

Length frequency measurement continued throughout the fishing season and a total of 5,115 albacore were measured. The mean fork length of albacore measured was 81.74 cm, corresponding to a mean weight of 11.07 kg.

#### 1.2 Longline fishery

During 2000, Namibia licensed 37 longline vessels, of which 18 were South African, 16 Japanese and 3 Namibian flagged. Of these longline vessels, 24 were actively fishing during the season. The longline fleet landed a total of 1,767 MT of fish, comprised of 178 MT of albacore, 482 MT of bigeye tuna, 452 MT of swordfish, 52 MT of yellowfin tuna and 603 MT of other species, mainly sharks. The longline vessels were most actively fishing during the months of April to September.

### 2. Research and statistics

Proper recording of all catch and effort data is mandatory under Namibian laws and is applied to all vessels, regardless of flag or charter arrangement. Skippers have to record catch and effort data on log sheets after each set made. All fish have to be off-loaded at the Namibian ports where the Fisheries Inspectors collect the catch/effort data and reconcile them with the skipper's records. Except for small vessels, a very high proportion of vessels registered in Namibia (more than 80%) have observers on board collecting valuable data, including length frequencies.

The National Marine Information and Research Center in Swakopmund, resorting under the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, is responsible for large pelagic research and monitoring. No specific research projects are conducted at the moment and the research focus is on the monitoring of catches at the landing ports where length frequencies are measured.

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1. Original report in English.

### **3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures**

At the Commission meeting in Santiago de Compostela in 1998, ICCAT recommended that the four actively fishing parties of southern albacore (Brazil, Chinese Taipei, South Africa and Namibia) submit bi-monthly summaries of catches to South Africa in order to monitor the progress towards filling the ICCAT recommended TAC. Namibia has regularly provided South Africa with catch information since 1998. Namibia supports the interim arrangement and trusts that the Working Group on Allocation Criteria will finalize its work.

Namibia has informed ICCAT that its precautionary catch limit for swordfish will not exceed 2,000 MT during the year 2001, and is committed to this decision. In this regard, fishing companies were requested to submit information on their catches on a monthly basis.

### **4. Inspection scheme and activities**

Fisheries Inspectors collect log sheets and information on catch and effort from skippers when they are off-loading in Namibian ports. During off-loading, the catches are inspected and weighed and information reconciled with the skipper's records.

The Namibian fleet is well covered by observers and more than 80% of all vessels fishing for tunas have observers on board. These observers collect valuable information during the fishing trips, including length frequency measurements, and see to it that the fleet adheres to the Namibian law and regulations in place.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF RUSSIA<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Introduction

In Russia, work related to research on tunas and tuna-like species is carried out by the Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO), Kaliningrad, and the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), Moscow. These organizations collect catch and biological statistics and analyze them, provide operative fishery monitoring, and prepare the proposals and recommendations required for tuna fishing vessel operations. The statistical data of this report are presented on a yearly basis.

### 2. The fishery in 2000

A specialized tuna fishery was carried out by three mid-tonnage purse seiners (SST of the "Tibia" type). The net registered capacity of each vessel was 181 MT (101-200 class). The tuna net measuring 1,450 m in length and 196 m in depth was used as the fishing gear. In March-May, the vessels operated in the ocean areas adjacent to the Sierra Leone zone.

The total tuna catch from this ocean area amounted to 1,202 MT, including yellowfin tuna (737 MT, 61.3% of the catch), oceanic skipjack (374 MT, 31.1%), and bigeye tuna (91 MT, 7.6%) (Table 1).

The total effort of all the vessels amounted to 165 vessel fishing days. The catch-per-vessel fishing day by month was as follows: 1.5 MT in March, 3.9 MT in April, and 16.1 MT in May.

Unlike previous years, e.g. 1999, purse seiners only fished for tuna in open ocean areas. The number of seiners was reduced twice due to arrangement reasons. The proportion of yellowfin in the catches decreased from 75.3% to 61.3%, while the proportion of oceanic skipjack and bigeye tunas increased from 24.6% to 31.1% and from 0.1% to 7.6%, respectively. During the first half of 2000, no tuna catching purse seiners carried out fishing.

### 3. Research and statistics

An analysis was carried out on Russian purse seine operations in 1982-2000 in various areas of the Atlantic Ocean. Tuna catch and species composition of the catches were specified, as well as the catch per effort in the open sea and the economic zones of African coastal countries.

The data on skipjack population structure in the eastern Atlantic Ocean were processed. A total of 6.2 thousand specimens were analyzed. The analysis of tuna distribution by gonad maturity stages made it possible to distinguish two spawning areas. One is in the western Gulf of Guinea with a spawning peak in January-May, where tuna from northwestern Africa spawn. The other is in the eastern Gulf of Guinea, with a spawning peak in July-November, where tuna from southwestern Africa spawn. This distribution of spawning aggregations assumes two skipjack populations in the eastern Atlantic Ocean. These data are confirmed with the skipjack morphometric and tagging obtained earlier.

Work on the commercial and biological data base of purse seine and longline fishery objects has continued. This data base includes data on biological analyses by species, measurements and hydro-meteorologic parameters recorded on the fishery cards.

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1. Original report in English.

Work was carried out to compile a data base on abundance and species composition of whales that occurred in tuna scouting and fishing areas of purse seine and longline fishery objects. The results of visual observations carried out on more than 20 cruises in the various areas of the Atlantic Ocean during 1960-1998 were used. Associated aggregations of tunas and whales were most frequently observed in the economic zones of Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and adjacent waters. Yellowfin tuna of average length were recorded in association with dolphins, while oceanic skipjack, Atlantic black skipjack, frigate tuna and bullet tuna were associated with large whales in November-March. In the equatorial sub-area, oceanic skipjack and yellowfin tuna aggregations were associated with large Baleen whales in December-February.

Statistical data on catches and catch per effort were obtained on the basis of daily reports of fishing operations from the vessels. These data were corrected after landing.

**4. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures**

In 2000, the tuna fishery was carried out in compliance with ICCAT requirements concerning restriction on catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tunas and observance of the ban on tuna fishing with natural and artificial floating objects in the equatorial sub-area from November to January.

**5. Inspection**

In 1995-1999, observers were working on the vessels to monitor the compliance of the rules including species and size composition of the catches and catch structure. In addition, the analysis and control of daily reports on the tuna fishery, catch species and size composition was carried out by the scientific observer for the vessel group at the fishery.

In 2000, there were no observers from the scientific organization on the three purse seiners.

**Table 1.** Species composition of tuna caught by purse seiners and fishing effort in the Atlantic Ocean in 2000, by areas and fishing periods

<i>Area</i>	<i>No. of vessels</i>	<i>Fishing period</i>	<i>Effort (days at sea)</i>	<i>Catch (MT)</i>			<i>Total</i>
				<i>Yellowfin</i>	<i>Skipjack</i>	<i>Bigeye</i>	
Open sea	3	III-V	165	737	374	91	1,202

## NATIONAL REPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA<sup>1</sup>

### 1. National fisheries information

Early records (mainly from recreational shore anglers) of tuna fishing in South Africa date back to the 1950s. Commercial longlining for tunas started in the early 1960s, but ceased beyond the mid-1960s in favor of other more lucrative developing fisheries. Since the 1970s, the South African tuna fishery has essentially been a surface pole and line fishery that targets tunas (mainly albacore) in near-shore waters off the west coasts of South Africa and Namibia. There have been approximately 100-200 commercial vessels active in this fishery since 1978. In addition, numerous small sports craft (5-8m) fish for albacore and other tunas with rod and reel off the Cape Peninsula.

In the early 1990s applications to re-develop a South African longline fishery were received by the State. However, policy development regarding the allocation of fishing rights, delayed the issue of permits, and the first permit for experimental longline fishing was issued only in 1995. A commercial longline fishery for tunas and swordfish is now being developed. Thirty experimental longline permits were allocated in 1997. The number of permits was reduced to 23 in 1999, but four permit-holders successfully appealed against their removal from the fishery, thereby increasing the number of permits to 27 in 2000.

During 2000, South Africa issued permits to longline vessels from Japan (80) and Chinese-Taipei (27) to fish for tunas (and associated species) within the South African EEZ, in terms of bi-lateral fisheries agreements. South Africa receives six-monthly summarized catch returns and catch per vessel per month. However, neither validation of these returns, nor independent evaluation of catches was conducted.

### 2. Research and statistics

#### 2.1 *Albacore*

Although a logbook system to monitor line fishing vessels (including the tuna fleet) was implemented in 1985, reported catches are unreliable with substantial under-reporting in some years. Consequently dealer returns were used to monitor total catch levels, and to validate catch statistics reported to ICCAT. However, in 1998 it was shown that even with the dealer returns, the estimated annual albacore catch was lower than the Customs and Excise records of the amount of South African caught albacore exported each year for the period 1993 to 1996. Customs and Excise records are probably the most reliable estimate of annual total albacore catch because: (a) almost all of the albacore catch is exported; and (b) the amounts of fish exported are precisely known. Therefore, the estimated total tuna catch for the South African fleet reported to ICCAT from 1993 onwards, is based on Customs and Excise data (Table 1, Figure 1).

Availability of albacore in near-shore waters, which is probably influenced by environmental factors, has a strong influence on the annual albacore catches by the South African tuna fleet. The 2000 fishing season was very poor due to low availability in near-shore waters, and the estimated albacore catch for 2000 is the second lowest since 1985.

Length-frequency sampling of the South African albacore catch in 2000 proved difficult due to the poor fishing season and only 109 albacore were measured.

#### 2.2 *Swordfish*

The experimental pelagic longline fishery initiated in 1997 was intended as a tuna directed fishery, with swordfish by-catch limited to 15% per landing. However, the vessels are equipped with American mono-filament

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1. Original report in English.

gear and light sticks, and swordfish have comprised the bulk of their catch. Initially the swordfish contribution to the catch in the experimental pelagic longline fishery was high (70% or 467.8 MT dressed weight in 1997), but this was reduced to 35% (125 MT dressed weight) in 1999 by the implementation of strong measures to limit the swordfish catch. In response to the stringent limits on swordfish catches imposed by the South African authorities, some South African longline vessels moved to Namibia. Catches made by those vessels have been reported to ICCAT as Namibian catch. It is noted, however, that international import figures reflect both Namibian and South African catches for 1999 as South African. During 2000, South Africa lifted the swordfish by-catch limit and imposed a catch limit of 1,000 MT dressed weight. A total catch of 909.9 MT dressed weight of swordfish was taken during 2000.

The mean lower jaw to fork length (LJFL) of the swordfish catch taken by the South African longline fleet continued to decline, from 184.5 cm in 1998 to 176.4 cm in 1999 and 166.6 cm in 2000 (Figure 2). However, part of this marked decline in mean size could be due to changes in fishing patterns, because the mean size of fish varies with season and area, and the proportion of the catch taken per season and area varies among years. Swordfish caught in the austral summer months average larger than those caught in winter; fish for the southern grounds are larger than those from the north.

### **3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures**

#### **3.1 *Albacore***

At the 1998 Commission meeting, the four parties actively participating in the fishery for southern Atlantic albacore (Brazil, Chinese-Taipei, Namibia and South Africa), were requested to submit bimonthly summaries of catches to South Africa in order to monitor progress toward filling the ICCAT recommended TAC for southern albacore. This management measure has failed each year since its implementation because of the erratic nature of submitting catch data, and South Africa once again urges the Commission to devise an alternative management measure.

#### **3.2 *Swordfish***

South Africa was excluded from the sharing arrangement for south Atlantic swordfish and has not been granted a swordfish allocation for the ICCAT Convention area. However, as a developing nation and coastal state with swordfish in her waters, South Africa has lodged an objection to the sharing arrangement. In addition, only part of the South African EEZ falls within the ICCAT Convention area, and there is some doubt as to the origin of the swordfish within the South African EEZ. They could be part of the Indian or Atlantic stocks, or may even be a resident sub-population. South Africa has implemented a self imposed 1,000 MT catch limit for swordfish, and has a developing swordfish fishery.

An observer scheme was launched in 1998, with the first observer placed on a local longline vessel in November. The scheme has been expanded during 1999 and 2000, targeting both local and foreign longline vessels, and will be further expanded in 2001.

**Table 1:** Annual total albacore catch (MT) estimated from logbooks and dealer returns for 1985-1996, and the total nominal mass (MT) of South African caught albacore that was exported per annum 1993-2000

<i>Year</i>	<i>Dealer Returns</i>	<i>Exported</i>
1985	6,697	
1986	5,930	
1987	7,275	
1988	6,570	
1989	6,890	
1990	5,280	
1991	3,410	
1992	6,360	
1993	6,743	6,881
1994	5,268	6,931
1995	4,246	5,213
1996	2,856	5,635
1997	—	6,708
1998	—	8,412
1999	—	5,101
2000	—	3,610

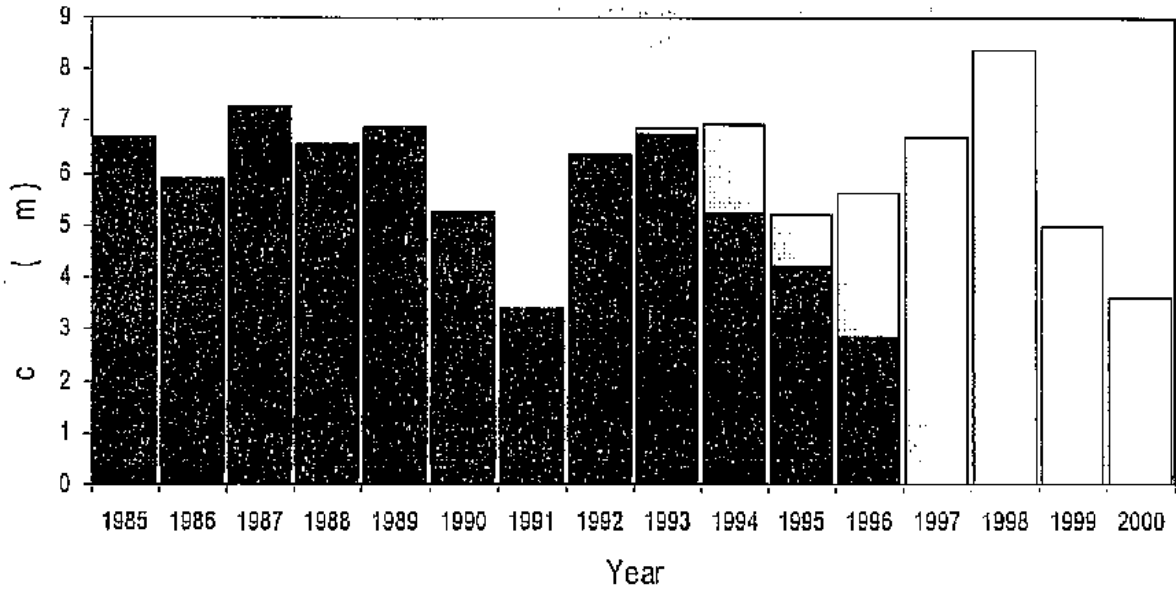


Fig. 1. South African annual albacore catches (nominal mass) in recent years estimated from logbooks and dealer returns (1985-1996, dark bars) and annual exports of South African caught albacore (1993-2000, pale bars).

