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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, 2014-15  
PART I (2014) - Vol. 1  
English version                      COM**

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MADRID, SPAIN

2015

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

## CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2014)

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Sierra Leone, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela

## COMMISSION OFFICERS

### Commission Chairman

S. DEPYPERE, EU  
(since 25 November 2013)

### First Vice-Chairman

R. DELGADO, Panamá  
(since 25 November 2013)

### Second Vice-Chairman

A. KRAINIY, Russian Federation  
(since 25 November 2013)

### Panel No.

### PANEL MEMBERSHIP

### Chair

-1- <i>Tropical tunas</i>	Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China (People's Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Côte d'Ivoire
-2- <i>Temperate tunas, North</i>	Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Venezuela.	Japan
-3- <i>Temperate tunas, South</i>	Belize, Brazil, China (People's Rep. of), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, United States, Uruguay.	South Africa
-4- <i>Other species</i>	Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Brazil

## SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

### Chair

S. LAPOINTE, Canada  
(since 15 November 2009)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

Sub-Committee on Statistics: G. SCOTT (United States), Convener

Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: S. CASS-CALAY, A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners

D. DIE, United States  
(since 3 October 2014)

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

D. CAMPBELL, United States  
(since 25 November 2013)

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

T. EL KTIRI, Morocco  
(since 19 November 2011)

STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM)

M. TSAMENYI, Ghana  
(since 25 November 2013)

## ICCAT SECRETARIAT

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## 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, 2014-2015, Part I (2014)*", which describes the activities of the Commission during the first half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission (Genoa, Italy, 10-17 November 2014) 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 the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission and Observers, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention area.

The Report is published in four volumes. *Volume 1* includes 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)). *Volume 2* contains the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and its appendices. *Volume 3* includes the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission. *Volume 4* includes the Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research, the Secretariat's Administrative and Financial Reports, and the Secretariat's Reports to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC), and to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). Volumes 3 and 4 of the Biennial Report are only published in electronic format.

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.

*STEFAN DEPYPERE*  
*Commission Chairman*

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 19th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS**

*(Genoa, Italy – 10 -17 November 2014)*

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Commission Chair, Mr. Stefaan Depypere, opened the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission and thanked the European Union and the Government of Italy for hosting the meeting in the historic city of Genoa, which has a long history of maritime importance. The Chair also congratulated the delegates on their inter-sessional work and for their increasing sense of responsibility in the management of tuna and tuna-like stocks, but expressed caution when considering catch levels for the next few years. He noted that there was still much work to do at the 2014 meeting, expressing his full confidence in the delegations to achieve the adoption of measures based on scientific advice. Mr. Depypere welcomed the Prefect of Genoa, the Mayor of Genoa, and the Italian Under Secretary of State for Fisheries.

The Mayor of Genoa welcomed the delegates on behalf of the city of Genoa, outlining the importance of the meeting for the city of Genoa. The Chair also introduced the Under Secretary of State for Fisheries of Italy who recalled the optimistic outlook of the SCRS on bluefin tuna stocks, which had been achieved through strict controls and sacrifices of the fishermen. He reiterated the importance of fisheries management given the pressure, from various quarters, on fish stocks, and recalled that Italy was committed to the objectives of ICCAT.

The opening addresses are attached as **ANNEX 3.1**.

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

The Agenda was modified by consensus and was adopted as attached in **ANNEX 1**. The Secretariat served as rapporteur.

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

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, introduced the following 42 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

The Commission welcomed the two new Contracting Parties, Curaçao and Liberia, regretting that Liberia had been unable to attend. The Minister of Economic Development of Curaçao informed the Commission of his satisfaction at becoming a full member after ten years of cooperating with ICCAT, and outlined the new legal framework and fisheries ordinance adopted by Curaçao.

The Albanian Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration, the Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of Côte d'Ivoire and the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of Ghana were also in attendance.

The opening statements by the Contracting Parties to the plenary session are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**.

#### **4. Introduction of Observers**

The Executive Secretary introduced the observers that had been admitted to the meeting. A Representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), depository of the ICCAT Convention, attended the meeting. Chinese Taipei, El Salvador and Suriname attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. Guinea Bissau and Mozambique attended the meeting as non-Contracting Parties. The inter-governmental organizations also in attendance were: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); Commission Sous-Régionale des Pêches (CSRPE); Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT/ ATLAFCO), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and INFOPÊCHE.

The following non-governmental organizations were admitted as observers: ANATUN; Association euro-méditerranéenne des pêcheurs professionnels de thon (AEPPT); Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR); Bluewater Fishermen's Association; International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS); Defenders of Wildlife; Ecology Action Centre (EAC); Federazione Nazionale delle Imprese di Pesca (FEDERPESCA); FEDERCOOPESCA; Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP); Fundatun; Humane Society International; International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF); Marine Stewardship Council (MSC); Medisamak; Oceana, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT); Pew Environment Group; The Ocean Foundation; and the World Wide Fund (WWF).

The list of observers is included in the List of Participants.

The statements made to the plenary session, submitted in writing by the observers, are attached as **ANNEX 3.3**.

#### **5. Summary Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

##### ***5.1 Presentation of the Report of the SCRS***

The SCRS Chair, Dr. Josu Santiago, informed the Commission that the 2014 SCRS Plenary meeting had been held in Madrid, Spain from 29 September to 3 October 2014. He expressed his thanks for the work of the SCRS scientists and the ICCAT Secretariat and was pleased to note some improvement in the number of scientists participating in SCRS meetings and the record high number of scientific papers presented during 2014.

Dr. Santiago presented a summary of the Report of the SCRS, indicating that the specific recommendations for each species would be presented in the appropriate Panels, particularly for those species for which stock assessments had been conducted, i.e. bluefin tuna, skipjack tuna and Mediterranean swordfish, as well as the SCRS responses to other specific requests which the Commission had made. In relation to the request from the Commission that the SCRS assess the ecological importance of the Sargasso Sea to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species, Dr. Santiago reported that several scientific papers had been presented and reviewed, and the SCRS had prepared a work plan to continue assessing the importance of the Sargasso Sea.

In addition to specific issues, the SCRS made the following general recommendations to the Commission, including:

- That a technical expert be hired to assist the Secretariat on a short term basis to develop a database of historical and current fishing effort distribution that meets the stated needs of the various Sub-Committees and Species Groups. The recommendation to increase the Secretariat staff, so as not to further reduce the support required by the SCRS to accomplish its work plan, was also reiterated. The need for financial assistance for the development and implementation of web-based training videos, as well as for implementing a series of regional workshops to facilitate data reporting by CPCs was also highlighted.
- Outsourcing of code migration (due to the lack of backward compatibility in the most recent version of Microsoft Office) for the numerous applications that interact with various databases of the ICCAT-DB system.
- Broader oversight of artisanal fisheries programs by groups such as the FAO and/or the COMHAFAT/ ATLAFCO to improve their efficiency and efficacy.
- Peer review for bigeye tuna stock assessment and financial assistance for an external expert to assist with blue shark stock assessment.