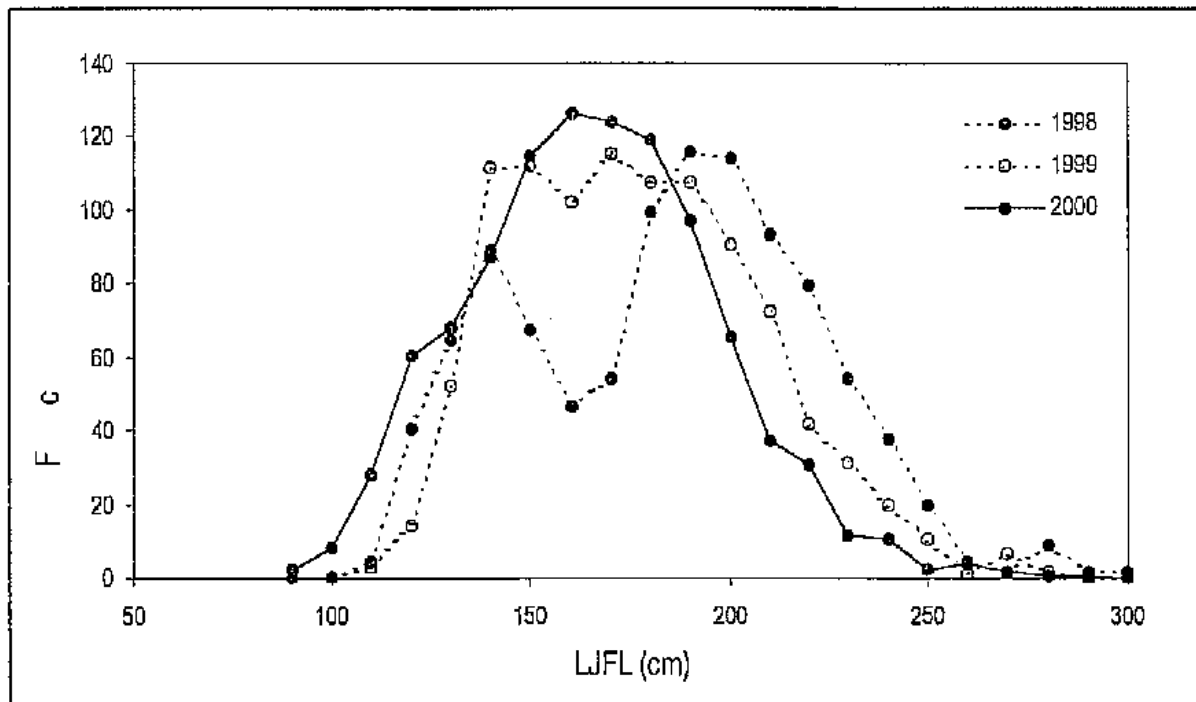


Fig 2: Length frequency distribution of the swordfish catches made by the South African pelagic longline fleet in 1998-2000. Note that these data include fish caught in the IOTC Convention area.



## NATIONAL REPORT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO<sup>1,2</sup>

### 1. National fisheries information

The semi-industrial/industrial longline, the artisanal and the recreational fleets of Trinidad harvest tuna and tuna-like species. The semi-industrial multipurpose and the artisanal fleets of Tobago also harvest these species. Table 1 contains preliminary landings and effort statistics for the fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species for the year 2000.

#### *1.1 Changes in fishing patterns, new developments in the fisheries*

Trinidad and Tobago, through the Maritime Services Division of the Ministry of Transport, established in 1987a register for vessels operating in international waters. Subsequent to this, a number of local owners of foreign flagged vessels sought to register their vessels locally. Additionally, local owners of foreign flagged vessels have sought national registration of their vessels because of problems they experienced in obtaining the "Atlantic Swordfish Certificate of Eligibility" from the flag states of their vessels, that is required to export swordfish to the United States (see section on "Implementation of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures"). Consequently, the number of locally owned and locally flagged longliners has increased; the number now stands at eight.

### 2. Research and statistics

#### *2.1 Landings and effort data*

##### *2.1.1 Artisanal fishery*

In Trinidad the existing system of landings and effort data collection targets only the artisanal fleet. Landings and effort data are recorded full-time at 17 landing sites out of 65 landing sites in Trinidad. These data are collected by Catch and Effort Data Collectors who live close to the landing sites and record information on fishing vessels daily, as the vessels return from fishing. Data collected for each vessel include: vessel registration number, times departed and returned, number of crew; gear type used, weights of species landed (may be grouped by local names); ex-vessel price per species, and area fished. Data on discards are not collected by the present system.

Catch and Effort Data Collectors record the above data for at least 20 days (selected at random) in a month. The Data Collector also records the numbers of active boats (by fishing method) on a "Boat Activity Sheet", on each day of the month. This sheet is used to determine whether or not the Collector was able to record data from all the fishing vessels on each of the days on which he/she worked, and the total number of fishing days at a particular site. The Collectors also submit these forms to the Fisheries Division.

The coast of Trinidad and Tobago is sectioned into zones based on similarities in fishing operations. Each enumerated site is assumed to be representative of artisanal fishing activity within a zone. Data collected at an enumerated site are raised to obtain estimates of landings and effort at the site for all fishing days in the month (including non-enumerated fishing days). These raised data are then used to estimate the total artisanal landings and effort for enumerated as well as non-enumerated sites in a zone. This second raising is based on results of a census of fishing vessels conducted periodically to determine the number of boats at each landing site. The most recent census was conducted in 1998.

1. Original report in English.

2. Fisheries Division, Ministry of Food Production & Marine Resources.

Landings from the recreational fishery are partly collected by this data collection system since some recreational fishermen are part-time commercial fishermen and, therefore, their vessels are registered as commercial fishing vessels.

With regard to data quality control, the data entry staff of the Statistical Unit cross check the forms submitted by the Catch and Effort Data Collectors with the notebooks also submitted by the Catch and Effort Data Collectors. In addition, data entry staff conduct trips to the beaches to clarify any queries with the Collectors and they interview the Collectors each month to establish the total number of fishing days on the beach. Finally, Catch and Effort Data Collectors are required to participate in an annual workshop with the aims of reviewing past work, sharing their experiences, updating field techniques and procedures, presenting the results of the previous year's data collection, examining problems in data collection, and discussing the implementation of solutions to address these problems.

### *2.1.2 Semi-industrial/industrial fishery*

A system is being developed to collect catch and effort data from the semi-industrial/industrial longline fishery (refer to "Implementation of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures"). With the technical assistance of ICCAT (in April 2001), in the person of Mr. Papa Kebe, Systems Analyst (refer to "Implementation of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures"), it was determined that, in the absence of a logbook system, the best available sources of data to estimate historical landings would be export data and domestic sales. Total landings for the period 1993-2000 were determined by summarizing total exports and domestic sales. This information was accessed directly from each local-owned, local-flagged vessel and from data collected by the Fisheries Division at the National Fisheries Company Limited for local-owned foreign flagged vessels. By-catch data were also collected and included in the estimates of historical landings. The data derived from the ICCAT technical assistance program represent revised historical landings for the Trinidad and Tobago longline fleet for the period 1993-2000.

In 1999, the Fisheries Division implemented a revised system for the collection of export data. The objective of the revised collection system was to quantify by species the quantity of fish and fishery product exported by local exporters. Prior to 2000, exporters were not required to include the scientific names of species exported on the licence; licences were approved for chilled fish and frozen fish. This practice was discontinued in 2000 and exporters are currently required to itemize by species (scientific name) the fish to be exported. Export data for large pelagic fish and fishery products are collected from local exporters through the mandatory submission of an "Export Return Form" which records the actual quantities and values of fish exported (total weights and values) for each export licence issued. The "Export Return Forms", accompanied by supporting documentation including customs forms, pack out sheets (which capture individual weights of fish exported), CARICOM invoices and a copy of the licence under which the fish is shipped, must be submitted to the Fisheries Division before approval for another export licence is granted.

Export licences are valid for one month and represent an estimate of the quantities and values of the fish to be exported during that period. The Fisheries Division assigns a unique identification number for each licence. In 1999, 795 export licences were issued for which 94% of the Export Return Forms were submitted to the Fisheries Division. In 2000, 700 export licences were issued for which 87% of the Export Return Forms were submitted to the Fisheries Division. The data have not been raised to account for the 6% and 13%, respectively, outstanding Export Return forms. A database was designed in Microsoft Excel that captures species weights and values exported for each licence. Weights of individual fish are collected only for species that are exported. Figures from this system will be used to verify export figures emanating from the Ministry of Integrated Planning and Development, Central Statistical Office.

In Tobago landings and effort data have been collected between 1979 and 1983, in 1988, and from 1995 to the present. There are about 32 landing sites on the island. Nine (9) sites are sampled (7 beaches, the major port and the fish market). Each beach site is sampled randomly once or twice per week while the port and fish market are sampled on each working day, i.e. five days per week. Due to financial and human resource constraints the database system has been utilized for data entry only (refer to "Updates on Mr. Kebe's recommendations" in "Implementation of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures"). Presently data from 1996-2000 have been computerized.

### 3.1.3 Biological data

During 1992 and between 1995 and 1997 length frequency, maturity, and age and growth data were collected for King mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*) and Serra Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus brasiliensis*) and some species of shark (*Carcharinus porosus*, *C. limbatus*, *Rhizoprionodon lalandii*, *Sphyrna lewini*, and *S. tudes*). The data were captured monthly for the major gears of the artisanal fishery that catch and target the two mackerel species (gillnets and pelagic handlines). Sharks are considered as by-catch. These biological data are soon to be computerized.

Currently, no length data are collected for the semi-industrial/industrial longline fishery.

### 3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

Effective June 14, 1999, United States Law (Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations Part 630) required that, all shipments of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) exported to the United States of America be accompanied by an "Atlantic Swordfish Certificate of Eligibility" issued and authorized by the Exporting Country. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago through the Fisheries Division, Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources issues Certificates of Eligibility for Atlantic swordfish caught only by Trinidad and Tobago flagged fishing vessels. It is to be noted that the majority of swordfish are exported to the United States of America and in this regard each shipment of swordfish bound for the United States is inspected to ensure compliance with the specified size limit and catch limit.

The Fisheries Division is in the process of implementing a logbook system to collect catch and effort data from the local longline fleet. The owners of local longliners reviewed the logbook form proposed by the Fisheries Division and felt that the form was too complicated for the captains to complete. The Division is currently testing a simplified version of the logbook form that will include all the data required by ICCAT. It is felt that the more complicated logbook form could be phased in after a period of trials.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the ICCAT, held in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 13 to 20, 2000, Trinidad and Tobago requested technical assistance from ICCAT to review and upgrade its data collection systems. The ICCAT technical assistance program was implemented in April 2001 when Mr. Papa Kebe, ICCAT Systems Analyst, visited the country. Mr Kebe reviewed the current data collection systems and the historical tuna catch data and made recommendations regarding human and information technology resources, domestic legislation, upgrading/improving the current data collection systems, and revision of data. Mr. Kebe's report is attached as Appendix 3 to the "Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2000-2001" contained in this volume.

#### 3.1 Updates regarding Mr. Kebe's recommendations

An officer has been assigned responsibility for the Fisheries Division's programme on large pelagic species.

Trinidad and Tobago has included data from the artisanal fishery in its National Report for 2000. Artisanal fishery data for 1995 to 2000 are being submitted to the 2001 SCRS meeting.

The catch and effort database is computerized using the UNIX version of ORACLE Relational Database Management System. The database, which currently contains only artisanal fishery data, is being expanded to include (logbook) data from the industrial fishery.

Computer equipment has not been upgraded in Tobago due to financial constraints.

With regard to the updating of legislation to facilitate compliance to ICCAT regulations, refer to "Inspection schemes and activities".

Several inputs have been derived for the model adopted to raise Tobago's artisanal fishery data. Presently, assistance is being sought for database querying from other CARICOM countries that use the same database as Tobago.

Discussions with the Trinidad and Tobago Game Fishing Association resulted in the agreement that periodic surveys of the recreational fishery would be the most effective method to capture fishery statistics.

#### 4. Inspection schemes and activities

In 2000, the Fisheries Division commissioned a study on the "Movement of fish and fish products related to fishing activities of the offshore fleets (national and foreign) using Trinidad and Tobago ports". The objective of the study is to identify, detail and analyze the transactions and processes that occur from the point of landing of fish and fish products from the offshore fishery, to the points of local sales and exit from the country. It is intended that the results will yield recommendations for the improvement of the national fisheries data collection and information systems that will enhance national compliance with international conventions and law. The study will list the authorizations, certifications and documents that accompany the transactions involved in the movement of the resource at each stage. The study will also reference all agencies involved in the process at each stage and will detail the information collected at each stage. A preliminary report has been prepared and is currently under review.

In addition, Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) have been drafted between the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources and the entities and fishing entities that engage in transshipment operations. The Memoranda address four areas for cooperation and collaboration between the parties: data collection and reporting on transshipment operations, vessel sightings and at-sea transshipments, port inspection and identification of vessels engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities, and import prohibition. Regulations are being drafted to give effect to the MOA and it is hoped that they will be completed before the end of 2001. The regulations are intended to ensure compliance and enforcement of ICCAT resolutions and recommendations and Trinidad and Tobago's port state obligations as indicated in the United Nations 1995 Agreement relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The regulations will also put the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Resources in a better position to recommend to government, ratification of international agreements and conventions (the 1995 UN Fish Stock Agreement and the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement).

#### *Appendix 1. Catch statistics for Atlantic tunas and number of Atlantic tuna fishing boats (Task 1) for the period 1993-2000*

With regard to information presented in ICCAT form 1-1 Catch Statistics for Atlantic Tunas:

- N/A = Not available.
- All recreational landings are derived from fishing tournaments only.
- All Tobago landings are derived from sample data and are unmixt.
- For the years 1994-1999, data for the semi-industrial/industrial longline fleet (Trinidad) represent the landings of locally owned-locally flagged and locally owned-foreign flagged vessels. For the years 1993 and 2000, data for this fleet represent landings of locally owned-locally flagged vessels only.

With regard to information presented in ICCAT form 1-2 Number of Atlantic Tuna Fishing Boats:

- For the years 1993-1999, the number of locally-owned, locally-flagged vessels in the category <50 GT is an estimate based on the 2000 fleet size.

**Table 1** Trinidad and Tobago preliminary landing and effort statistics for Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species in 2000

<i>Fisheries</i>		<i>Total landings (nominal), MT</i>	<i>Nominal effort (no. of vessels)</i>
Trinidad	Semi-industrial/ industrial longline	201.3	8
	Artisanal	4,452.0	1,190
	Recreational*	2.8	73
Tobago	Semi-industrial and artisanal combined**	25.0	11 semi-industrial 115 artisanal
<b>Total landings</b>		<b>4,681.1</b>	

1. Landings from the recreational fishery are derived from 3 fishing tournaments held collectively over a period of 6 days. The number of vessels is an estimate of the number of vessels that participated in the tournaments
2. Landings from Tobago are brought forward from 1999 (see Task 1 forms for 1999 and 2000) and are derived from sample data. These data are not raised.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF TUNISIA<sup>1</sup>

*Abdallah Hattour*<sup>2</sup>

### 1. Introduction

The fish that are generally grouped under the category of large pelagics are the most important species off the coast of Tunisia. They occupy an important place in the economy of Tunisia, since they constitute a preferred product on the export market. In effect, the major part of these products are exported to Japan and to some European countries. Of these products, the most important are bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and Atlantic black skipjack (*Euthynnus alletteratus*), which continue to contribute to the local industry since a large part of these fish are canned.