Dr. Santiago also called for strengthened cooperation with other international organisations to enhance capacity, share information and analyses available to develop and provide scientific advice, as well as a continuation of the peer review process.

The SCRS Chair drew the attention of the delegates to some of the scientific reporting requirements which resulted in duplication or redundancy, and proposed that requirements which could be covered through regular statistical reporting (Task I, Task II) could be amalgamated, and that a definition of Task I including these requirements could be included in the request for statistics. This would significantly reduce the rather daunting list which currently exists for SCRS reporting requirements. While acknowledging the need to minimize redundancies, the United States expressed concern that some of the proposed changes could result in the loss of useful information. Delegates indicated that they would require more time to study the impact of this, and it was agreed that the issue would be revisited in 2015.

In addition, the SCRS Chair also outlined the proposal by the Sub-Committee on Statistics to combine the scientific requirement of fleet characteristics report (Form ST01-FC) and the management requirement of vessels which fished the previous year (Form CP38). Although this would extend the current requirements to all species, it would reduce the reporting burden and ultimately lead to much more useful information for the SCRS. This was referred to the PWG and ultimately adopted (see Agenda item 15 below).

In response to questions raised by the CPCs, the SCRS Chair clarified that improved participation was one of the objectives of the SCRS for 2015, noting the important progress in active participation of scientists from developing countries. He agreed that it would be beneficial for scientists from all CPCs involved in the fisheries to participate.

Regarding a question on how the SCRS developed scientific advice, the SCRS Chair explained that advice was formulated on the basis of the most robust analyses available, and that there was open discussion regarding which analyses were the most robust, with scientists trying to achieve consensus on this.

Dr. Santiago clarified that the forms for reporting by-catch collected by national observer programmes had been developed and would be available to CPCs in 2015. It was expected that the Code of Conduct for SCRS Participants would be finalised in 2015, as well as the work on the revision of minimum standards for observer coverage, as required by [Rec. 10-10]. Regarding artisanal fishery inventory, this had been carried out for the West African region, and the SCRS recommended that this be continued in other areas, for example, the Caribbean.

A question was raised regarding the reduction of uncertainties in stock assessment results, and the SCRS Chair reported that this was one of the main goals of the SCRS, with planned actions annexed to the strategic plan. Some CPCs indicated that socio-economic elements and food security ought to be taken into consideration. Although some work on this had been initiated by the Working Group on Methods, Dr. Santiago requested clearer guidance from the Commission on how these elements should be factored into the work of the SCRS and whether they should be considered for inclusion in the current or next SCRS Science Strategic Plan.

The European Union presented a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT for Enhancing the Knowledge Allowing a Better Management of By-Catches and a Reduction of Discards in ICCAT Fisheries”. While this resolution was supported by some CPCs, it was not adopted as other CPCs considered it needed further refinement, but welcomed the document as a valuable starting point for future work.

The Commission agreed that the SCRS recommendations with financial implications should be considered by STACFAD, but that an order of priorities should be established. The representative of FAO indicated that some funding may also be available through the GEF project, and confirmed his commitment to work with the Secretariat and SCRS Chair in order to determine more expeditious mechanisms for providing available funds.

The 2014 Report of the SCRS was adopted.

### ***5.2 Presentation of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020***

The SCRS Chair outlined the Strategic Plan developed for 2015-2020, which would clarify the role and functions of the SCRS, define the goals and objectives, as well as pinpointing any strengths and weaknesses. He noted that improved dialogue with the Commission would be essential for this purpose.

Several CPCs noted the importance of flexibility in the plan in order to ensure that it could be reviewed annually to the Commission's priorities, and that the work of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue Between Scientists and Managers would play a vital role in this. To this end, the European Union indicated it would be presenting a proposal in connection with the future work of the SWGSM.

The Strategic Plan was approved on the understanding that it would maintain the required flexibility.

#### **6. Review of the Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Report of the First Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) was reviewed and adopted by the Commission, as is attached as **ANNEX 4.5**.

The European Union presented a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers". Some CPCs expressed concerns regarding the presumption that this body would meet regularly in the future, and lamented the lack of active and meaningful participation of scientists during its first meeting. It was agreed that the Commission would finance one scientist as well as one manager from each developing CPC to attend future meetings, and the need for such meetings could be reviewed annually. On this basis, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers* [**Rec. 14-13**] was adopted and is attached in **ANNEX 5**. In addition, a list of suggested items to be included in draft Agendas of future SWGSM meetings was tentatively approved, and is attached in **ANNEX 7.1**.

#### **7. Review of the Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of Panel 2 and the Compliance Committee and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Chair directed the Compliance Committee and Panel 2 to review this report and discuss any issues arising from it. Following the reports of these bodies, the Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of Panel 2 and the Compliance Committee was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 4.1**.

#### **8. Review of the Report of the PWG Inter-sessional Meeting and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Chair directed the PWG to review the Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the PWG and any outstanding issues it contained. Following this review by the PWG, the Commission adopted the report which is attached as **ANNEX 4.2**.

#### **9. Review of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions**

Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Working Group, presented the findings of the second Working Group on Convention Amendment which recommended to the Commission that further work of this Group be carried out in 2015 to finalise the new text.

The SCRS Chair reported on the findings of the SCRS in relation to the questions posed by the Working Group, and noted that the "Proposal for updating the definition of tuna and tuna-like species under the ICCAT Convention as defined when the Convention was adopted in 1969" was contained in the 2014 SCRS Report, section 18.10, together with the "Response to Commission on "species covered by the term oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs".

Ghana presented a proposed amendment to Article 2 of the Convention, and Turkey presented a proposed text on Settlement of Disputes. It was agreed that these texts would be considered in greater depth by the Working Group on Convention Amendment in 2015.

Canada presented two draft Recommendations arising from the discussions of the Working Group, indicating that the approval of such texts did not preclude these concepts from being enshrined in the Convention text. This view was supported by the co-sponsors of the proposals. While there was considerable support for the concepts contained in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” and the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Use of the Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures”, some CPCs expressed difficulties in accepting the texts as presented. It was agreed that work on these important issues would continue during the next meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment.

Turkey drew attention to the joint proposal by Korea and Turkey in relation to the amendment of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities, contained in the Working Group report, and reiterated its wish that this issue continue to be open for discussion by the Working Group.

The European Union announced that the EU was exploring the possibility of acting as a depository for the amended Convention and that in principle it expected to be able to offer this service to ICCAT CPCs.

The Report of the Working Group on the Convention Amendment was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4.3**.

#### **10. Review of the Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Commission Chair noted that this report contained several important proposals and instructed the various subsidiary bodies, particularly the PWG, to work on these in order to reach agreement on final texts.

The Report of the 9th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures was adopted by the Commission as is contained in **ANNEX 4.4**.

#### **11. Review of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment and consideration of any necessary actions**

This report was referred to Panel 2 for consideration, following which the Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment was adopted by the Commission as is contained in **ANNEX 4.6**.

#### **12. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)**

The Chair of STACFAD, Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), reported to the Commission that the Committee had reviewed and adopted the 2014 Administrative Report and the 2014 Financial Report.

The revised Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2015 were presented by the Secretariat. These revisions were adopted by the Commission (see **Tables 1-5 to ANNEX 8**). STACFAD had also adopted the mechanism for financing the ICCAT meeting participation funds and the rules applying to its disbursement (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**), which was approved by the Commission.

STACFAD had also reviewed the list of priorities of the SCRS requests, and agreed that the high priority extra-budgetary activities could be financed from the Working Capital Fund in 2015.

In order to take into account the concerns raised during the discussion of the SWGSM, the European Union presented the draft “Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties” [**Rec. 14-14**] which was adopted and is attached in **ANNEX 5**.

Ms. Lapointe reported that there had been unanimous agreement to the extension of the contract of the Executive Secretary for an additional two years. It was agreed that the STACFAD Chair and the Chair of the Commission would circulate new draft terms of reference for the next selection process to all Contracting Parties, as the previous terms of reference had not been updated since 2002. All Contracting Parties would have an opportunity to be involved in this work, and those interested would meet on the margins of the Convention Amendment Working Group meeting in May 2015 to consider the revised draft. The text with the new description and terms of reference will be presented in the 2015 Commission meeting, and the selection and recruitment process will begin in 2016. The official selection will be made at the 2017 Commission meeting.

During 2014, the virtual Working Group to consider the issue of a Communications Policy had continued its work. The STACFAD Chair had presented a brief summary document, but all concurred that inter-sessional work should continue through e-mail on this during 2015.

STACFAD also discussed the possibility of requiring a letter of credential for participants at the annual meeting, but considered that the formal adoption of credentials could pose difficulties for some Contracting Parties. It was agreed that each CPC could use their own format, but would inform the Secretariat in advance of the names of participants at meetings and the information requested in the Secretariat proposal (e.g. name of Head Delegate, alternate, persons authorised to submit documents.)

It was agreed to adopt the STACFAD Report by correspondence (attached as **ANNEX 8**).

### **13. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein**

The reports of the Panels were presented by their respective Chairs. The Commission reviewed the reports and the Recommendations proposed by the Panels.

#### ***Panel 1***

The Chair of Panel 1, Mr. Helguile Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) presented the Report of Panel 1 to the plenary. The Panel had agreed on the following:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas* [**Rec. 14-01**]
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* [**Rec. 14-03**]
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of an Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)* [**Rec. 14-02**]

Following further discussion, these Recommendations were adopted by the Commission and are attached in **ANNEX 5**.

The Chair of Panel 1 informed the Commission that at the 23rd Meeting of ICCAT, it was proposed to defer implementation of the provisions of Paragraph 27 and Annex 3 of Recommendation 11-01, and that the concerns raised regarding the boarding of Regional Observers in 2013 remained in 2014. Although the Recommendation being put forward by the Panel no longer required regional observers, this would not enter into force for another six months, and hence, [Rec. 11-01] would remain in force until that time. However, given that the contract for the implementation of the ROP-TROP had expired and it was therefore impossible to implement the requirements, the EU and Ghana reiterated that they would continue to deploy National Observers on all their vessels in 2015 during the closure period defined in Point 20 of Recommendation 11-01, and that these observers would be fully trained in the required tasks. Some CPCs expressed their dissatisfaction with this arrangement, and indicated that they would have preferred the implementation of the Regional Observer Programme be used for the 2015 closed season.

Côte d'Ivoire expressed some disappointment that a cap on the total number of FADs had not been included in the multi-annual conservation and management plan, but trusted that this issue would be taken into account in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 1 by correspondence. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

**Panel 2**

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan) informed the plenary that the Panel had agreed to put forward two Recommendations to the Commission for adoption.

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 14-04]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 14-05]*

Following some modifications to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [14-04], these were adopted by the Commission and are included in **ANNEX 5**.

Although there was agreement to adopt the amended Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, many CPCs expressed their reservations, most especially regarding the allocation key and quota allocations. Iceland, Libya, Norway and Turkey all confirmed the reservations which they had expressed in Panel 2 (see **ANNEX 9**). Norway indicated that it may not be possible for the Government of Norway to accept the text. Turkey regretted that the position of Turkey had not been taken into account and that once again Turkey would be obliged to lodge a formal objection. Libya also noted a reservation on the text in relation to the carry-over of the Libyan quota from 2011, considering that this failed to make clear the right of Libya to fish its unused 2011 quota in full, even after the assessment of the stock had taken place, and noting that they wished this issue to be readdressed in 2017. Libya accepted and endorsed the rest of the text.

Algeria expressed its disappointment and discontentment regarding the fact that this important opportunity constituted by the favourable context of the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT has not been used to settle once and for all the wrong that has been caused to Algeria. Indeed, Algeria had expected that the new recommendation on eastern bluefin tuna management would make provision for re-establishment of the totality of Algeria's historical allocation. Given that this has not been the case, Algeria reserved the right to raise an objection in relation to this recommendation. It was clarified that the special additional allocations to Algeria of 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively contained in the measure were over and above the allocation of Algeria set out in the allocation table.

The Panel had also discussed a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Scientific Quota for the Funding of the Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)", which was not adopted. Notwithstanding, the importance of continued and steady financing of this programme was agreed, and all CPCs were encouraged to increase assistance to the GBYP. The Secretariat was requested to try to minimise the costs of external experts serving on the Steering Committee, for example by making full use of the scientific expertise of scientists from ICCAT CPCs.

Regarding the implementation of the Regional Observer Programme, the Panel proposed that the contract be awarded to the MRAG/Cofrepeche consortium, in accordance with the findings of the Selection Committee.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 2 by correspondence. The report is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

**Panel 3**

The Chair of Panel 3, Siphokazi Ndudane (South Africa), presented the Report of the Panel. Ms. Ndudane reported that China and Korea had been welcomed as new members to the Panel.

No conservation and management measures were put forward by Panel 3, but Ms. Ndudane reported that the Panel had accepted the Philippine payback plan for southern albacore, attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**, as well as the sharing of southern albacore underages as agreed by the Panel members (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9**). These were approved by the Commission.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 3 by correspondence. The Report is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

#### **Panel 4**

The Chair of Panel 4, Dr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil) reported that Honduras had joined the panel in 2014. He also reported that several proposals had been discussed by Panel 4, but consensus had only been reached on one of these, the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* [Rec. 14-06]. This was adopted by the Commission, and is contained in ANNEX 5.

Dr. Hazin reported that the following proposals had been discussed but had not reached consensus in the Panel, and hence were not being put forward for adoption by the Commission:

- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT
- Two Draft Recommendations by ICCAT on the Conservation of Porbeagle Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries

It was noted that there had been increasing support for the Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT, but that consensus could not be reached. Japan clarified that while Japan supported the prohibition of shark finning, they could not accept the terms of fins naturally attached for practical reasons. It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 4 by correspondence. The EU presented a statement on this issue, which is attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9**.

The Report of Panel 4 is attached as ANNEX 9.