The gears used to catch these species are quite varied and these have undergone important improvements and have been perfected based on technological advancements.

In Tunisia, the fishing for large pelagics is carried out mainly by purse seine, longline and trap. The artisanal fishery and fishing with lights also contribute to the catches.

### 2. Information on the fisheries

The large pelagics caught by Tunisian fishermen are bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), Atlantic black skipjack (*Euthynnus alletteratus*), Atlantic bonito (*Sarda sarda*), bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*) and swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*).

#### 2.1 Fishing areas

Bluefin tuna are caught mainly by purse seiners in waters located off the northern coast of the country, up to the area bordering Libya, an area in which in recent years French and Italian fishermen have also fished during the months from April to June. Since the early 1980s, the increasing demand for bluefin tuna has affected the tuna activity of the purse seine vessels. These tuna vessels annually visit the fishing grounds which now have become traditional fishing grounds. These vessels operate in the Gulf of Gabès and close to the border of Tunisia and Libya, targeting medium-size tunas (between 25 and 70 kg), which are exclusively for export. They fish again from April until the end of July, following the movements of the spawners that takes them from the north of the country to the extreme south. A part of these catches is exported and the rest is for local consumption and for transformation. The weight of these fish ranges between 50 kg and more than 250 kg.

As regards swordfish, the major part of the effort is concentrated off the northern coast of the country. However, since 1998, this activity has extended all along the Tunisian coast, such that in 2000, more than 79% of the total catches of this species corresponded to the southeastern coast.

Small tunas are caught in all the waters that border the Tunisian coast.

The ports of Tabarka, Bizerte, Kélibia, Mahdia and Sfax comprise the major landing ports of these species.

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1. Original report in French.

2. Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM).

## 2.2 Fishing gears

### 2.2.1 Purse seine

Introduced in 1997 at the initiative of the *Office National des Pêches* (ONP), these tuna vessels have undergone a spectacular increase in number, due to important benefits. **Table 1** gives an idea of the increase in number of these vessels. The hull and a major part of the structure of these vessels are made of wood, with a total draft of 15 to 38m, a gross registered tonnage between 17.98 and 298 MT, and are equipped with 110-999 hp diesel engines.

Up to 1998, about 70 tuna purse seiners operated in waters off the coast of Tunisia (DGPA, 1998). However, that number which increased continually since 1977, started to decline due to the increasing number of vessels (small and medium size) being converted to trawlers (**Table 1**). Currently, the purse seine landings of bluefin tuna represent 97% of the national catches of this species.

### 2.2.2 Traps

There are two traps set in the north of Tunisia, specifically in the Gulf of Tunisia (Sidi Doud and Ras Lahmar), both operated by private companies.

The fishing season of these two traps is between April and the end of July. It should be noted that in the landings of the last two years, a halt has been observed in the catches of bluefin tuna at the end of May, whereas in the past, catches were made from May to June and often even up to early July. These gears target bluefin tuna and some small tunas, mainly Atlantic black skipjack. There are also by-catches of other species such as swordfish and sharks.

### 2.2.3 Hand line

Since a few years ago, trawl vessels have also been fishing using hand line, but as a supplemental activity. This activity is almost continuous throughout the year. The total catches average 50 MT.

### 2.2.4 Longline fleet

About 40 vessels currently operate in Tunisian waters (**Table 2**). The two ports known for swordfish landings are Tabarka and Bizerte. However, lately two other landing points are becoming important (Teboulba and Mahdia). The landings made at these two ports represent 40% of the national catches.

## 2.3 Catches

The estimated national catches of large pelagics amounted to 6,560 MT in 2000, a 13.6% (or 786 MT) increase as compared to 1999.

In terms of percentages, the landings of large pelagic species correspond to 7% of the national aquatic catch (95,550 MT). On the other hand, in terms of value, tunas contribute 848,000 dinars to the total aquatic resources, i.e. an increase of 7% as compared to the previous year.

### 2.3.1 Bluefin tuna

In 2000, landings of bluefin tuna reached 2,184 MT, showing a decline of 168 MT. This decrease has affected all the catches of the various gears, which are as follows: 129 MT for purse seiners, 33 MT for the traps, and 6 MT for the hand line fishery.

The monthly catches for all gears combined show that yields reached their maximum during the months of April to June each year and, incidentally, during the months of March and July. It should be noted that the national catch of bluefin tuna does not seem to have experienced important variations in the last six years (**Table 3**).

Bluefin tuna catches by purse seine are very important, and even the most important (97%) of the national catches. Trap catches, which were the major source of the catches of this species, have declined to the point that in 2000 these represented only 0.6% of the national catches (Table 4), with only 13 MT from the two traps.

### 2.3.2 *Small tunas*

In 2000, catches of small tunas amounted to 3,893 MT, showing a substantial increase of 939 MT, i.e. 26% of the total catch of small tunas. Atlantic bonito catches alone represented 39% of the catches, followed by Atlantic black skipjack with 37%. The rest of the catch is comprised of unidentified small tunas (Table 5).

These figures should be considered with reservation some intra-species confusion has been detected. Since over a year ago, the sector in charge of statistics have been informed of the importance that must be given to the differentiation of these species. Illustrated fishing logbooks have been distributed through the fishermen's association and the administration.

An important component of these catches correspond to the purse seiners, lamparas, and other coastal gears. Small tunas currently comprise 95% of the trap catches.

### 2.3.3 *Swordfish*

Swordfish fishing is increasing in importance in Tunisian waters. This fishing activity takes place all along the coast. In 1992 it was restricted to the northern coast of the country.

The increase in effort and the extension of the fishing area of the longliners, which target swordfish, have resulted in an increase in catches that, in 2000, amounted to 483 MT, which is a 15 MT increase as compared to the previous year (Table 6).

## 3. Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

In order to comply with the ICCAT recommendations, the General Directorate of Fisheries, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture and the research and professional organizations, periodically organizes informative meetings with the vessel owners, vessel captains and the regional administrators, fish vendors, etc. regarding the measures adopted by ICCAT and which affect the fishing of large pelagic species.

The purpose of these meetings is to explain all those concerned the measures relative to the activities of the sector.

In this way, for example, information is provided on the prohibition on landing undersized fish, establishing a minimum commercial size of bluefin tuna, the on purse seine closed season from July 16 to August 15, and on the prohibition of the use of spotter planes during the month of June, etc.

It goes without saying that in Tunisia there is a mechanism in place that constantly controls fishing activities and monitors the implementation of the current regulations as regards fishing gears, the geographic areas where these operate, as well as the legality of fishing relative to the authorized season. The landings are also monitored as is compliance with regulations on minimum sizes of all the aquatic resources caught

There is also a statistical data collection network that covers all the landing points, and which was created so that the competent authorities are aware of and follow the level of the catches of the species or groups of species that are under any type of restriction.

## 4. Research activities on large pelagic species

As concerns research activities, Tunisia continues to participate, through the National Institute of Marine Science and Technology (INSTM), in COPEMED research activities. The objective of this regional, cooperative



research program among some of the countries in the COPEMED area is to study the fishing, ecology and biology of bluefin tuna and swordfish to improve current knowledge on these species.

The terms of reference of these studies are as follows:

- To establish and develop a program on sampling and monitoring of the fishery for large pelagics and to collect basic data on these fisheries (catches, species composition, geographic breakdown, catch rates, effort, etc.).
- To carry out studies aimed at obtaining biological parameters such as migration, growth, spawning period, age at first sexual maturity, fecundity, etc.
- To carry out studies aimed at stock structure (analysis of sequential DNA on bluefin tuna and swordfish).

In this regard various scientific documents were presented during the ICCAT SCRS working group. The documents presented to the groups from the INSTM were as follows:

- SCRS/01/126 - Preliminary standardized catch rates for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) from the trap fishery in Tunisia - A. Hattour, J. M. Ortiz de Urbina
- SCRS/01/128 - Bluefin tuna maturity in Tunisian waters: A preliminary approach - A. Hattour, D. Macías, J. M. de la Serna
- SCRS/01/163 - La pêche de thon rouge (*Thunnus thynnus*) à la senne tournante dans les eaux tunisiennes (Préliminaire) - A. Hattour

## 5. Summary

Currently, in addition to the two traps set in the Gulf of Tunisia, about 50 tuna vessels between 18 and 50 m total length fished tunas in waters off the Tunisian coast. Approximately 40 longliners continue fishing swordfish in Tunisian waters.

In 2000, catches of tunas and tuna-like fishes (swordfish) amounted to 6,560 MT. As regards the percentages, small tunas comprised 59.3% of the total catches, i.e. 3,803 MT, whereas bluefin catches, estimated at 2,148 MT corresponded to only 33.3% of the total catches. The proportion of swordfish catches is about 7.4% of the national catch of large pelagics (i.e. 414 MT).

Purse seine landings of bluefin tuna currently correspond to 97% of the national catches of this species.

The contribution of the two Tunisian traps (located in the north of the country) to the national catches of bluefin tuna declining. In 2000, the combined catches of the two traps amounted to about 12 MT of bluefin tuna, which represents somewhat less than 0.6% of the national catches.

As concerns research, Tunisia, through the *Institut national des sciences et technologie de la mer* (INSTM), continued to participate in the research activities of COPEMED, a program whose objective is to improve knowledge on the fishery, biology and ecology of large pelagics in the Mediterranean and is co-financed by FAO/COPEMED and the INSTM.

**Table 1.** Development of the number of Tunisian tuna purse seiners, 1977-2000

Year	No. of vessels	Year	No. of vessels	Year	No. of vessels
1977	2	1985	43	1993	65
1978	3	1986	43	1994	65
1979	7	1987	37	1995	67
1980	16	1988	45	1996	66
1981	22	1989	41	1997	72
1982	37	1990	45	1998	69
1983	41	1991	55	1999	60
1984	42	1992	62	2000	45

**Table 2.** Distribution of Tunisian longliners that target sword fish

Characteristics	No. of vessels	Draft (m)	Tonnage (MT)	Horse power (hp)
Total	42	10 -16.7	7 - 20.3	45 - 115

**Table 3.** Monthly catches (MT) of bluefin tuna in the last 6 years (all gears)

Month	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
January	132	39	24	77	4	21
February	51	8	105	13	12	41
March	129	290	125	418	40	140
April	237	506	112	28	413	152
May	417	205	78	110	173	138
June	363	965	1,503	926	1,542	1,201
July	284	315	146	142	99	404
August	10	28	5	3	2	11
September	9	7	3	6	2	26
October	101	2	34	10	9	17
November	17	2	14	5	36	6
December	147	25	50	8	19	26
<b>Total annual</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>1,746</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>2,184</b>

Table 4. Bluefin tuna catches (MT), by fishing gear, 1990-2000

<i>Gear</i>	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Purse seine	114	1,073	975	1,997	2,523	1,617	2,147	1,992	1,662	2,263	2,134
Trap	249	243	175	92	169	223	154	95	35	46	13
Hand Line	43	50	45	43	81	57	92	113	48	43	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>1,745</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>2,184</b>

Table 5. National catches (MT) of small tunas

<i>Species</i>	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<i>Euthynnus all.</i>	2,113	1,343	664	242	204	696	824	333	1,113	752	1,453
<i>Sarda</i>	488	305	643	792	305	413	560	611	855	1,350	1,528
<i>Auxis</i>	985	985	35	20	13	14	13	26	87	38	7
Unidentified			20	309	105	115	215	657	6	814	905
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,586</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>2,954</b>	<b>3,893</b>

Table 6. National catches of swordfish, 1990-2000

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Swordfish	176	181	178	354	298	378	352	346	414	468	483

**NATIONAL REPORT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM  
(ON BEHALF OF ITS OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)<sup>1</sup>**

The United Kingdom represents five Overseas Territories at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. These are: Anguilla, Bermuda, the Falkland Islands, St. Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

There was no fishing for ICCAT species conducted in the Anguilla zone during the year 2000.

The Bermuda commercial fishing fleet for tuna and tuna-like species consisted of 199 vessels in 2000 with approximately one-third of these vessels actively fishing for tuna and tuna-like species. All Bermuda-based longliners are equipped with an Andronics satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS). In 2000, the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species by Bermuda was 109 metric tonnes.

Although there is a requirement that all vessels fishing in the Falklands Islands zone be licensed, at present there is no commercial exploitation of any species under an ICCAT management regime. A by-catch of 1 MT of slender tuna (*Allothunnus falli*) was reported during 2000.

During 2000, the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species by St. Helena was just in excess of 266 MT. There were no catches of yellowfin or bigeye tuna less than the minimum weight of 3.2 kg.

Bermuda is actively involved in the ICCAT Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research and continues to engage in a number of regional research programmes directed at pelagic species.

In 2001, Bermuda was involved on the steering committee to organise and collect the findings of the joint project to investigate the presence of bluefin tuna in the Central North Atlantic area. The progress from the steering committee and initial findings are reported in document SCRS/01/31 (revised).

Bermuda fisheries scientists act as observers on selected fishing trips. Apart from ensuring compliance with management measures, they also collect scientific data on billfish and other species. The Falkland Islands also has provisions to place observers on vessels fishing for ICCAT species. In Bermuda, recreational fishing for tuna and tuna-like species is also monitored and it should be noted that such fishing is in compliance with all ICCAT recommendations.

In accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation, Bermuda introduced new regulations in 2001 which set minimum sizes of retention for blue marlin and white marlin.

It should be noted that there are no canning facilities in any of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories that are party to ICCAT.

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1. Original report in English.

NATIONAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>**1. National fisheries information**

The total (preliminary) reported U.S. catch of tuna and tuna-like fishes (including swordfish, but excluding other billfishes) in 2000 was 24,202 MT, a decrease of about 13% from 27,770 MT in 1999. The estimated swordfish catch (including estimated dead discards) decreased 83 MT to 3,481 MT, and provisional landings from the U.S. fishery for yellowfin in the Gulf of Mexico decreased in 2000 to 2,214 from 2,899 in 1999. The estimated 2000 Gulf of Mexico landings of yellowfin tuna accounted for about 31% of the estimated total U.S. yellowfin landings in 2000. U.S. vessels fishing in the northwest Atlantic landed an estimated 1,212 MT of bluefin, a decrease of 2 MT compared to 1999. Provisional skipjack landings decreased by 108 MT to 44 MT from 1999 to 2000, estimated bigeye landings decreased by 688 MT compared to 1999 to an estimated 574 MT in 2000, and estimated albacore landings increased from 1999 to 2000 by 90 MT to 407 MT.

**2. Statistics and research**

In addition to monitoring landings and size of swordfish, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, billfish, and other large pelagic species through continued port and tournament sampling, logbook and dealer reporting procedures, and scientific observer sampling of the U.S. fleet, major research activities in 2000 and 2001 focused on several items. Research on development of methodologies to determine the genetic discreteness of large pelagic fishes in the Atlantic was continued as were larval surveys for bluefin tuna and other large pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico. Research on development of robust estimation techniques for population analyses and on approaches for characterization of uncertainty in assessments and methods for translating that uncertainty into risk levels associated with alternative management approaches was further conducted. U.S. scientists also continued to coordinate efforts for the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish and for the Bluefin Year Program. Participants in the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Cooperative Tagging Center (CTC) and the Billfish Foundation tagging program tagged and released 9,149 billfishes (swordfish, marlins, sailfish, and spearfish) and 850 tunas in 2000. This represents an increase of 7% from 1999 levels for billfish, and a 13% decrease for tunas. Electronic tagging studies of bluefin tuna and of marlins were substantially enhanced. Cooperative research was conducted with scientists from other nations on development of assessment methodologies, on biological investigations and on development of indices of abundance for species of concern to ICCAT.

**2.1 Fisheries statistics****2.1.1 Tropical tuna fishery statistics**

*Yellowfin tuna.* Yellowfin is the principal species of tropical tuna landed by U.S. fisheries in the western north Atlantic. Total estimated landings decreased to 7,051 MT in 2000, from the 1999 landings estimate of 7,569 MT (Appendix Table 2.1-YFT)<sup>3</sup>. The 2000 estimate is considered provisional and may change owing to incorporation of late reports of commercial catches as they become available and to possible revisions in estimates of rod and reel catches made by recreational anglers. A high proportion of the landings were due to estimated rod and reel catches of recreational anglers in the northwestern Atlantic (3,809 MT). Estimates of U.S. recreational harvests for tuna and tuna-like species continue to be reviewed and this may result in the need to report additional revisions to the available estimates in the future. Nominal catch rate information from logbook reports (longline catch per 1000 hooks) for yellowfin by general fishing areas is shown in Appendix Figure 2.1-YFT.

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1. Original report in English.

2. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA-Fisheries

3. See Secretariat note, page. 423.

*Skipjack tuna.* Skipjack tuna also are caught by U.S. vessels in the western North Atlantic. Total reported skipjack landings (preliminary) decreased from 152 MT in 1999 to 44 MT in 2000 (Appendix Table 2.1-SKJ). The largest decrease in catch was off the U.S. east coast (NW Atlantic) between Cape Hatteras and Long Island. Estimates of recreational harvests of skipjack continue to be reviewed and could be revised again in the future. Appendix Figure 2.1-SKJ presents nominal catch rate information (longline catch per 1,000 hooks) based on fishing logbook reports.

*Bigeye tuna.* The other large tropical tuna reported in catches by U.S. vessels in the western North Atlantic is bigeye tuna. The majority of U.S. landings of this species comes from longline vessels fishing off the east coast of the U.S. in the area from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Massachusetts. These landings accounted for 58% of the U.S. bigeye catch in 2000. Total reported catches and landings (preliminary) for 2000 decreased by 55% from 1262 MT in 1999 to 574 MT. Note that like yellowfin, the estimates of rod and reel catch are considered provisional and may be revised based on results of a future review of recreational harvest estimates. Appendix Figure 2.1-BET presents nominal catch rate information (longline catch per 1,000 hooks) based on fishing logbook reports.

### 2.1.2 Temperate tuna fishery statistics

*Bluefin tuna.* The U.S. bluefin fishery continues to be regulated by quotas, seasons, gear restrictions, limits on catches per trip, and size limits. To varying degrees, these regulations are designed to restrict total U.S. landings and to conform to ICCAT recommendations. U.S. vessels fishing in the northwest Atlantic (including the Gulf of Mexico) in 2000 landed an estimated 1,212 MT of bluefin tuna (see Table 2.2-BFT). Those estimated landings represent a decrease of 2 MT from the 1999 landings. The 2000 landings by gear were: 275 MT by purse seine, 184 MT by harpoon, 3 MT by handline, 66 MT by longline (of which 43 MT were from the Gulf of Mexico), 683 MT by rod and reel (of which, 50 MT was the preliminary estimate for bluefin less than 145 cm SFL from off the northeastern U.S.), and less than 1 MT was taken by other gears.

In response to 1992 regulations limiting the allowable catch of small fish by U.S. fishermen, in conformity with ICCAT agreements, enhanced monitoring of the rod and reel fishery was implemented in 1993 for the purpose of providing near real-time advice on catch levels by this fishery. This monitoring activity has continued and has included estimation of catches by finer size categories than reported above. The preliminary estimates for the 2000 rod and reel fishery off the northeastern U.S. (including the North Carolina winter fishery) for landings in several size categories were 1,028 fish <115 cm (of which 76 fish, less than 0.4 MT, were <66 cm), 742 fish 115-144 cm and 741 fish 145-177 cm (an estimated 17, 33, and 53 MT, respectively). Note that additional rod and reel landings of bluefin >177 cm SFL, monitored through a sales reporting system, are included in Table 2.2-BFT.

In 1996, a program was instituted to monitor the catch, catch rates, and landings from the bluefin fishery that developed off the coast of North Carolina. This component of the 2000 rod and reel fishery landings (included in the totals reported above) was estimated to be about 6 MT of fish <145 cm, about 27 MT of fish 145-177cm, and about 23 MT of fish >177 cm. Unlike January and February of 1998, when catches mainly occurred off southern North Carolina, catches occurred throughout the North Carolina fishery area in 2000.

Logbook tallies of dead discarded bluefin for year 2000, amount to 67 MT. Other estimates of this tonnage based on observer data are provided in Appendix Table 2.2a.BFT. As indicated in our year 2000 National report, the United States sought scientific review of the methods applied for estimating dead discarded catch of bluefin in 2001. This review took place in a 2-stage fashion. In the first stage of the review, three independent scientists contracted through the University of Miami's Center for Independent Experts (CIE) were asked to comment on the approaches used to estimate marine turtle and other species by-catches (the methods used for turtles and bluefin tuna were the same) as part of a broader review of marine turtle stock assessment. None of these reviewers provided recommendations for improvement in the by-catch estimation methods applied. Because this review was judged to be too broad for detailed comments and recommendations for improvements on the methodological approach, a second, and more focused review was sought from an additional 2 independent scientists, again through the CIE. These review comments were received in mid-September, 2001, and as such, have not yet been implemented into estimation of bluefin (and other species) dead discarded catch. A number of recommendations for evaluation of the sensitivity of the estimates to alternative assumptions and for further modeling approach were made and executive summaries of these reviews are provided in the Appendix. A reviewer recommended continuation of the use of logbook tallies for monitoring U.S. compliance with the negotiated dead discard allowance for the west Atlantic

bluefin tuna recovery plan until the technical recommendations for improvements in the statistical methods for estimating discards were incorporated.

*Albacore.* Albacore are landed by U.S. vessels; however, historically, albacore has not been a main focus of the U.S. commercial tuna fisheries operating in the North Atlantic. Reported commercial catches were relatively low prior to 1986; however, these catches increased substantially and have remained at higher levels throughout the 1990s, with nearly all of the production coming from the northeastern U.S. coast. Caribbean landings increased in 1995 to make up over 14% of the total, but U.S. landings from the Caribbean have remained below 4% of the total each year during 1996-2000. Nominal catch rate information from U.S. longline logbook reports are shown in Appendix Figure 2.2-ALB. Estimated total catches of albacore were 407 MT in 2000, an increase of 90 MT from 1999 which was primarily due to an increase in estimated rod and reel catches from 90 MT in 1999 to 251 MT in 2000 (Appendix Table 2.2-ALB).

### 2.1.3 Swordfish fishery statistics

For 2000, the provisional estimate of U.S. vessel landings and dead discards of swordfish was 3,497 MT (Appendix Table 2.3-SWO). This estimate is 2% lower than the estimate of 3,585 MT for 1999. The provisional landings, excluding discard estimates, by ICCAT area for 2000 (compared to 1999) were: 503 MT (539 MT) from the Gulf of Mexico (Area 91); 1,278 MT (1490MT) from the northwest Atlantic (Area 92); 330 MT (252 MT) from the Caribbean Sea (Area 93); and 752 MT (605 MT) from the North Central Atlantic (Area 94A), and 142 MT (179 MT) from the SW Atlantic (Area 96).

U.S. swordfish landings are monitored in-season from reports submitted by dealers, vessel owners and captains, NMFS port agents, and mandatory daily logbook reports submitted by U.S. vessels permitted to fish for swordfish. This fishery is also being monitored via a scientific observer sampling program, instituted in 1992. Approximately 5% of the longline fleet-wide fishing effort is randomly selected for observation during the fishing year. The observer sampling data, in combination with logbook reported effort levels, support estimates of approximately 36,902 fish discarded dead in 2000, representing an estimated 492 MT of swordfish. This reflects a decrease of 7 MT in estimated discarded swordfish from the 1999 level.

The total weight of swordfish sampled for sizing U.S. landings by longline, harpoon, otter trawl, and handline was 2,940 MT, 0.6 MT, 9 MT, and 4 MT in 2000. The weight of sampled swordfish landings in 2000 were 99%, 100%, 85%, and 44% of the U.S. total reported annual landings of swordfish for longline, harpoon, otter trawl, and handline. Again, incorporation of late reports into the estimated 2000 landings figure will likely result in changes in the sampled fraction of the catch. Recent estimates of rod and reel landings of swordfish based on statistical surveys of recreational anglers, range from about 5-21 MT per year for the period 1996-2000.

### 2.1.4 Marlins and sailfish fishery statistics

Blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish are landed by U.S. recreational rod and reel fishermen and are a by-catch of the U.S. commercial tuna and swordfish longline fisheries. The U.S. Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Billfishes was implemented in October, 1988. The Plan allows billfish that are caught by recreational gear (rod and reel) to be landed only if the fish is larger than the minimum size specified for each species covered by the Plan. Recreational landings of each billfish species are estimated using: (a) the SEFSC Recreational Billfish Survey which provides the number of billfish caught during tournaments held along the southeastern U.S. coast (south of 35°N latitude), in the Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean Sea regions (i.e., U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico); and (b) the Large Pelagics Recreational Survey conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service which provides estimates of recreational billfish harvest from waters along the northeastern U.S. (north of 35°N latitude). Estimates of landed recreational catch of these species by non-tournament fishers are not well estimated and for this reason, the landings reported for recreational rod and reel fishers are thought to be conservative. It is not yet known to what degree or for which species estimates of rod and reel landed catch should be adjusted to account for this feature, although studies are underway which could help to resolve this question.

In addition to restrictions on U.S. recreational harvest, the Management Plan also imposed regulations on commercial fisheries by prohibiting retention and sale of the three species at U.S. ports. For this reason, no U.S. commercial landings were reported for any of the three Atlantic species. However, estimates of by-catch mortality

in the U.S. longline fleet are made using the data from mandatory pelagic logbooks and scientific observer data collected on this fleet. The procedure for estimating the historical by-catch of blue marlin, white marlin, and sailfish was detailed in SCRS/96/97-Revised. This procedure was implemented for estimating by-catch mortalities from the U.S. longline fleet. Revisions to historical landings of billfish previously reported to ICCAT were based on review of the estimates conducted at the 1996 ICCAT Billfish Workshop held in Miami.

The preliminary estimates of 2000 U.S. recreational catches for these billfish species, combining the geographical areas of the Gulf of Mexico (Area 91), the northwestern Atlantic Ocean west of the 60°W longitude (Area 92), and the Caribbean Sea (Area 93) are: 24.1 MT for blue marlin, 0.2 MT for white marlin, and 2.0 MT for sailfish. The estimates for 1999 were 36.9 MT, 1.6 MT, and 0.7 MT, respectively, for the three species. The estimates of the U.S. recreational catch (landings) do not include any estimates of mortality of released (or tagged and released) fish. Additionally, these landings include survey estimates of non-tournament billfish mortality and survey estimates from tournaments, but do not constitute a census of all tournaments. Because some components of the charter boat and non-tournament recreational fishery are not surveyed, the recreational catches are considered minimum estimates. Therefore, the rod and reel landings presented in Appendix Table 2.4-BIL include a '?' to represent the unknown quantities of recreational catch of billfish not recorded.

Estimates of the billfish by-catch discarded dead in the U.S. commercial longline and other commercial fisheries for 2000 were 59.6 MT for blue marlin, 40.8 MT for white marlin, and 45.2 MT for sailfish. The estimated 1999 U.S. discarded dead by-catch was 82.0 MT, 56.7 MT, and 71.6 MT, respectively for the three species. The catches and landings (MT) by species, area, and gear, for 1998-2000 are presented in Appendix Table 2.4-BIL.

Information from a statistical survey (Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey, MRFSS) of the US recreational harvesting sector conducted over the US northeast and southeast coasts, continues to be under evaluation for its application to estimating billfish catches by recreational fishers. Preliminary results for marlins were presented at the 2000 SCRS meeting in SCRS/00/52. Although billfish are considered "rare event" species in this survey and accordingly the estimates may suffer from bias and imprecision, they do provide a possible basis for evaluating the potential degree of conservatism in the values reported in Appendix Table 2.4-BIL for recreational (rod and reel) harvest. These estimates were predictably higher than the previous RBS estimate due to more complete coverage of the recreational fishery for billfish by the MRFSS. For sailfish, the MRFSS based estimates of tonnage landed are considerably higher than counted through the RBS, expectedly so since the tournaments monitored by the RBS are known to represent only a fraction of the recreational fleet that catches sailfish. That the rare event nature of sailfish catch compared to other species catches could lead to some bias in estimates cannot be ruled out. However, for the purposes of assessment of sailfish, it is recommended that sensitivity of the assessment to use of the MRFSS-based estimates of sailfish harvested be evaluated. Appendix Table 2.4 SAI provides a time-series of estimates of fish landed and released from this statistical survey.

### *2.1.5 Mackerels fishery statistics*

Significant catches of king and Spanish mackerels by U.S. fishermen have occurred since the 1850s for Spanish mackerel and since the 1880s for king mackerel. The major gears currently exploiting these species are handlines and gillnets. Purse seines were also used to harvest king mackerel during the 1980s. Gillnets have historically been the main commercial gear for Spanish mackerel however in recent years, recreational removals have become an important component in total catches for both species. The majority of king mackerel catches are taken off North Carolina and Florida and it is believed that a major production area off Louisiana, is recovering. The primary Spanish mackerel catch areas include the Chesapeake Bay and Florida. Current fisheries are co-managed under the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources FMP enacted in 1983 and regulations adopted by the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and implemented by NMFS. Annual catches are monitored closely by NMFS and within season management measures include commercial trip limits, size limits, seasonal and area quotas, and recreational per person daily bag limits. Because these species occur in both federal and state territorial zones of U.S. successful management has required participation by both federal and state management agencies. At present, none of the king or Spanish mackerel stocks are any longer considered over-fished.

Annual yields of king mackerel have ranged from 4,365 MT to 8,772 MT between 1983 and 2000 with an average production of about 7,000 MT since 1995. Annual catches of Spanish mackerel have ranged from 2,784 MT to 5,957 MT from 1983 to 2000 with the average catch of about 4,500 MT since 1995. Harvest of both species



has stabilized in recent years although large fluctuations in estimates of recreational catches in some years have occurred and overages in commercial landings and recreational quotas can occur. The stabilization in yields is thought to be the direct impact of regulations which have been implemented in an effort to sustain future production. The primary management factors contributing to fluctuations in annual recreational harvests include difficulties of enforcement of differential bag limits imposed in individual states, large inter-annual variances in recreational harvest estimates, and regulations that permit the sale of king mackerel from recreational charter boats after the closure of commercial fisheries. Critical research concerns regarding mackerels are sampling concerns related to adequate coverage of the age structure of the stocks and increasing the precision associated with the mackerel assessment abundance indices.