#### **14. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendation therein**

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States), informed the Commission that the Compliance Committee (COC) had been pleased to find that no CPC had warranted identification under [Rec. 06-13] in 2014. Notwithstanding, some concerns had been expressed based on the compliance summaries and the Task I reporting summary, and it was agreed that letters of concern should be sent to 26 CPCs. Mr. Campbell informed the Commission that the Committee had undertaken a detailed review of information on the implementation of shark related measures, but that this had been impeded by a lack of reporting in some cases.

The Compliance Committee had the compliance tables for all fisheries except southern albacore, as discussions in Panel 3 had not yet concluded regarding southern albacore catch limits. The Commission adopted the compliance tables with the exception of the southern albacore table, which was deferred to adoption through the annual report.

Mr. Campbell also reported that the Compliance Committee had taken a number of steps to advance the implementation of [Rec. 11-15] in greater consistency with its intended scope, while recognizing that further actions could be discussed in 2015 to more fully implement the terms of this Recommendation. As an interim step, in the case of CPCs that had not reported Task I data for a particular species, the COC requested that such CPCs inform the Secretariat of zero catches by 15 December 2014, if applicable. On the basis of updated catch information and the final table revised with such information, the Compliance Committee Chairman would inform those CPCs whose Task I submissions had been found lacking that they were prohibited from retaining such species in 2015 until missing data, including zero catches, if applicable, are provided. The Commission agreed to apply this procedure on an interim basis until a new process for efficiently reporting zero catches in conjunction with Task I data by the 31 July annual deadline is developed.

In addition, the Compliance Committee had discussed, but had not reached consensus on the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing Guidelines for the Implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in the Case of Non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations [Rec. 11-15]”. This document had not been adopted, and it had been agreed that further discussion would be deferred until 2015. The Compliance Committee, however, had endorsed paragraph 2 of the draft proposal, recommending that the Secretariat, as a matter of priority, with SCRS input and guidance, develop instructions to facilitate CPC reporting zero catches that will enable efficient and clear CPC reporting of such zero catches to the COC. This was agreed by the Commission.

The Compliance Committee had agreed to restore cooperating status to Guyana and to renew the Cooperating Status of Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, El Salvador\* and Suriname. The Commission approved these decisions. It was also agreed that non-contracting parties with significant artisanal catches, especially in the Caribbean countries, should be encouraged to become ICCAT cooperating or contracting parties.

It was agreed that the Report of the Compliance Committee would be adopted by correspondence.

The Report is attached as **ANNEX 10**.

#### **15. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendation therein**

The PWG Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco), reported to the Commission on the work of the PWG, which had agreed on the “2014 List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area”, and this was adopted by the Commission. The adopted ICCAT IUU list is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**.

The PWG put forward the following Recommendations for approval by the Commission:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements [Rec. 14-07]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port [Rec. 14-08]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonize and Guide the Implementation of ICCAT Vessel Listing Requirements [Rec. 14-10]*
- *Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Cross-Listing of Vessels Contained on IUU Vessel Lists of Other Tuna RFMOs on the ICCAT IUU Vessel List in Accordance with Recommendation 11-18 [Res. 14-11]*

These proposals were adopted by the Commission and are attached in **ANNEX 5**.

Although the *Recommendation Amending Recommendation [03-14] by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 14-09]* had not achieved consensus in the PWG, a revised version had since been put forward, and this was adopted by the Commission, and is also included in **ANNEX 5**.

The PWG had also discussed the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program” which had not been adopted, as discussions had determined that the full implementation of the eBCD would not be possible to achieve by the 1 March 2015 deadline. It had therefore been agreed that, pursuant to the provisions of Recommendation 13-17, paper versions of the BCD could continue to be accepted until such time that all functionalities of the electronic system had been completed and were fully operational.

The PWG had discussed the proposal put forward by the Sub-Committee on Statistics in relation to the amalgamation of fleet characteristic requirements and the requirements to report annual lists of vessels fishing for certain species, currently submitted through form CP38. The PWG had approved the proposal to amalgamate these requirements in a new format (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**). In addition, the PWG had reviewed the requests of the Secretariat for clarification regarding rules for submitting vessel lists, and provided some additional answers (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**), as well as some clarifications requested through the Secretariat Report to the PWG.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of the PWG by correspondence. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 11**.

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\* El Salvador subsequently became a Contracting Party to ICCAT on 5 December 2014.

## **16. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building**

The Commission took note of the ICCAT Secretariat document summarizing the assistance provided in 2014 to developing coastal States. All Parties were in agreement that such initiatives were of great importance, and it was noted that such assistance should not be limited to meeting attendance but should include training and other means of improving the skills of developing Contracting Party scientists. The funds allocated for providing funds to the ICCAT Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) were welcomed, as was the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* ([**Rec. 14-08**], see Item 15 above and **ANNEX 5**).

## **17. Consideration of a second ICCAT performance evaluation process**

The European Union proposed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an *Ad Hoc* Working Group for Preparing the Next Performance Review” in order to advance inter-sessional work on the terms of reference for a second performance review. While it was agreed that ICCAT had been strengthened since the last performance review, some CPCs were of the view that work remained to be done, including with respect to the review and application of the allocation criteria for fishing possibilities. There was general consensus that a second performance review should not be carried out until the Convention amendment process had been finalized, but that preparatory work could go ahead meanwhile, although some concerns regarding the cost of such a review were raised.

The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group for Preparing the Next Performance Review* [**Rec. 14-12**] was adopted and is contained in **ANNEX 5**.

## **18. Inter-sessional meetings in 2015**

The Commission agreed to hold the following inter-sessional meetings:

### ***An inter-sessional meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group***

It was agreed that this meeting would be held at the Secretariat offices in late January.

### ***An inter-sessional meeting of the Panel 2 and 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures***

It was agreed that these two meetings should be held early in the year, probably in Spain.

### ***Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)***

It was agreed that this meeting would be held at the same time and venue as the bigeye data preparatory meeting.

### ***3rd Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment***

The United States of America offered to host this meeting in Miami, May 2015. The Commission thanked the USA for its offer. It was also agreed that an open-ended *ad hoc* group could meet on the margins to establish the terms of reference for the position of Executive Secretary.

### ***2nd Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers and 3rd Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment***

It was agreed that these meetings would be held consecutively at a time and place to be determined and that all CPCs would be informed of the exact timing and venues of all meetings as soon as possible by correspondence.

In addition, two virtual working groups would work inter-sessionally: The Ad Hoc Working Group for Preparing the Next Performance Review and the Working Group on Communications Policy. Both groups will be open to all interested CPCs and will work by e-mail during 2015.



## **19. Other matters**

### ***Sargasso Sea***

The United Kingdom Overseas Territories put forward a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on the Sargasso Sea”. Given that there is currently an ICCAT Resolution in force in relation to the Sargasso Sea, there was little support for this draft. On the understanding that management advice can be included in the SCRS Report to the Commission contemplated under paragraph 2 of the current Resolution [Res. 12-12], the sponsors agreed to withdraw the proposal.

### ***Kobe process and possible future actions***

The USA reported on the recent meeting of the Kobe Steering Committee, but indicated that much remained to be done, particularly to make the work of the Steering Committee more efficient and effective, potentially through the holding of in-person meetings. The European Union indicated that each tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisation should report annually on progress made under the Kobe process, and that this item should be on the ICCAT agenda every year for discussion. This suggestion was welcomed by the Commission.

### ***Progress on Global Environment Facility (GEF)***

The representative of the FAO reported to the Commission on the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) project within the GEF programme which had financial and in-kind support of 19 partners. The project aimed to facilitate existing initiatives and embraced the regional spirit of the Kobe process. The project financed capacity building workshops for compliance with RFMO regulations, as well as promoting the precautionary approach, ecosystem approach, market controls and the fight against IUU activities. The programme also provided templates for the transition of national legislation of the Port State Measures agreement and continued work on the Consolidated List of Vessels (CLAV), as well as electronic monitoring systems.

The report was welcomed by the Commission, and it was agreed that an annual update on the progress of the programme would be beneficial.

### ***Redundant Recommendations***

The Commission agreed that the following Recommendations and Resolutions are redundant and should be removed from the active Compendium: [Rec. 11-21]; [Res. 09-12]; [Rec. 11-19]; [Rec. 00-22]; [Rec. 97-03]; [Res. 96-13]; [Res. 02-25]; and [Res. 01-20]. There was general agreement that a process for the removal of redundant Recommendations and Resolutions, such as that which had been discussed in STACFAD, needed to be considered in the future. It was noted that all “inactive” Recommendations are retained for information and are available on the ICCAT web site.

### ***Sport and recreational fisheries***

The Chair of the Sport and Recreational Fisheries Working Group, on behalf of the Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive presented a paper regarding a survey on sport and recreational fisheries. This is attached as **ANNEX 7.2**.

### ***Review of the role of the Council***

Uruguay raised the subject of the Council, consulting as to its formalisation and stating that it would send a letter in 2015 so that it is discussed in the inter-sessional period.

### ***ICCAT Chair's Regional Workshops***

Uruguay expressed some concern that the Regional Workshops held by the ICCAT Chair had not included all CPCs. The Chair explained that these workshops were of an informal nature held at his own initiative and had been held to assist in getting a better understanding of the concerns of the various CPCs, and that there had been no intention to exclude any CPC from dialogue with him. Some CPCs clarified that they had not wished to be included given their already heavy meeting agendas.

## **20. Tentative date and place of the next meeting of the Commission**

The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that an invitation from the European Union to host the 24th Regular Meeting in Malta had been received. The dates for the 24th Regular Meeting of the Commission were established as 9 to 16 November 2015.

## **21. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

The Commission agreed that the Report of the Plenary Session would be adopted by correspondence.

The observer from Pew also thanked the hosts, the Chairs of all the various bodies, the Secretariat and the interpreters, and expressed disappointment that the outcomes of the 2014 meeting had not been as ambitious as those of previous years. He expressed concern over the TACs for bluefin tuna, fearing that that of the western stock had a strong likelihood of undermining the success of the recovery plan. Additional concerns included the delay in the implementation of the eBCD, and the failure to take measures to limit the mortality of vulnerable sharks.

The Chair thanked the Executive Secretary and all the Secretariat staff for their work, with a special mention for the translators. He also thanked the interpreters and all the delegates, and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Italy and the European Union for hosting the meeting. The Executive Secretary also thanked all delegates for their trust in him, as well as the Government of Italy, the interpreters, and the Secretariat staff for their contribution to the meeting.

The 2014 Commission meeting was adjourned on 17 November 2014.

**COMMISSION AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Review of the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
  - 5.1. Presentation of the Report of the SCRS
  - 5.2. Presentation of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020
6. Review of the report of the First Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of the report of the joint Panel 2/Compliance Committee Inter-sessional meeting and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of the report of the PWG Inter-sessional meeting and consideration of any necessary actions
9. Review of the report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Convention and consideration of any necessary actions
10. Review of the report of the Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions
11. Review of the report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment and consideration of any necessary actions
12. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
13. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
15. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
16. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
17. Consideration of a second ICCAT performance evaluation process
18. Inter-sessional meetings in 2015
19. Other matters
20. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
21. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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**OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS****3.1 OPENING ADDRESS****By Mr. Stefaan Depypere, ICCAT Chairman**

I should like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the European Union and the Government of Italy for hosting this 19th Special Meeting of our Commission in this magnificent city of Genoa, with good reason known as *la Superba*, which has a long history of maritime related activities. I trust we will all have an opportunity to visit some of impressive landmarks of its glorious past, as well as appreciating its more modern charms. My thanks go especially to the honourable Secretary of State for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Italy, the Prefect and Mayor of Genoa for joining us here today.

As usual, our meeting will be very busy, there may be a limited number of stocks for which conservation and management measures need to be reviewed but they are of high importance and furthermore, there are plenty of other issues to be discussed.

I would especially like to start my mandate ensuring that the strengthening of ICCAT credibility and good governance is continued.

It is vital that ICCAT not only ensure sound practices, but that this policy is also seen by others. For this reason, I trust that the trend of improved compliance, both with the ICCAT conservation and management measures themselves and the reporting requirements which stem from these, will continue. We will persist in seeking ways to limit the burden which these requirements impose on our CPCs without reducing the effectiveness of the measures. Full compliance with our self-imposed measures is vital to ensure an improved image of a serious and dedicated organisation such as ICCAT.

I would therefore urge all participants to keep on the path of heeding scientific advice. I am most pleased that this seems to be paying off for our most iconic species, but we must remain vigilant in order to ensure that this practice is continued and improved.

I should like to reiterate concerns of previous Chairs that such scientific advice should be the result of the concerted efforts of scientists from all CPCs, and note that the adoption in recent years of capacity building funds has assisted in ensuring the participation of a wider range of CPCs in scientific meetings. We now need to work toward a more participative attendance, through continued training and capacity building efforts. I have every confidence in the work of the ICCAT scientists, and in this regard I look forward to hearing the details of the work of the SCRS, which will be discussed at this Plenary.

At this meeting, I should like to make sure that there is ample time for discussion not only on stock-related measures, but on other issues of consequence for our organisation. I hope we will be able to dedicate some time to issues relating to the Kobe process and performance review process, as well as examining in more depth the outcomes of the inter-sessional meetings. Progress has been made by the Working Group on Convention Amendment, and we need to analyse the findings of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers. For IMM related issues, we need to focus especially, but not exclusively, on the progress made to date to ensure the full implementation of the eBCD.

In addition, I had the opportunity this year to organise some informal workshops in October to meet with delegates from Contracting Parties in Central America, Africa and the Mediterranean area in order to get a feel for the priorities and issues which concern several members of ICCAT. I found these meetings were most beneficial, and I hope they will serve as a basis for good and inclusive discussions on the various topics of concern. I also hope that this will motivate all parties to search for constructive solutions. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for its assistance in organising these workshops, as well as for carrying out the other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission. We have also been working towards more transparency with a decision to widen the early access of observers to proposals for decisions.