### *2.1.6 Shark fishery statistics*

The U.S. Atlantic shark fishery is primarily a southeastern fishery extending from Virginia to Texas, although sharks are also landed in the states north of Virginia. In view of the ICCAT request for total harvest estimates of certain pelagic sharks in anticipation of possible assessments, catches and landings of Atlantic pelagic sharks across the range of US fleets which harvest them were compiled in SCRS/01/60. Commercial landings of pelagic sharks steadily increased from the early 1980s and peaked in 1995 and 1996 (Appendix Table 2.6a-SHK). Recreational landings in numbers estimated from the MRFSS survey during 1981-2000 fluctuated from a minimum of about 5,600 fish in 1994 to a maximum of 93,000 fish in 1985 (Appendix Table 2.6a-SHK). Pelagic longline dead discards also fluctuated between 1987 and 2000, with a minimum of about 3,500 fish in 1999 and a maximum of about 30,500 fish in 1993. Total catches ranged from about 12,500 fish in 1981 (no commercial landings or discard estimates were available for that year) to about 95,000 fish in 1985, as a result of the peak in recreational landings that year.

Blue shark commercial landings were generally low (Appendix Table 2.6b-SHK). Recreational landings in numbers ranged from about 500 fish in 1994 and 1995 to over 20,000 fish in 1987. Pelagic longline discards reached 29,000 fish in 1993, but otherwise oscillated between a minimum of about 3,000 fish in 1999 to a maximum of about 19,000 fish in 1996 (Appendix Table 2.6b-SHK). The trends in recreational landings and dead discards were very similar from 1992 to 1997 (Fig. 1b). Total catches ranged from 0 fish in 1982 (a year in which no commercial or recreational landings were reported) to about 43,500 fish in 1993, the year in which dead discard estimates peaked (Appendix Table 2.6b-SHK).

Shortfin mako commercial landings never exceeded 5,000 fish according to available data (Appendix Table 2.6c-SHK). Note that commercial landings from 1995 to 2000 in the quota monitoring and general canvass program data are also assigned to an unclassified "mako" category, in addition to the "shortfin mako" category considered here. Adding these landings of unclassified makos, which are likely to be shortfin makos, would increase commercial landings for this species, but would not affect significantly total catches. Most of the landings were attributable to the recreational fishery, whose landings in numbers peaked in 1985 (as for blue shark) to about 80,000 fish, and ranged from less than 1,500 fish to over 31,000 fish in the remaining years. Pelagic longline discards of shortfin makos were negligible. Total catches ranged from less than 4,000 fish in 1999 to almost 82,000 fish in 1985, when recreational catches peaked (Appendix Table 2.6c-SHK).

### *2.2 Research activities*

Research continued on genetic discreteness of large pelagic fishes in the Atlantic, larval surveys for bluefin tuna and other large pelagics in the Gulf of Mexico, new methods for estimating and indexing abundance, robust estimation techniques for sequential population analyses, and estimating discards based on direct observations by scientific fishery observers. Research was also conducted on approaches for characterization of uncertainty in assessments and methods for translating that uncertainty into risk levels associated with alternative approaches. U.S. scientists also continued to coordinate efforts for the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish and for the Bluefin Year Program.

Collaborative research with scientists from ICCAT member nations and cooperating parties continues. In early 2000, the SEFSC hosted a Brazilian scientist for several months and in 2001, a Spanish scientist was also hosted for several months. The intent of this collaboration is to improve our capacity to collaborate on stock assessment research with Brazil, Spain, and other countries. Collaboration with U.K, French, Spanish, and other European

Community scientists on topics of evaluation of fishery management-assessment feedback approaches to ICCAT species continues. One collaborative document (SCRS/01/44) was prepared on the effect of time-correlated uncertainty on the management of yellowfin tuna stocks, while another (SCRS/01/39) was prepared on time trends in abundance and catchability of yellowfin tuna and their relationship to the North Atlantic Oscillation index. A scientist at the University of Miami's Cooperative Unit for Fisheries Education and Research under sponsorship by the SEFSC, has conducted training under the COPEMED banner to provide tools to North African scientists so that they can increase their participation in the ICCAT assessment process of Mediterranean bluefin and swordfish. Another SEFSC scientist taught statistical methods for evaluating relative abundance patterns to a group of 21 Spanish scientists at the *Instituto Tecnológico Pesquero y Alimentario* (AZTI), in November 2000. An SEFSC scientist also was hosted by the *Instituto Español de Oceanografía* (IEO), in June 2001, for collaboration on methods to standardize the Spanish Baitboat CPUE series for eastern Atlantic juvenile bluefin tuna. The products of this collaborative research and training is expected to enhance stock assessment analysis capabilities in the U.S. and other ICCAT member nations. Cooperative research by the U.S. NMFS and the INP in Mexico was continued, resulting in further joint analyses of longline observer program data from the Gulf of Mexico fisheries of both countries.

Several documents dealing with methodological approaches to stock assessment and dealing with environmental influences on tuna and tuna-like fisheries were prepared. SCRS/01/43 provided a Bayesian approach to standardizing catch rate time series, and SCRS/01/32 discussed the correlation (or lack thereof) of the North Atlantic Oscillation Index with west Atlantic bluefin tuna year class strength. Other research on these and additional areas are identified in the following sections.

### 2.2.1 Bluefin tuna research

As part of its commitment to the Bluefin Program, research supported by the U.S. has concentrated on ichthyoplankton sampling, reproductive biology, methods to evaluate hypotheses about movement patterns, spawning area fidelity and stock structure investigations. A BYP planning meeting was hosted at the SEFSC in May, 2001, to review activities of eastern and western researchers relative to further study of bluefin reproductive biology in the central North Atlantic and in the Mediterranean. The results of the initial survey of the Central North Atlantic study area are provided in SCRS/01/31 (rev). Samples collected and available for collaborative research, in support of the BYP research plans are presented in Appendix Tables BYP-1 to BYP-6.

Ichthyoplankton surveys in the Gulf of Mexico during the bluefin spawning season were continued in 2000 and 2001. Data resulting from these surveys which began in 1977 are used to develop a fishery-independent abundance index of spawning west Atlantic bluefin tuna. This index has continued to provide one measure of bluefin abundance that is used in SCRS assessments of the status of the resource.

Studies related to genetic evaluations of the number of fishery management units of Atlantic bluefin are being conducted at several laboratories in the United States. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina, is acting as a sample archive center and has tissues from all bluefin collected for stock structure research by the National Marine Fisheries Service since 1996 and some or all samples collected by researchers from various institutions including the University of South Carolina, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the University of Maryland and the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries.

SCRS/01/54 further addressed the issue of panmixia in bluefin tuna, by examining both mitochondrial DNA control region nucleotide sequences and nuclear gene *ldhA* allele frequencies in replicate samples of northern bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean Sea and the northwestern Atlantic Ocean. Analyses of both types of data revealed no significant differences between samples from the two regions. The authors noted that failure to find genetic evidence for population substructure does not constitute evidence for a single panmictic population. It is possible that multiple sub-populations do exist, and that genetic differentiation at the loci analyzed in this study has not occurred because of large population sizes and/or low levels of reproductively successful migration between the sub-populations.

Researchers from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Texas A & M University have developed seven tetra-nucleotide markers and at least fifteen di- and tri-nucleotide markers for Atlantic bluefin. These are in

addition to three single-copy nuclear DNA markers for bluefin developed by these investigators several years ago. This suite of markers potentially provides a more powerful tool for determining whether genetic differences indicative of reproductive isolation exist in Atlantic bluefin.

Scientists from the Texas A&M University, University of Maryland and the National Marine Fisheries Service continued research on the feasibility of using otolith microconstituents to distinguish bluefin stocks. Building on prior years work, in SCRS/01/113, otolith chemistry of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) was measured to determine the feasibility of the approach for discriminating juveniles (age-0 and age-1) from eastern and western nurseries. Findings suggest that otolith chemistry of juvenile *T. thynnus* from different nurseries and sub-nurseries are distinct and elemental signatures show some degree of temporal persistence, indicating the technique has considerable potential for use in future assessments of population connectivity and stock structure. The results of this research were further discussed and reported upon at the ICCAT intersessional on bluefin tuna mixing.

Research on bluefin tuna movement patterns using electronic tags and on the associated methodology was continued in 2000 and 2001. Tagging activities continued off North Carolina (scientists from Stanford University, Monterey Bay Aquarium and NMFS) and off northeast North America (by scientists from (1) New England Aquarium, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and D.F.O. from Canada and (2) Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium). Additionally researchers from Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium continued studying the feasibility of tagging bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico, successfully releasing 4 bluefin with electronic tags in 1999, about 10 fish in 2000, and 5 fish in 2001.

SCRS/01/57 reported upon the results obtained from tagging of Atlantic bluefin tuna with implantable archival and pop-up satellite archival tags, which were further discussed during the ICCAT intersessional meeting on Bluefin Tuna Mixing. A summary of pop-up satellite tagging of giant bluefin tuna in the joint US-Canadian program in the Gulf of Maine and Canadian Atlantic was reported by Lutcavage et al. (SCRS/00/95) and updated in a Canadian document SCRS/01/53. These results were used to plan a long line research cruise to the central north Atlantic that took place from 26 June to 19 July, 2001 (SCRS/01/31). The results of this research was further discussed and reported upon during the ICCAT intersessional meeting on Bluefin Tuna Mixing.

SCRS/01/51 examined the implications of adopting the one-stock hypothesis for VPA assessments of Atlantic bluefin. The one-stock VPA gave a very similar picture to the combined results of the separate eastern and western VPA's because the catches from the east stock are much larger. The document concludes that a one-stock analysis may be useful as a reference of total population size, but is risky as a basis for setting management policies as severe overfishing of the less abundant stock may go undetected. SCRS/01/52 discusses aspects of earlier analyses of bluefin tuna mixing. It is suggested that a key matter of concern is the different growth curves used at present for west and east, which cause mixing analyses to be internally inconsistent in treating some fish of rather different lengths as having the same age. The document suggests a possible solution to this is to move towards length-based assessments, which it also notes may provide a more reliable basis for modeling the catches of larger fish than the present assumption of temporally invariant  $F_{10+}/F_9$  ratios.

SCRS/01/56 pointed out that the substantial life history differences between eastern and western populations favor the idea that Atlantic bluefin tuna is not a true metapopulation and that the overlap model probably has more credence than the diffusion model. However, alternate or anomalous migration pathways within populations (*i.e.* contingent structure) of bluefin tuna will not be accommodated easily into models until we learn more about them and their causes. Otolith microconstituent studies are proposed as perhaps the most effective means of doing this.

SCRS/01/55 points out that the life history and tagging data support the idea that at least two biotypes exist for Atlantic bluefin tuna, but that none of the data so far available are sufficient to rule out any of the mixing-related hypotheses (other than the hypothesis that movement across the 45°W line is negligible). Inasmuch as the management advice may differ under different mixing scenarios, the authors advocate a Bayesian decision-analysis whereby the potential consequences of alternative management actions are evaluated under several plausible model scenarios keeping in mind the weight of evidence in support of each model.

### 2.2.2 *Swordfish research*

Data from observer samples were compared against self-reported information in from the U.S. large pelagic mandatory logbook reporting system and estimates of discard mortality of swordfish, billfish, sharks and other species from the U.S. fleet were developed from that analysis for the 2001 SCRS.

Fisher reported and observed swordfish catch, size and catch rate patterns through 2000 were examined in support of monitoring the recovery of north Atlantic swordfish. U.S. catch rates patterns from the pelagic longline fleet were described in SCRS/01/109.

### 2.2.3 *Yellowfin tuna research*

Several collaborative studies were conducted by U.S. scientists in cooperation with scientists from other countries (see General Research Activities discussion). Cooperative research by the U.S. NMFS and the INP in Mexico will continue. Cooperative research plans include further development of abundance indices for sharks and other tunas, as well as the refinement of the yellowfin tuna indices as additional data becomes available.

Cooperative research on yellowfin tuna abundance indices, catch at age, and life-history studies is also continuing with Venezuelan scientists.

### 2.2.4 *Albacore research*

The cooperative research initiated by the U.S. NMFS and the IEO of Spain in 1993 was continued at the NMFS in Miami during the spring of 2001. A U.S. scientist also provided training to Spanish IEO and other ICCAT country scientists in mid-2001. In 1999 the effort was extended to analyze the catch per unit of effort data for the Spanish troll and baitboat fisheries using the general linear modeling approach. Further training sessions on this topic also took place in late 2000 and was extended to standardization of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna catch rate time series in early 2001.

### 2.2.5 *Mackerels and small tunas research*

U.S. small tuna research is directed mainly on king and Spanish mackerel stocks as the amount landed of other small tunas such as cero mackerels by U.S. fishermen is very low. The focus of research is collection of primary fishery catch statistics, and biostatistical sample data, fishery age samples, and abundance indices. Because assessment and management are by necessity by geographical units, continued research on migration of king mackerel in particular is important.

### 2.2.6 *Shark research*

Pelagic shark research continued to be conducted in support of the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks, and ICCAT. Landings of sharks by US longline fishermen holding permits to land and sell swordfish caught in the Atlantic and dead discards of sharks in the US longline fleet targeting tunas and tuna-like species are monitored and reported to ICCAT. A document (SCRS/01/60) on U.S. catches and catch rates of pelagic sharks from the northwestern Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean was presented at the ICCAT Data Preparatory Meeting for Atlantic Shark Stock Assessment held in Dartmouth, Canada, September 11-14, 2001. Six other working documents on various aspects of shark stock assessment (SCRS/01/61 on Use of a generalized stage-based, age-, sex-structured model for shark stock assessment), abundance indexing (SCRS/01/62 on Pelagic shark abundance indices based on fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data from the western north Atlantic), life history (SCRS/01/66 on Preliminary investigations into the age and growth of the thresher shark, mako shark and white shark in the western north Atlantic Ocean; SCRS/01/63 on Age and growth of the blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, in the north Atlantic ocean; SCRS/01/65 on validated age and growth of the porbeagle shark, *Lamna nasus*, in the western north Atlantic ocean), and movement patterns identified through tagging data (SCRS/01/64 on tag and recapture data for three pelagic shark species, blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), and porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in the north Atlantic ocean) were presented to the workshop. Work on standardization of catch rates for pelagic sharks in the Gulf of Mexico longline fishery based on observer programs from Mexico and the United States also continued in 2001.

### 2.2.7 Billfish research

Sampling of recreational billfish tournaments continued in 2000 along the U.S. east coast, Gulf of Mexico, Bahamas, and U.S. territories in the Caribbean. A total of 174 billfish tournaments were sampled in 2000, compared to 161 tournaments in 1999. This represented 146,655 hours of fishing effort, an increase of about 27,943 hours from the 1999 level. In 2000, sampling accounted for 144 billfish boated (120 blue marlin, 8 white marlin, 16 sailfish, and 0 spearfish) and 4,598 released. In comparison, in 1999, there were 243 billfish boated (177 blue marlin, 36 white marlin, 30 sailfish, and 0 spearfish) and 5,024 released. Morphometric measurements of billfish landings were taken in conjunction with the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish (ERPB).

A number of working papers on various aspects of marlin research were submitted to ICCAT for consideration at its 2001 scientific meetings. These are briefly summarized below. Document SCRS/01/104 examined time-area closure potentials for furthering the recovery program for Atlantic marlins. Atlantic blue and white marlins are currently over-fished primarily as a result of by-catch in pelagic long lines directed at other species. One possible management measure to reduce fishing mortality on these species would be to restrict fishing effort in times and places with exceptionally high marlin catch per unit effort (CPUE). The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) maintains a database of catch and catch-effort statistics of participating nations. These data were analyzed to determine whether or not the distribution of CPUE is sufficiently heterogeneous in time and space that such measures might provide meaningful management alternatives. The resulting distributions of catch rates were also contrasted with monthly average sea surface temperatures to examine the possible association between temperature and CPUE. The results show spatiotemporal heterogeneity in catch rates that may be partly explained by seasonal changes in sea surface temperatures. The time-area concentrations of high CPUE differ between the species. This observed heterogeneity might be exploited to develop alternatives for reducing fishing mortality for future management of the fisheries, but additional research is needed to refine the spatial scale of the analysis, and to more fully understand the factors contributing to the observed distribution.