Last but not least, it is encouraging to observe that many Contracting Parties believe that good governance and swift decision making are key for the success of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. In this context, we should welcome the progress of the Working Group on the Convention Amendment, for streamlining decision-making. I hope that this process can be concluded in line with the Terms of Reference of this group at the 2015 ICCAT Annual Meeting. This would present a considerable governance improvement and turn ICCAT into a more efficient organisation. At the same time we should not stop here but also look at questions of internal governance which could be agreed and reflected in the internal rules on procedure, look at opportunities for simplification and also prepare the grounds for the next performance review of ICCAT.

I look forward to working with you all during the week ahead, and trust that we will make good progress on the matters I have raised. We will need to work hard, but I hope we can find some time, if at all possible, to enjoy other aspects such as for instance the historic splendour in our beautiful host city of Genoa.

**By the Hon. Mr. Giuseppe Castiglione, Under Secretary of State for Fisheries**

Firstly I would like to welcome all the participants on behalf of the Italian Government, wishing you a successful meeting.

After the contacts during the preparation of this meeting, I got the impression of a more relaxed environment compared to previous years.

I think I can say that this is the result of the decisions taken in the last period, even if among many difficulties. I am referring, in particular, to the bluefin tuna.

In the following days, following the opinions provided by the SCRS, we will discuss the possible increase in the bluefin tuna quota.

This is a perspective which was difficult to believe until a few years ago.

In 2007, as you well know, ICCAT adopted a long-term rebuilding Plan for avoiding a biological collapse of the stock.

That Plan was revised several times in the following years, always in more restrictive terms, with a drastic reduction of both the fishing opportunities and the fishing capacity of the fleets.

The social impact of this Plan was not negligible.

For sure, we required important sacrifices from the fishermen.

And the national Administrations were induced to enforce very strict control measures.

There are some people who think that the bluefin tuna fishery is, without any doubt, the most controlled fishery in the world.

The bluefin tuna concentrates the attention of not only those working in this field, but also of the public opinion at the international level.

It was not long ago that the possibility was discussed of including bluefin tuna in the CITES list of species threatened by extinction, with the objective to ban its international trade.

This is the reason why we shall welcome the opinion of the scientific experts with great satisfaction.

The rebuilding of the bluefin tuna stock is a fact and it is so significant as to justify increasing the fishing opportunities in the next years.

This result is a merit for all ICCAT Contracting Parties.

I close here the parenthesis on bluefin tuna.

The terms of reference we have to deal with in the following days are lengthy and require much work.

As a matter of fact, we should discuss other tuna stocks, Mediterranean swordfish, sharks, discards at sea, by-catch, integrated management measures and controls.

I am sure that on all these items we will make important progress.

Before closing my intervention, I would like to recall some aspects which are the basis of the new common fisheries policy of the European Union enforced since the beginning of this year.

The sustainable management of the fisheries requires long-term programs and measures.

And the sustainability shall be enforced in terms of conservation of the marine ecosystem and also at a social and economic level.

And the choices must be rigorously based on the best and most advanced scientific knowledge.

I can only renew to all of you my best wishes for fruitful work.

### ***3.2 ADDRESSES BY CONTRACTING PARTY MINISTERS & OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES***

#### **By the Honourable Ms. Sherry Ayittey, Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of the Republic of Ghana**

On this occasion of the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT, it gives me great pleasure to convey warm greetings from the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana. Let me begin by thanking our hosts, the European Union, the Government of Italy and the people of this beautiful and historic port city of Genoa for their hospitality. I also wish to express appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat for their excellent preparation for this special meeting.

All nations gathered here today share similar concerns about the sustainability of global fish stocks, which are threatened by several complex inter-locking factors, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, overcapacity and securing the food security for their populations.

It is in these contexts that ICCAT is a very important, if not the most important, regional fisheries management organization for Ghana. It will be recalled that Ghana was the 4th Contracting Party to join ICCAT in 1968. This is not surprising because historically the fisheries sector has and continues to contribute significantly to Ghana's socio-economic development. It generates over US\$ 1 billion in revenue each year and accounts for at least 4.5% of Ghana's GDP. The fisheries sector also accounts for an estimated 2.4 million people or 10% of the population employed directly or indirectly in the sector. Most significantly, fish accounts for 60 per cent of animal protein consumed in Ghana. Against this background of extreme dependence on fisheries resources, for food security, nutrition, employment generation and export earnings, Ghana is committed to global, regional and sub-regional efforts to achieving sustainable fisheries management. Two of the pillars of our commitment are fishing capacity reduction and a relentless fight against IUU fishing through a number of policy and practical measures.

Let me assure you of Ghana's unwavering commitment to collective efforts to achieve the long term sustainability of the tropical tuna resources in the ICCAT Convention area. We are also committed to taking every necessary action at the national level to comply with our ICCAT obligations. Most importantly, we recognise that the tuna resources in our waters are shared resources so we are committed to working cooperatively with all ICCAT Contracting Parties to ensure the long term sustainability of these resources. Last, but not the least, we are committed to modernizing ICCAT through the Convention amendment process which is currently underway to ensure fairness and equity for all members of the ICCAT family.

## **Algeria**

The delegation of Algeria thanks the European Union and the Government of Italy for hosting the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT in this marvellous city of Genoa.

Thanks to the efforts and the understanding of all the ICCAT Contracting Parties conveyed in the encouraging provisions of paragraph 10 of ICCAT Recommendation 13-07, Algeria has deployed the efforts necessary for fully compliant exploitation of its tuna fishery, despite the fact that its historical allocation of 5.073% of the TAC for eastern bluefin tuna was unfairly reduced by four fifths in 2010.

This wise decision taken at the 2012 meeting and renewed in 2013 to provide a partial and provisional solution to the problem posed for Algeria has not only encouraged the Algerian Fisheries Administration to strengthen the contribution of Algerian managers and scientists to the work of our Organisation, but has also enabled Algerian vessel owners to improve their operationality and efficiency in fishing for bluefin tuna. These positive effects are manifest in the different reports and are consolidated by information and data which will be reviewed at this ICCAT meeting.

Indeed, the number of active Algerian tuna vessels has increased from year to year since the decision taken in 2012, and of the 15 vessels owned by Algerian shipowners, 8 were active in 2014, fishing the totality of the residual fishing quota allocated to Algeria.

In any case, the 2014 campaign revealed the limits of the partial solution found for Algeria in that it has been a real challenge to share out the national quota among the active vessels which have found themselves with an individual quota reduced to a minimum i.e. some 30 t per vessel, which is far from the minimum performance standards fixed by the SCRS for this type of vessel.

Moreover, with the significant improvement in the scientific advice of the SCRS regarding the safety in increasing the TAC for eastern bluefin tuna, Algeria appeals to the sense of responsibility of all the Contracting Parties to fully redress the wrong caused to Algeria in 2010, by applying the provisions of paragraph 10 of ICCAT Recommendation 13-07, which will enable our Organisation to close this embarrassing chapter and to consider more serenely its important missions and future work.

The delegation of Algeria wishes all delegations a pleasant and fruitful stay in the city of Genoa and expresses its willingness to work with all parties in a spirit of cooperation and responsibility so that this ICCAT meeting is a great success.

## **European Union**

The European Union would like to express its deep appreciation to Italy for hosting the 19th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the beautiful seaborne city of Genoa. We would also like to praise the hard and excellent work done by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Meski, and his wonderful team throughout the year and for the preparation of this meeting. We wish also the best to the Chair, Mr. Depypere.

In recent years, ICCAT and its CPCs have delivered efficiently on an increasing range of issues and have therefore contributed in raising high expectations from the civil society and the fishing industry on the role of ICCAT and its capacity to manage fish stocks under its purview. As a result ICCAT has become today a model of best practice in the RFMO world. The European Union firmly believes that ICCAT should keep this momentum and continue promoting ambitious measures that further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation, and thus the sustainable management of resources under its purview.

The European Union is firmly committed to the objective of maintaining ICCAT as a highly performing ocean governance body. With the reform of our Common Fisheries Policy which entered into force on 1 January 2014 we confirmed and strengthened our commitment to science-based management, the application of the precautionary and eco-system approaches in fisheries management and to better monitoring and compliance. Another significant aspect of our reform is the gradual introduction of landing obligations to end the wasteful practice of discards. We are also leading the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, a plague that undermines all the efforts undertaken by lawful fishermen and their administrations.

We intend to follow the same principles and standards when fishing inside and outside European Union waters but also endeavour to promote them externally. As such, the European Union believes that ICCAT should give even more than in the past priority to the core element of sound fisheries management: *Science*. The European Union is pleased with the developments towards better science, including the dialogue between scientists and fisheries managers. Better science comes at a cost. The European Union has recognised this by providing substantial amounts of funding to the GBYP research programme (€8 million over the last 6 years). The European Union is pleased to announce that it will now also be able to provide €3.7 million for the important programme for the Tagging of Atlantic Tropical Tunas over the next five years. The European Union hopes that other Contracting Parties or associations will be in a position to provide the necessary co-financing of 10% over the period covered by the programme.

On the conservation side, we expect ICCAT this year to focus on those stocks where new or up-dated scientific advice has been provided, in particular bluefin, skipjack and Mediterranean swordfish. In that respect the European Union welcomes the confirmation of positive signs of the recovery of the eastern bluefin tuna stock. This means that the current management measures, the substantial efforts undertaken by the Contracting Parties and the industry and the tight monitoring and control system applied to eastern bluefin tuna are paying off. A gradual and moderate increase of the TAC towards the most precautionary MSY estimate will not jeopardise these efforts as long as the same level of monitoring and control is applied. In addition it is critical that ICCAT achieves the implementation of the e-BCD by March 2015.

The EU also welcomes the acknowledgment that the management measures for Mediterranean swordfish bring about the desired effects in terms of a reduction of fishing mortality, in particular for juvenile fish although the issue of fishing capacity may require particular attention in the future. Regarding skipjack, both stocks appear to be within safe limits. In view of the similar characteristics of tropical tuna the EU believes however that it would be good to extend some management measures for bigeye and yellowfin tunas to skipjack and also to prepare the grounds for improved stock assessments and recommendations by creating a Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices as recommended by the SCRS.

The European Union will also continue promoting the protection of vulnerable shark species, in particular porbeagle and shortfin mako as well as the introduction of a fins naturally attached policy for which the European Union welcomes the increasing support by many Contracting Parties. The adoption of these proposals would further contribute in positioning our Organisation as the lead RFMO in the management of sharks.

In addition, the European Union believes that it is time that ICCAT looks into ways of addressing discards systematically and will therefore ask the SCRS to look into the situation of discards and how they can be eliminated in ICCAT fisheries.

To make sure that conservation measures yield success, the European Union expects ICCAT to further enhance monitoring and control measures this year and commends the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures for the proposals submitted to the ICCAT Commission. In particular, increasing the transparency of access arrangements, enhancing the VMS system and promoting the technical assistance for developing countries for the implementation of in port inspections will further advance ICCAT's MCS. In addition, the European Union remains aware of the need for clear and enforceable control measures and for the need to harmonise these measures within the Convention area. In that context, we are proposing some amendments of the eastern bluefin tuna recovery plan which should simplify and increase the efficiency of its control measures.

In the same vein, the European Union attaches the utmost importance to the compliance process. Compliance should be at the core of the work we are doing, and we should also assist the CPCs to fully implement and respect the rules. Only full compliance by everybody guarantees a level playing field across the entire Convention area and among all ICCAT members and their industries. We are committed to ensure that ICCAT maintains a high effort for the compliance review and assessment and we are confident that this process will continue to be guided by a solution-oriented and pragmatic approach in order to further enable ICCAT to stand by its global mission.

Last but not least, the European Union believes that good governance and swift decision making is key for the success of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. Hence, the European Union welcomes the progress of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, in particular to extend the scope of the Convention to the management of elasmobranchs and to streamline decision-making. We hope that this process can be concluded in line with the Terms of Reference of this group at the 2015 ICCAT Annual Meeting. This would present a considerable governance improvement and turn ICCAT into a modern organisation. At the same time we should not stop here but prepare the grounds for the next performance review of ICCAT.

The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

## **Japan**

On behalf of the Government of Japan, this delegation would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government of Italy for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful and historic city, Genoa. We also thank Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary, and the other ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements as well as wish all the best to our new Chair, Mr. Depypere.

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations have played a central role for conservation of tuna resources and for management of tuna fisheries. This delegation believes that ICCAT is one of the role models for RFMOs since it has developed effective conservation and management measures and properly implemented them. This year, ICCAT again shows a good result, namely recovery of the Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks.

In particular, the SCRS confirmed remarkable recovery of the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna although there are some uncertainties in the magnitude and speed of the recovery. The recovery is even more obvious than last year, looking at good performance in various fisheries in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean. The SCRS report says that even catch level to most precautionary MSY under the most conservative scenario would allow the population increase. Japan would like to underline that such recovery is the result of effective conservation and management measures that ICCAT has introduced in recent years, and believe that ICCAT can gradually increase the TAC for the Atlantic bluefin tuna to that level.

As SCRS explained in its report, there are still uncertainties in the stock assessment. To reduce such uncertainty, the improvement of fishery-dependent and -independent stock indices is necessary. Due to the stock recovery and the resulting shortened fishing period, fishery-dependent stock indices for the East Atlantic bluefin tuna become less reliable, which is likely to increase uncertainties. In order to reduce the uncertainties, consideration should be given to how to keep or improve the reliability of fishery-dependent stock indices.

With respect to the western stock of the Atlantic bluefin tuna, scientists have been annoyed by two extreme recruitment hypotheses in the past. It is important to note that this year even under a pessimistic hypothesis, namely, high recruitment one, the TAC can be increased by 500 t without harming the stock.