SCRS/01/108 examined the expected change in mean size of marlins over a range of fishing mortality rate scenarios given current information about fishery selectivity and life history characteristics for these species. Mean size of fish in the catch often declines noticeably with increasing fishing mortality, and this trend is regarded as an indicator of excessive fishing mortality. The results indicated that blue marlin should not be expected to exhibit strong trends in mean length with respect to fishing mortality within the range of fishing mortality estimated in the most recent stock assessment, and that the trends in the observed size composition are consistent with the findings of the stock assessment.

SCRS/01/105 examined, through simulation, methods of integration of habitat preference information with fisheries catch-rate data to develop standardized indices of abundance for use in stock assessments. These results suggest that the habitat standardization of CPUE time series is potentially useful if there is accurate knowledge of the distribution of the population, the distribution of the gear with respect to the population, and factors that may affect the fish's propensity to take bait. In the absence of certain knowledge of these factors, the GLM seems a much more robust method for standardizing catch rate data.

In support of the sailfish assessment conducted at the 2001 SCRS BIL species group meeting, document SCRS/01/106 developed indices of abundance of sailfish from the U.S. recreational billfish tournament fishery for the period 1973-2000. The index of weight (kg) per 100 hours fishing was estimated from numbers of sailfish caught and reported in the logbooks submitted by recreational tournament coordinators and NMFS observers under the Recreational Billfish Survey Program as well as available size information. Document SCRS/01/107 also provided indices of abundance of sailfish from the United States pelagic longline fishery in the Atlantic for the period 1986-2000. The index of weight (kg) per number of hooks (thousand) was estimated from numbers of sailfish caught and reported in the logbooks submitted by commercial fisherman, and from mean annual weight estimated by scientific observers aboard longline vessels since 1992. Document SCRS/01/111 evaluated the genetic basis of stock structure of Atlantic sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) using analyses of the mitochondrial control region and four nuclear microsatellite loci. While considerable variation was revealed, almost all of the variation was present in individual samples. The null hypothesis that samples were drawn from a common gene pool could not be rejected when each sample location was considered separately, or when collections were combined into eastern and western Atlantic samples.

The NMFS SEFSC again played a substantial role in the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in 2000, with SEFSC scientists acting as general coordinator and coordinator for the western Atlantic Ocean. Major accomplishments in 2000 are documented in SCRS/01/103.

A successful pilot study assessing pop-up satellite tag technology for estimating post-release survival of blue marlin from recreational vessels off Bermuda (SCRS/99/71) was reported to the 1999 SCRS (SCRS/99/97). This collaborative research effort, between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the Bermuda Division of Fisheries, and the National Marine Fisheries Service was continued in 2000 on longline vessels. In response to the 2000 ICCAT recommendation for increased research into the habitat preferences of Atlantic marlins, electronic tagging studies for marlins has been substantially increased in year 2001. In 2001, further investigations of biological habitat requirements of blue and white marlins are being facilitated through cooperative research with the U.S. pelagic longline vessels and with the United States for-hire fleets operating in areas of high concentrations of billfish. This research is critical for evaluation of essential fish habitat since for pelagic species in general, and for marlins in particular the information base is almost non-existent. A target deployment of 25-50 satellite archival pop-up tags is planned for 2001-2002.

### 2.2.8 Tagging

Participants in the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Cooperative Tagging Center (CTC) and the Billfish Foundation Tagging Program (TBF) tagged and released 9,149 billfishes (including swordfish) and 850 tunas in 2000. This represents an increase of about 7% from 1999 levels for billfish and a decrease of 13% for tunas. A number of electronic tagging studies involving bluefin tuna and billfish were also carried out in 2000 and 2001. These are discussed in the bluefin and billfish research sections above.

There were 151 billfish recaptures from the CTC and TBF reported in 2000, representing a decrease of 49% from 1999. Among the 2000 CTC billfish recaptures there were 55 blue marlin, 12 white marlin, 65 sailfin, and 12 swordfish. For the CTC and TBF, a total of 37 tunas were recorded recaptured in 2000; of these 27 were bluefin and 10 were yellowfin tuna. These recaptures represent a 62% decrease with respect to 1999. The ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish in the western Atlantic Ocean has continued to assistance in reporting tag recaptures to improve the quantity and quality of tag recapture reports, particularly from Venezuela, Barbados and Grenada.

### 2.2.9 Fishery observer deployments

*Domestic Longline Observer Coverage.* In response to ICCAT recommendations, randomized observer sampling of the U.S. large pelagic long line fleet was continued into 2000. Representative scientific observer sampling of this fleet has been underway since 1992. The data collected through this program have been used to quantify the composition, disposition, and quantity of the total catch (both retained and discarded at sea) by this fleet which fishes in waters of the northwest Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea. Selection of the vessels is based on a random, 5% sampling of the number of sets reported by the longline fleet. A total of 4,491 sets (2,981,073 hooks) were recorded observed by personnel from the SEFSC and NEFSC programs from May of 1992 to December of 2000. Observers recorded over 111,500 fish (primarily swordfish, tunas, and sharks), marine mammals, turtles, and seabirds during this time period. Observer coverage successfully recorded effort from 329 observed sets during 1992, 817 during 1993, 648 during 1994, 699 during 1995, 361 during 1996, 455 during 1997, 287 during 1998, 430 during 1999, and 465 during 2000, corresponding to nominal sampling fractions of about 2.5%, 6%, 5.2%, 5.2%, 2.5%, 3.1%, 2.9%, 4% and about 4.2%, respectively. Increased sampling in 2001 is expected to increase the sampling fraction to about 8%.

In 2001, an experimental program was initiated in cooperation with the U.S. pelagic long line fleet with a history of fishing for swordfish on the Grand Banks fishing grounds, to develop gear modifications that might prove useful in reducing the rate of interaction and limit severity of injury to marine turtles incidentally captured by the gear while at the same time minimizing loss of targeted catch. The gear modifications being tested include the type of bait used, the type of hooks used, as well as the positioning of gangions relative to surface floats. Other gear modifications may be tested in the future. It is viewed that these technologies could be of application in other long line fleets. In this experiment, there is 100% observer coverage of the U.S. vessels is underway. The experiments undertaken are being coordinated and are, to some degree, based on provisional results obtained from experiments conducted on Azorian long line vessels operating in the northeastern Atlantic as described in SCRS/01/110.

*Southeast U.S. shark drift gillnet fishery observer coverage.* The SEFSC Pelagic Observer Program at the Panama City Laboratory observed 123 sets of the shark drift gillnet fishery during 1999-2000. Effort took place in waters off of south Georgia, as well as central and south Florida.

*Foreign fishery observers.* There was no foreign fishing activity in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off the east coast during 2000.

### 3. U.S. implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures

#### 3.1 Catch limits and minimum sizes

##### 3.1.1 Rebuilding Program for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Ref 98-7)

The twenty-year rebuilding program for west Atlantic bluefin tuna established an annual landings quota for the United States of 1387 MT. This quota is applied to the 2000 fishing year of June 1, 2000 - May 31, 2001. During the 1999 calendar year, there was an under-harvest of 292 MT. During the 1999 fishing year, there was an under-harvest of 228 MT, which has been carried over to adjust the 2000 fishing year quota. Landings and discard estimates for the 2000 fishing year are not yet available, therefore, calendar year estimates are provided in the U.S. compliance tables. (See Appendix, page 2).

##### 3.1.2 Recommendation Regarding Atlantic Billfishes (Ref 98-10)

This extends the requirements of Rec 97-9 to apply in the year 2000 (i.e. a 25% reduction in landings from the 1996 baseline). The billfish fishery is managed on a fishing year basis (June 1 - May 31) in the United States. However, landings estimates for the 2000 fishing year are not yet available. During the 2000 calendar year, the United States landed an estimated 0.2 MT of white marlin and 24 MT of blue marlin. (See Appendix, page 4)

##### 3.1.3 Recommendation to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations (Ref 00-13)

Phase I requires that countries capturing marlins commercially reduce white marlin landings from pelagic longline and purse seine fisheries by 67% and blue marlin landings by 50% from 1999 levels; the United States has prohibited all commercial retention of billfish since 1988. For its part of the rebuilding program, the United States agreed to maintain regulations that prohibit all landings of marlins by U.S. pelagic longline fishermen, and to continue monitoring billfish tournaments through scientific observer coverage of at least 5% initially, with an objective of 10% coverage by 2002. The United States now exceeds these observer requirements. The United States also agreed to limit annual landings by U.S. recreational fishermen to 250 Atlantic blue and white marlin, combined, for 2001 and 2002. Catch and release rates are estimated to be very high (90-95%) based on tournament data, and minimum sizes have been established at 168 cm (66 inches) for white marlin and 251 cm (99 inches) for blue marlin. The United States is monitoring recreational landings to evaluate compliance with the catch limit for the 2001 fishing year.

##### 3.1.4 Recommendation to Establish a Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish (Ref 99-2)

This recommendation establishes an annual landings quota of 2,951 MT ww for the United States. The discard allowance for 2000 is 320 MT ww. The landings quota and discard allowance are applied to a fishing year of June 1 - May 31. Landings and discard estimates for the 2000 fishing year are not yet available, therefore, 2000 calendar year estimates are provided in the U.S. compliance tables. (See Appendix, page 4). During the 1999 fishing year, there was an under-harvest of 731 MT ww. This under-harvest has been added to the landings quota for the 2001 fishing year, therefore, the 2000 landings quota has not been adjusted. The United States has a minimum size of 33 lb (15 kg) dressed weight, which is designed to correspond to 119 cm, with zero tolerance. Information on compliance with the minimum size is provided in the U.S. compliance tables. (See Appendix, page 4).

### *3.1.5 Recommendation Concerning Swordfish Catches by the Tuna Longline Fishery (Ref 00-3)*

The United States is in the process of rule making to establish a 400 MT reserve from the 2001 fishing year quota for north Atlantic swordfish; this will be applied to Japan's discards during 2001 in order to account for that mortality in the total allowable catch.

### *3.1.6 Recommendation on South Atlantic Swordfish (Ref 00-4)*

The United States informed ICCAT of its intention to stay within its prior annual catch limit of 384 MT ww (289 MT dw).

### *3.1.7 Recommendation on Revision and Sharing of the Southern Albacore Catch Limit (Ref 00-7)*

The United States is subject to a catch limit of 100 MT in 2001, but does not have a directed fishery for southern albacore. Landings in 2000 were less than 1 MT.

### *3.1.8 Recommendation on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits (Ref 00-6)*

The United States was allocated a landings quota of 607 MT ww for the 2001 fishing year, which is a level consistent with average landings for the United States over the past 10 years. This recommendation applies for one year only. Given the minor share of U.S. mortality in this fishery (< 2%), and given that the ICCAT recommendation provides for the adjustment of next year's catch level in the case of over-harvest or under-harvest, no new regulations have been proposed for this fishery in the United States. The recommendation provides that overages/underages of this annual catch limit should be deducted from or added to the catch limit established for the year 2002 and/or 2003. Once ICCAT establishes a catch limit for 2002 and 2003 (as expected at the November 2001 meeting), the United States may need to undertake rule making to adjust as necessary for any over-harvest or under-harvest during 2001.

### *3.1.9 Recommendation on Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures (Ref 00-2)*

No catch limits apply to the United States, since 1999 catch was less than 2,100 MT. The United States has implemented a higher minimum size than that required by ICCAT, which provides additional protection for juvenile bigeye. This minimum size of 27 inches (approximately 6.8 kg) applies to all U.S. fisheries landing bigeye tuna, both commercial and recreational.

## *3.2 Closed seasons*

### *3.2.1 Recommendation on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish-Aggregation Devices (Ref 99-1)*

No U.S. action is necessary. The United States does not have any surface fleets fishing in the area covered by this recommendation.

### *3.2.2 Domestic time/area closures for ICCAT species*

At present, the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery of the United States is subject to several discrete time/area closures that are designed to reduce by-catch in the pelagic longline fishery by prohibiting pelagic longline fishing for ICCAT species in those areas during specified times. These closures affect offshore fishing areas up to 200 nautical miles (nm) from shore (see **Figure 1**). Those closures are as follows: (1) Florida East Coast: 50,720 nm<sup>2</sup> year-round; (2) Charleston Bump: 49,090 nm<sup>2</sup> from February through April each year; (3) DeSoto Canyon: 32,860 nm<sup>2</sup> year-round; and (4) the Northeastern United States: 21,600 nm<sup>2</sup> during the month of June each year. 50 CFR 635.21(c)(2).

In addition, NMFS implemented a fifth closed area pursuant to a June 14, 2001, Biological Opinion (BiOp) (NMFS, 2001a) resulting from formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The BiOp concluded that the HMS pelagic longline fishery is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of leatherback and loggerhead



sea turtles. Closure of the Northeast Distant Statistical Sampling area (NED) was identified as part of a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) that will allow the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery to continue operating. The emergency regulation implementing the RPA closes approximately 2,631,000 nm<sup>2</sup> on the high seas to U.S. fishing vessels (66 FR 36711; July 13, 2001).

### **3.3 Ban on imports**

*3.3.1 Recommendation Regarding Equatorial Guinea Pursuant to the 1996 Recommendation Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries (Ref 99-10); Recommendation Concerning Import of Bluefin Tuna and its Products from Panama (Ref 99-9); Recommendation Regarding Belize and Honduras Pursuant to the Swordfish Action Plan (Ref 99-8)*

These measures took effect in the United States in December 2000.

### *3.3.2 Trade Restrictive Recommendations adopted in 2000*

In 2000, ICCAT recommended bigeye tuna trade restrictions against Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, Equatorial Guinea, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines pursuant to its 1998 unregulated and unreported catches resolution. The United States is developing regulations to implement these measures. A 2000 ICCAT recommendation indicates that an import prohibition against Honduras should take effect on January 1, 2002, unless ICCAT decides at its 2001 meeting that this measure would be unnecessary based on documentary evidence. The United States will address this issue after the 2001 ICCAT meeting, if necessary.

### **3.4 Observer programs**

The U.S. observer program currently meets two main objectives: monitoring of interactions between fishing gear and protected species (marine mammals, sea turtles, and to a lesser degree, sea birds), and monitoring of fishing effort and catch (estimation of total landings of target species and/or by-catch of non-target or prohibited species). An overview of observer programs in the United States can be found at our website at: <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/nop/>. Click on the bullets under "About US" for info about both the National Observer Program, which is a coordinating office for NMFS observer programs in our headquarters outside of Washington, DC, and the Regional Programs. Observers for U.S. vessels in ICCAT fisheries are deployed from Miami, Florida and Panama City, Florida.

### **3.5 Vessel monitoring**

#### *3.5.1 Recommendation Concerning a Vessel Monitoring System Pilot Program (Ref 97-12)*

The United States adopted fleet-wide VMS requirements in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery in May 1999, but was subsequently sued by an industry group. By order dated September 25, 2000, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia prevented any immediate implementation of VMS in the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery, and instructed the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to "undertake further consideration of the scope of the [VMS] requirements in light of any attendant relevant conservation benefits." Pursuant to that order, NMFS has taken the following actions.

On January 10, 2001, NMFS published a request for comments on options for implementing VMS requirements in the Atlantic HMS pelagic longline fishery (66 FR 1907). The agency received and considered seven comments from vessel owners and their fishing organization, environmental advocacy groups, a fishery management council member, and a VMS distributor. NMFS also examined monitoring and enforcement in the fishery, the limits of conventional methods, and the applications of VMS. NMFS conducted an analysis of HMS pelagic longline vessels to determine whether the VMS requirement could be restricted to a subset of HMS pelagic longline vessels. This information has been submitted to the court, and NMFS is awaiting further direction regarding its ability to implement a VMS program.

### ***3.6 Inspection Schemes and Activities***

The United States has nothing to report at this time.

### ***3.7 Measures to prohibit IUU fishing***

The United States is committed to full participation in ICCAT's efforts to prohibit Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing in the Convention Area. The United States government is actively developing a national plan of action (NPOA) to combat IUU, consistent with the International Plan of Action that was recently adopted by the FAO. Possible regulatory or legislative actions will be considered in the context of NPOA development.

### ***3.8 Other recommendations***

#### ***3.8.1 Resolution on Improving Recreational Fishery Statistics (Ref 99-7)***

Recreational landings are estimated through a combination of tournament surveys (the Recreational Billfish Survey), the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS), the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey (MRFSS), and state landings data. Final regulations adopted in 1999 require selected HMS charter/headboat vessels that do not already do so to complete a logbook; implementation of this requirement is underway. In 1999, NMFS mandated the registration of all recreational tournaments for Atlantic highly migratory species. All tournaments are now required to submit landing reports, if selected. Currently, 100% of billfish tournaments are selected for reporting. NMFS has also published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to request public comment on options to further improve the monitoring of recreationally landed billfish and swordfish [65 FR 48671], and is considering management options at this time.

#### ***3.8.2 Recommendation Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information on Vessels Fishing for Tunas and Tuna-Like Species in the Convention Area (Ref 00-17)***

The United States has submitted the list of vessels required pursuant to this recommendation to the Secretariat.

#### ***3.8.3 U.S. Swordfish Certificate of Eligibility Program***

A summary of data collected through this program in 2001 is provided in the Appendix, page 7.

#### ***3.8.4 U.S. enforcement actions***

A summary of actions taken in ICCAT fisheries is provided in the Appendix, page 5.

Recent U.S. management actions for Atlantic highly migratory species can be found online at:  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hmspg.html>

Federal Register notices containing the full text of proposed and final regulations can be found at:  
[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces140.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html).

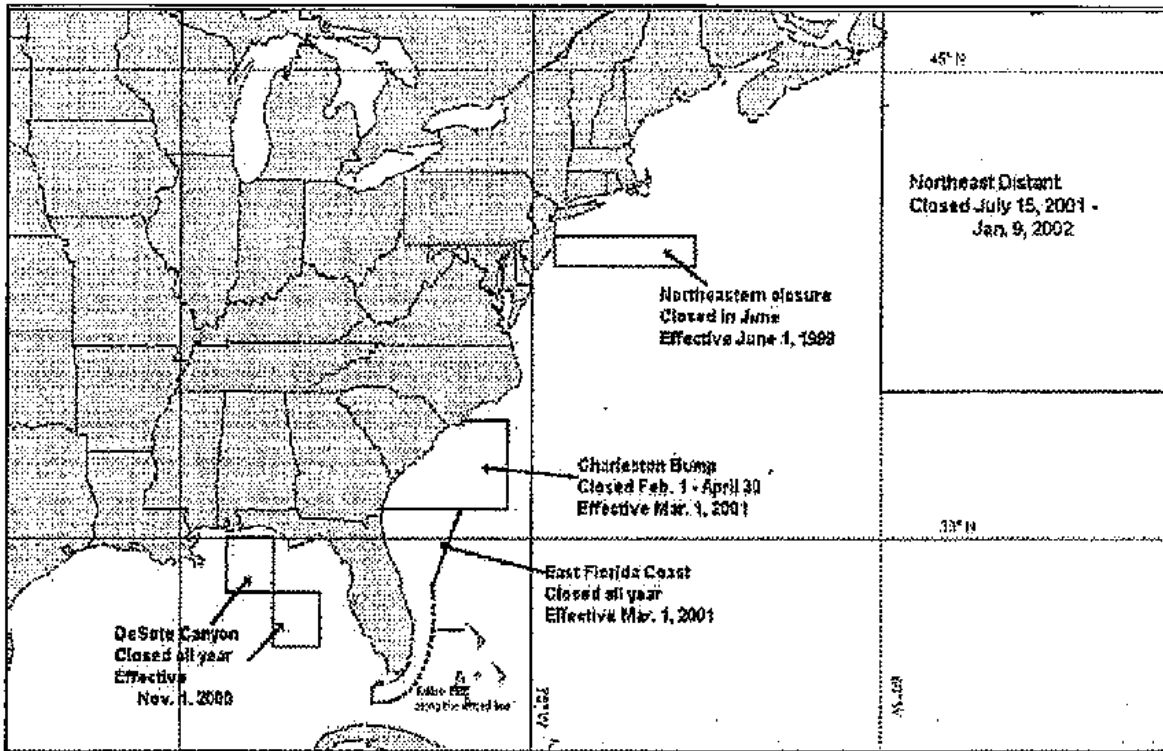


Fig. 1. National time/area closures for species under ICCAT mandate.

## NATIONAL REPORT OF URUGUAY<sup>1</sup>

*Ola Mora and Andrés Domingo<sup>2</sup>*

### 1. The fishery

Of the fishing permits authorized to fish tuna and tuna-like species under Uruguayan flag in 2000, eight longline vessels operated based at the Uruguayan ports of Montevideo and La Paloma (Table 1). Their activities were carried out as in previous years, mainly in Uruguayan territorial waters and adjacent international waters. The target species continued to be swordfish, followed, in economic importance by bigeye tuna, even though catches of this species continued to decline. At any rate, if shark catches for the extraction of fins due to their high market value are taken into account, then it can be said that these are among the major target species of the fleet. Secondary catches corresponded to yellowfin, albacore, sharks, oilfish, and minor amounts of other pelagic fish from by-catches (billfishes, bluefin tuna, butterfly kingfish, ocean snafish, etc.). There were discards of sharks, among other pelagic fish, turtles and birds, and tunas and swordfish that were damaged (by sharks or other predators) or small in size.

In 2000, a total of 1,187 MT of all species were landed. Converted to live weight, the catches of tunas and tuna-like species retained and landed amounted to a total of 968 MT, barely 20 MT more than in 1999. Of these, 713 MT were swordfish, 90 MT albacore, 45 MT yellowfin, 25 MT bigeye, and 95 MT of unidentified tunas. These can be seen in Table 2, in addition to the annual catches of tunas and tuna-like species obtained by the national fleet since the start of the fishery. This table also shows that swordfish catch trends continue to fluctuate, after the decline experienced in 1999 due to the implementation of national management measures.

### 2. Research and statistics

The *Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos* (DINARA), previously the National Institute of Fishing (INAPE), is the Uruguayan organism in charge of statistical monitoring and the administration of these resources. The statistics coverage is not yet adequate, for which efforts are continuing to achieve qualitative and quantitative improvements. Currently, the catch statistics sent to the Commission are estimated from different sources of information, although they are based mainly on the landings, since the data from the Observer Program are not yet considered representative for carrying out correct extrapolation.

The information provided by the national fleet in the fishing logbooks continues to be defective. With the utilization of the new fishing logbooks some improvements were observed due to the inclusion of information on the gear and fishing method, but the fishing area and the reported catches by species are not complete. Currently, a new fishing report, based on a program involving businesses and fishermen.

The National Program of Observers On-board the national tuna fleet continues, although coverage is below the minimum planned. At any rate, meso-scale results relative to L<sub>∞</sub>/K conversion factors, environmental analyses, etc. are expected over the short-term. The tasks carried out on board by the scientific observer include recording general information on gear, effort, environmental data, etc., identification and reporting of raw catch data and size sampling of the major species. A large part of the information on discards has already been included in the document SCRS/01/074, which shows the development of the total catches of sharks as well as size and species composition. Also through the Program, it could be observed that the percentage of catches of small size swordfish, yellowfin and bigeye are below those permitted.

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1. Original report in Spanish.

2. *Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos*.

No size sampling at port was carried out for the reasons expressed in previous reports, although the possibility is being studied to resume this activity next year, mainly to complement on-board sampling coverage.

### 3. Implementation of ICCAT management and conservation measures

It is reiterated that the Uruguayan Government includes, in its measures, those recommendations relative to the minimum sizes of the catch of swordfish (25 kg, 15% tolerance), bigeye and yellowfin (3.2 kg).

Fishing effort in 2000 corresponded as in previous years to those vessels with permits issued before the close of the fishery in 1997. Currently, a review of these permits is being carried out in order to eliminate those that have not complied with the program approved. As regards swordfish, the DINARA continues to exert its greatest efforts to monitor compliance of the measures in force, aimed at maintaining the total catch of this species within reasonable limits. At any rate, the negative effects observed in response to the measures implemented to maintain this level of catch included flag changes and the shift of effort to other oceans. A compliance table on the corresponding quota of South Atlantic swordfish was presented to the Commission.

As is noted in the preceding section, on-board size sampling showed that the swordfish, yellowfin and bigeye caught are mainly large-sized adult fish, as is expected from a longline fishery in this area.

Technical reports have been prepared on the implementation of measures to prevent shark discards and to request the release of billfish caught alive.

### 4. Inspection

The DINARA has competence for all control and monitoring of activities related to fishing. Staff of the Institute carry out port inspections, in order to monitor compliance with the national regulations in force for the Uruguayan fleet.

In order to improve implementation of the ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme, an official note was sent to the Commission Secretariat requesting a change in the list of inspectors.

**Table 1.** Number of active vessels of the Uruguay fleet, by GRT (1997-2000)

<i>GRT</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>
less than 50		1	1	2
51 - 200	4	5	5	5
201 - 300	3	3	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 2. Catches retained, by species, reported by Uruguay for 1982-2000

<i>Year</i>	<i>SWO</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>ALB</i>	<i>BFT</i>	<i>BIL</i>
1982	575	397	214	235	3	10
1983	1,084	605	357	373	0	13
1984	1,927	714	368	526	9	65
1985	1,125	597	354	1,531	16	44
1986	537	177	270	262	6	16
1987	699	204	109	178	0	6
1988	427	120	177	100	2	1
1989	414	55	64	83	0	1
1990	302	38	18	55	0	1
1991	156	20	62	34	1	1
1992	210	56	74	31	0	3
1993	260	48	20	28	1	0
1994	165	37	59	16	0	0
1995	428	80	53	49	2	0
1996	644	124	171	75	0	2
1997	760	69	53	56	6	50
1998	889	59	88	110	0	45
1999	650	28	50	78	0	0
2000	713	25	45	90	0	0

NATIONAL REPORT OF VENEZUELA<sup>1,2</sup>**1. Introduction**

In Venezuela, the *Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrícolas* (INIA), is the agency in charge of carrying out agricultural research program, including the fishing sector. The *Servicio Autónomo de los Recursos Pesqueros y Acuícolas* (SARPA) is the agency responsible for the management and administration of the fishery resources.

The research projects on tunas and billfishes are carried out at the *Centro de Investigaciones Agropecuarias* of the States of Sucre and Nueva Esparta (CIAE-Sucre/N.Esparta), with headquarters in Cumaná, in cooperation with various national and international institutions, such SARPA, the University of Oriente, ICCAT and the IRD.

**2. The fisheries****2.1 Purse seine**

The Venezuelan fleet is comprised of 36 purse seine vessels, 13 of which fished in the western Atlantic Ocean and the remainder fished in the eastern Pacific Ocean (Table 1). The fishing area of Venezuela purse seiners is between 5° and 15°N and 51° and 73°W.

The catch taken by the purse seine fleet in 2000 amounted to 11,216 MT, which showed a 9% decrease with respect to 1999. Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), comprised 67.5% of the catches by this fleet, and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) comprised 23.1%. Other species caught by the fleet were blackfin tuna (*Thunnus atlanticus*), frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*), albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) and bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*). These species represented 9.40% of the catch (Table 2).

The effort exerted by these vessels in 2000 was 977 days at sea, with the highest effort corresponding to the second quarter for vessels between 301 and 650 GRT. Further, yellowfin tuna catches were between 8.45 and 8.03 MT/day at sea, and the highest catches correspond to the first and third quarters. Skipjack tuna catches amounted to 7.69 MT/day at sea in the first quarter (Table 4).

**2.2 Baitboat**

The Venezuelan baitboat fleet is comprised of 14 fishing vessels and these operate in the same areas as the purses seiners. Catches taken by these vessels amounted to 4,762 MT, which is 12.3% below that of 1999. The major species taken by this fleet were yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) 61.3%, albacore (*T. alalunga*) 25.8%, while skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) comprised 9.9% of the total landings of the fleet (Table 3).

Effort exerted by the baitboat fleet for this year was 1,935 days at sea. Yellowfin tuna catches ranged between 0.59 and 2.17 MT/day at sea. The highest catches were made during the first and fourth quarters. Skipjack catches ranged between 0.29 and 0.88 MT/day at sea, with the highest catches corresponding to the second quarter (Table 4).

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1. Original report in Spanish.

2. Fondo Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (FONAIAP); Servicio Autónomo de los Recursos Pesqueros y Acuícolas (SARPA).

### 2.3 Longline

Thirty-four (34) Venezuelan longliners fished in the Atlantic Ocean in 1999. Of these, 7 direct their effort at swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*).

The catch by the tuna longline fleet was 763.2 MT (Table 5). Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) was the most important species in the catch (55.1%), whereas catches of other tunas, namely albacore (*T. alalunga*) and bigeye tuna (*T. obesus*) represented 8.9% of the catch; billfishes comprised 7% of the catch.

The yields obtained in this fishery for yellowfin tuna fluctuated between 6.86 and 29.89 kg/100 hooks, with the maximum value corresponding to the fourth quarter. Albacore and bigeye showed average catches of 1.54 and 2.58 kg/100 hooks. For sharks, the yields fluctuated between 2.19 and 5.54 kg/100 hooks. The effort applied by the fleet was 2,568,063 hooks (Table 6).

### 2.4 Artisanal fleet

- Playa Verde (central Venezuelan coast)

Billfish fishing activities in this region are carried out throughout the year. The fleet that operated is comprised of 33 vessels, ranging in size from 7 to 10 m, and the fishing gear is floating driftnet.

The catch of this fishery is mainly comprised of fish of the Istiophoridae family, namely sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) and blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), with catches of 71 and 53 MT, respectively, and tunas, with landings of 34.3 MT. Other species in the catch included various shark species and dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) (Table 7).

- Juangriego (eastern area of Venezuela)

This is the base port for 72 artisanal longline vessels that target king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*) and billfishes. Their fishing activities are carried out in the northeastern area of Venezuela. These vessels are of an artisanal nature with lengths ranging between 9 and 14 m, and they fish using surface drift longline.

In this fishery, the catches monitored indicate that billfishes, i.e. white marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*) and sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) were the most abundant, with catches of 9.2 and 9.5 MT, respectively. The volume of tunas landed was 12.4 MT, comprised mainly of blackfin tuna with 8 MT. A species that in recent years has acquired importance due to its market value is dolphinfish (*C. hippurus*) and landings of this species amounted to 14.6 MT (Table 8).

## 3. Activities in research and statistics

Venezuela carries out research on the fishery for large pelagics, including tunas and billfishes. Biological sampling continued on the various species landed at the ports of the States of Sucre, Anzoátegui and Nueva Esparta. In 2000, sampling was carried out on 8,445 tunas and billfish from industrial fishing landings, and 8,775 fish from the artisanal fishery (Tables 9 and 10). The percentage composition of the catch was determined by multi-species sampling at the ports in order to correct the landings reported in the logbooks. The results indicate that the most important species in the landings of the various fisheries is yellowfin tuna, with from 52.48% to 84.61% in the purse seine fishery, 18.79% to 94.44% in the baitboat fishery, and 54.89% to 64.87% in the longline fishery, respectively (Tables 11 and 12).

The assessment continued on catch and effort in the hook fishery for king mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*) in eastern Venezuela. This program is carried out at the Nueva Sparta local station of FONAIAP.

Monitoring of catch and effort was carried out on the industrial vessels that fished in the Atlantic Ocean using baitboat, purse seine and longline. The industrial fleet carried out 469 trips and the overall coverage rate was 59.8%, while by fishing type, the coverages rates were 75.47% for purse seine, 80.11% for baitboat and 40.17% for longline (Table 13).



Within the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish, sponsored and coordinated by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), billfish sampling continued at the ports of Playa Verde and Juangriego, in the central coastal area and the eastern area of Venezuela, respectively. In addition, trips were carried out on longline vessels that target tuna and swordfish. In 2000, there were 35 observer trips carried out in this type of vessel, with a coverage rate of 15% of the total trips by the longline fleet. On these trips, sampling was conducted on 5,976 tuna and tuna-like fish.

#### 4. Implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures

- Ministerial Resolution DM/227, of 30 September 1994, mandates that Venezuelan fishing vessels must comply with international conservation and management measures on high seas living resources, in accordance with the applicable provisions of international law.
- Resolution DM/41, of 17 March 1995, regulates the port inspection work that should be carried out at the port. In this sense, a series of inspection activities will be developed at the various docks, including monitoring of the landings and final destination of the products, the collection and review of the logbooks and the biological sampling at ports and freezers.

Venezuela implemented conservation measures on billfishes and swordfish that entered into force in February, 2000 with Resolution 020. Among these are the following:

- A minimum size limit on swordfish (125 cm LJFL), with zero tolerance
- A minimum size limit on blue marlin (180 cm LJFL), white marlin (150 cm LJFL) and sailfish (160 cm LJFL).
- Mandatory release of live billfish that are caught by the industrial fishery.
- Prohibition imposed on sport fishermen to market billfish catches, and the mandatory reporting, to the fishing authorities, of information on their trips and the number of fish released and/or retained.

The expansion of the protection area of marlins in the La Guaira area includes the industrial and artisanal fisheries. Only a group of 33 artisanal vessels are allowed to fish in the area, but the replacement and transfer of fishing permits is prohibited. There are also restrictions on the fishing gear.

Resolution DM/N 034, of 25 February 2001, establishes the conditions to implement the National Observer Program on board industrial fishing vessels flying the Venezuelan flag or those that are authorized to fish in waters under the jurisdiction of the Venezuelan State.

Resolution DM/515, of 1 August 2001, suspends the entry of new vessels to the national fishing fleet for a period of 6 months, from the time of publication of the resolution.

Table 1. Composition of the Venezuelan industrial fleet in the Atlantic, by carrying capacity, 1991-2000

Capacity (MT)	YEAR									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Purse seine</b>										
201-400	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
401-600	4	7	8	8	9	9	9	6	6	6
601-800	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	
801-1000	9	6	4	8	3	4	4	2	2	2
1001-1200										3
>1200	1	1	1	1				1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Baitboat</b>										
10-30	4	6	7	5	4	4	2	2	2	
31-50	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
51-70	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
71-90	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
91-110	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
>110	7	7	8	8	8	8	6	8	8	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Longline</b>										
0-50	19	27	24	29	33	33	33	30	26	26
51-100	2	2	3	5	4	3	3	4	4	3
101-150	2	3	3	4	6	6	4	4	2	5
151-200			1							
201-250										
251-300										
301-350		1								
351-400	1	1	1							
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>

Table 2. Venezuelan purse seine catches (in MT) in the central West Atlantic, 2000

Species	Quarter				Total	%
	I	II	III	IV		
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	1,725	1,537	2,211	2,099	7,572	67.5
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	669	153	365	1,403	2,590	23.1
Frigate tuna (FRI)	66	33	61	50	210	1.9
Albacore (ALB)	73	9		109	191	1.7
Bigeye tuna (BET)	33	8	21	120	182	1.6
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	107	78	69	218	472	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,673</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>3,999</b>	<b>11,216</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 3. Venezuelan baitboat catch (in MT) in the central West Atlantic, 2000

<i>Species</i>	<i>Quarter</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>		
Yellowfin tuna (YF1)	656	758	831	312	2,557	61.3
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	170	49	40	153	412	9.9
Frigate tuna (FRJ)			5		5	0.1
Albacore (ALB)				1,076	1,076	25.8
Bigeye tuna (BET)				7	7	0.2
Blackfin tuna (BLF)			4	113	117	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 4. Effort (in days at sea) and catch per unit of effort (in MT/days at sea) for the Venezuelan baitboat and purse seine industrial tuna fishery in the central West Atlantic, 2000

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Days at sea</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>RYFT</i>	<i>RSKJ</i>	<i>Others</i>
I	PS	31	<301	1.39	3.20	0.46
		159	>301<650	7.69	3.96	1.27
		30	>650	4.19	0.47	0
II	PS	11	<301	0.45	6.61	
		292	>301<650	5.28	1.88	0.02
			>650			
III	PS	52	<301	2.72	6.03	0.11
		157	<301<650	8.03	4.94	0.06
			>650			
IV	PS	57	<301	0.66	6.01	0.17
		186	<301<650	3.82	4.93	0.21
		44	>650	1.96	7.69	0.06
I	BB		<60			
		196	>60<150	0.88	0.29	
		188	>150	2.17	0.45	
II	BB	219	>60<150	0.59	0.78	
		246	>150	1.19	0.88	
III	BB	169	>60<150	1.44	0.38	0.05
		290	>150	1.43	0.44	
IV	BB	372	>60<150	1.61	0.34	
		355	>150	1.49	0.33	0.06

**Table 5.** Catch (MT) of the Venezuelan tuna longline fleet in the Atlantic Ocean, 2000

Species	Quarter					Total	%
	I	II	III	IV			
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	60.5	69.4	135.9	155.1	420.9	55.1	
Albacore (ALB)	14.5	49.9	22.8	18.9	106.1	13.9	
Bigeye tuna (BET)	7.1	0.7	13.6	17.0	38.4	5.0	
Blue marlin (BUM)	2.7	8.0	6.9	10.4	27.9	3.7	
White marlin (WHM)	3.1	1.3	1.3	7.6	13.3	1.7	
Sailfish (SAI)	0.9	1.5	5.9	3.6	12.0	1.6	
Swordfish (SWO)	1.8	10.5	9.3	8.7	30.3	4.0	
Wahoo (WAH)	2.1	0.8	0.5	0.3	3.7	0.5	
Dolphinfish (DOL)	1.6	0.6	0.3		2.5	0.3	
Sharks (SHK)	34.0	32.2	26.6	13.5	106.3	13.9	
Atlantic bonito (BON)		1.7	0.1		1.8	0.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>128.2</b>	<b>176.6</b>	<b>223.4</b>	<b>235.1</b>	<b>763.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Table 6.** Effort (in hooks) and CPUE (in kg/100 hooks) in the Venezuelan industrial longline fishery for tuna and billfishes in the central West Atlantic, 2000

Species	Quarter					Total
	I	II	III	IV		
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	12.7	12.9	16.9	20.7	16.4	
Albacore (ALB)	3.1	9.2	2.8	2.4	4.1	
Bigeye tuna (BET)	1.5	0.1	1.7	2.3	1.5	
Blue marlin (BUM)	0.6	1.5	0.9	1.4	1.1	
White marlin (WHM)	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5	
Sailfish (SAI)	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	
Swordfish (SWO)	0.4	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	
Wahoo (WAH)	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	
Dolphinfish (DOL)	0.3	0.1	0.04		0.1	
Sharks (SHK)	7.2	6.0	3.3	1.8	4.1	
Atlantic bonito (BON)		0.3	0.01		0.1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>29.7</b>	
<b>HOOKS</b>	<b>475,004</b>	<b>540,982</b>	<b>802,592</b>	<b>749,484</b>	<b>2,568,063</b>	

**Table 7.** Catch (in MT) and effort (in trips) for the Venezuelan artisanal driftnet fishery for billfishes off the central coast, 2000

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep.	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
BUM	3,601	4	8	5	15	3	6	4	2	2	1	654	53
WHM	455	198	671	181	277	719	933	1	1	1	184	22	7
SAI	641	278	7	11	5	7	7	9	11	10	3	581	71
SWO	1,614	2	1	893	2	754	695	311	377	148	71	87	10
DOL	237	400	2	953	621	1	700	691	263	41	183	583	8
SHK	3,132	1	2	1	839	242	1,502	514	422	391	555	231	12
YFT	604	905	564	250	4,193	248	351	0	74	0	44	75	7
ALB	44	0	22	61	317	65	12	140	35	0	0	0	696
SKJ	1,735	4	0	0	24	0	20	98	0	0	263	178	6
BON	2,164	5	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	16
WAH	112	41	63	54	82	89	117	97	21	9	0	0	685
FRI	623	1,101	364	178	484	18	21	77	47	161	28	716	4
OTH	447	311	0	0	2	0	764	170	1	75	1	1	7
<b>TOT</b>	<b>10,712</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,548</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>72</b>
Boats	25	25	27	31	26	28	31	31	24	22	18	9	297
Trips	117	233	259	242	340	231	294	333	279	231	111	88	2,758

**Table 8.** Catch (in MT) and effort (in hooks), monitored in the artisanal longline fishery for billfishes in eastern Venezuela and adjacent areas, 2000

Month	Hooks	WHM	SAI	BUM	SPF	DOL	WAH	YFT	BLF	ALB	SHK	OTH	Total
Jan	16,700	528	539	86		1,536	19	0	193		400	450	3,751
Feb	24,210	474	1,134	213		1,716	75	493	93		154	1,061	5,412
Mar	32,310	1,056	1,07	117		1,867	30	560	837		272	946	6,755
Apr	25,120	20	31	12		2,228	332	454	234		331	22	3,644
May	14,810	57	128	34		1,728	111	247			34	0	2,339
Jun	6,200	30	88			1,353	64		92		106	158	1,91
Jul	14,200	13	49			739	86	16	1,985		159	105	3,152
Aug	17,900	132	119	8	3	951	118		284		300	734	2,649
Sept	7,350	1,104	807	24	52	113	20	288	528		61	126	3,122
Oct	31,150	2,908	1,108	133	17	495	41	45	875		672	612	6,906
Nov	48,230	1,690	1,791	134		1,139	135	1,321	2,245		975	914	10,344
Dec	2,090	2,224	1,768	54		770	311	766	727	68	930	160	7,777
<b>Total</b>	<b>266,270</b>	<b>9,201</b>	<b>9,494</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>14,635</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>4,190</b>	<b>8,093</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>57,762</b>

**Table 9.** Biological samples of tuna and tuna-like fish in the Venezuelan industrial fishery for tunas in the western Atlantic Ocean, 2000

Species	Baitboat (BB)		Purse seine (PS)		Longline (LL)		Total
		%		%		%	
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	190	59.56	2,779	34.58	23	25.84	2,992
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	87	27.27	3,797	47.24			3,884
Frigate tuna (FRI)	6	1.88	713	8.87			719
Albacore (ALB)	12	3.76	33	0.41			45
Bigeye tuna (BET)	1	0.31	191	2.38			192
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	23	7.21	524	6.52			547
Sailfish (SAI)					1	1.12	1
Swordfish (SWO)					38	42.70	38
Dolphinfish (DOL)					5	5.62	5
Sharks (SHK)					22	24.72	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,037</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8,445</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>3.78</b>		<b>95.17</b>		<b>1.05</b>		<b>100</b>

**Table 10.** Biological samples of billfishes in the Venezuelan artisanal driftnet and longline fisheries, 2000

<i>Species</i>	<i>Artisanal driftnet</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Artisanal longline</i>	<i>%</i>
White marlin (WHM)	751	8.95	156	41.05
Blue marlin (BUM)	1,213	14.45	5	1.32
Sailfish (SAI)	5,853	69.72	217	57.11
Swordfish (SWO)	578	6.89	1	0.26
Spearfish (SPF)			1	0.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,395</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 11.** Percentage composition, by quarter, of the tuna catches by Venezuelan surface fleets, purse seine (PS) and baitboat (BB), in the central West Atlantic, 2000

<i>Species</i>	<i>Purse seine</i>				<i>Baitboat</i>			
	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	64.52	84.61	81.07	52.48	93.95	94.44		18.79
Skipjack tuna (SKJ)	25.05	8.4	13.4	35.08	6.05	4.55		9.23
Frigate tuna (FRD)	2.47	1.79	2.24	1.26			0.54	
Albacore (ALB)	2.75	0.48		2.73				64.75
Bigeye tuna (BET)	1.22	0.42	0.76	2.99				0.44
Blackfin tuna (BLF)	3.99	4.31	2.53	5.45			0.47	6.8

**Table 12.** Percentage composition, by quarter, of tuna catches by the Venezuelan longline (LL) fleet in the central West Atlantic, 2000

<i>Species</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>	<i>Total</i>
Yellowfin tuna (YFT)	57.05	59.06	54.89	64.87	58.75
Albacore (ALB)	3.40	1.83	2.50	4.68	2.69
Bigeye tuna (BET)	0.11	0.56	1.63	1.28	0.91
Wahoo (WAH)	2.13	0.57	0.91	0.71	0.87
Dolphinfish (DOL)	1.70	0.39	0.42	0.03	0.49
White marlin (WHM)	3.21	0.94	1.11	4.75	1.92
Blue marlin (BUM)	2.73	3.23	1.66	5.45	3.15
Sailfish (SAI)	0.95	1.36	8.66	4.35	3.73
Swordfish (SWO)	1.82	3.83	3.78	0.59	3.01
Sharks (SHK)	26.90	26.97	24.19	13.30	23.85
Atlantic bonito (BON)		1.24	0.20		0.61
Other species			0.04		0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 13.** Trips by industrial tuna vessels in the central West Atlantic, 2000

<i>Month</i>	<i>Purse seine</i>		<i>Baitboat</i>		<i>Longline</i>	
	<i>R</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>C</i>
Jan	4	3	11	11	2	1
Feb	5	5	13	5	20	
Mar	4	4	13	12	11	3
Apr	4	3	10	7	23	11
May	2	2	16	18	22	13
Jun	4	4	12	11	15	10
Jul	5	5	17	16	20	8
Aug	2	2	17	14	20	10
Sep	3	3	7	5	29	15
Oct	5	1	20	16	22	9
Nov	5	1	25	19	22	8
Dec	7	5	25	15	28	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>76.00</b>		<b>80.11</b>		<b>40.17</b>	