Given the scientific advice, Japan believes that the TACs for both eastern and western stocks can be increased. At the same time, the TAC increase should be accompanied by appropriate traceability systems. ICCAT has been successfully operating the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme (BCD) for several years. Now, an electronic BCD system is almost ready to be implemented. Japan believes that the eBCD system should be implemented from March 1, 2015. More delays cannot be justified.

ICCAT has been paying attention to not only tunas but also sharks. Every year, CPCs propose new recommendations regarding sharks. Japan would like to emphasize several points in considering shark conservation measures. First, any conservation and management measures for sharks should be based on good scientific advice from the SCRS. Second, any measure should cover major fisheries targeting or incidentally catching the species subject to the measure. Third, implementation of the existing recommendations for sharks should be checked before considering new ones. In fact, Recommendation 12-05 requests that all CPCs submit details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures before 2013 annual meeting. Unfortunately, no review was conducted at the 2013 annual meeting based on the information submitted by CPCs. Japan requests that this meeting review the submitted information and take necessary actions for full implementation of existing recommendation for sharks. Addition of new measures without ensuring implementation of existing measures is not appropriate for this highly respected organization.

Japan is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this special meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

## **Libya**

It is with great pleasure and commitment that the Libyan delegation is attending this 19th special meeting of ICCAT Commission /2014.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Chair of the Commission Mr. S. Depypere, wishing him all the success, and the Secretariat (Mr. D. Meski) and in particular manner to the Government of Italy for hosting this meeting in a beautiful city of Genoa.

There are many challenging and important issues on the table again at this meeting.

Libya gives priority to the issue of conservation and management of bluefin tuna. The SCRS again this year confirmed a remarkable recovery of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock despite the fact that there are still some uncertainties.

The recovery is even more obvious than last year looking at the good performance in various fisheries in the Mediterranean.

Libya would like to stress that such recovery is the result of the effective conservation and management measures that ICCAT has introduced in recent years, at the same time we are concerned that the SCRS cannot make a clear recommendation on TAC increase.

We must emphasize that there are still many issues to work on and fix here in Genoa.

Libya believes that there are good indications, including a significant and strong increase of BFT in many areas all along the Mediterranean, that have shown important positive outcomes from the recent management measures, including among them a substantial decrease in catch and minimum size regulation measures, which is probably the one thing we all really want to see.

BFT fishing industry was forced to forfeit the 2011 season due to the circumstances beyond its or anybody else's control. This has caused great hardship to the various social sectors concerned. Libya would like to take the opportunity to submit again the issue of its unused/unutilized quota 2011 season, requesting that it be considered and discussed in this meeting with more materialized result.

Libya will thus continue to support all the well-conceived measures to be adopted by the Commission at this meeting, and meanwhile would like to wish all the success for the work of this meeting.

## **Namibia**

The Namibian delegation expresses its profound gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Italy for hosting the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful, historic city of Genoa. We would equally like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for the excellent meeting arrangements.

This year the Commission will consider the results obtained from numerous stock assessments carried out during 2014 in order to develop appropriate recommendations and resolutions to ensure optimal, sustainable utilization and management of marine resources.

In 2014 the SCRS updated the last stock assessment for the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and concluded that the management efforts conducted over the last years have resulted in a substantial increase in population size. Furthermore, the SCRS has indicated the possibility that a full recovery of the stock to the Maximum Sustainable Yield level (MSY) might be reached soon. Nonetheless, the SCRS also raised strong concerns regarding the high uncertainties associated with the assessment which prevented robust advice to ICCAT regarding quotas and other aspects.

The SCRS "remains concerned about current capacity which could easily harvest catch volumes well in excess of the rebuilding strategy adopted by the Commission" and consequently suggests a precautionary approach.

The Namibian delegation fully supports the SCRS in its endeavour to gather more data and develop a new methodology leading to more reliable and robust stock assessment in 2015/2016.

In line with the SCRS Namibia recommends “the continuation of enhanced data collection program and the replacement of current assessment methods with appropriate approaches that take unquantified uncertainties into account”.

The SCRS has been working hard since 2012 to put together the necessary tools to carry out a new stock assessment in 2015/2016 based on “new assessment modelling approaches and inputs”, as provided for by ICCAT [Rec. 12-03].

Last, but not least, Namibia welcomes the tabling of the draft SCRS Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2020 at this year’s Commission meeting. We are of the view that this Plan will enhance the quality of work to be done by the SCRS and will go a long way in contributing to the efficient and sustainable management of the resources under the mandate of ICCAT.

### **United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)**

The UK Overseas Territories would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Italian Republic for hosting the 19th Special Meeting here in Genoa.

The UKOTs consist of 4 different United Kingdom Overseas Territories – Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and St. Helena. These are small coastal states in varying stages of development. During the year we have worked hard to meet all our ICCAT obligations and hope that we have managed to do so to the satisfaction of the Commission. The UK Government and its Overseas Territories are also committed to ensuring that marine resources are managed to a high standard, a strategy which was highlighted in the UK Government’s White Paper on the UKOTs, which contains a chapter dedicated to the strengthening of environmental protection. The UK Overseas Territories recognise that scientific information underpins sound decision-making and are working with the UK Government to improve understanding of marine resources in the Territories.

While we acknowledge that the main focus of the meeting will be on Atlantic bluefin, and we hope that Contracting Parties can work together in order to safeguard the future sustainability of these fisheries, we would also look forward to seeing the Commission address conservation measures for skipjack tuna and Mediterranean swordfish, and will follow these discussions with great interest.

Whilst the measures taken to protect sharks at previous annual meetings are very welcome, we would like to see further recommendations adopted this year that will protect other vulnerable shark species. In particular, we consider it essential that ICCAT takes firm action to protect the porbeagle shark, as this species is now listed under Appendix 2 of CITES. Additionally, the UK Overseas Territories would support protection of shortfin mako in the future, the strengthening of the prohibition on shark-finning and other measures to protect other by-catch species, such as birds and turtles. We look forward to these discussions and are confident that ICCAT will once again demonstrate to the world that it can manage the marine resources for which it is responsible, in a sustainable and efficient manner.

The UKOTs would also like ICCAT to consider the strengthening of Resolution 12-12 to allow the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics to provide any relevant management advice for the Sargasso Sea going forward. The Sargasso Sea is internationally recognised as being an ecologically and biologically significant area, within which ICCAT species are among the top predators. It is also important as a pupping, spawning and nursery area for several ICCAT species, including porbeagle, marlin and albacore tuna.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat for the outstanding work that it continues to do on behalf of the Contracting Parties. We wish them, the Chair of ICCAT, the other Chairs of the various Committees and Panels and other Contracting Parties our best wishes for a constructive and successful meeting.

### **United States**

The United States would like to thank our EU and Italian hosts for convening this 19th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in such an historically rich and beautiful setting. We also want to offer our appreciation to the Executive Secretary and staff for the excellent meeting preparations.



2014 has been a year of significant work for ICCAT, with a wide range of important issues discussed inter-sessionally. The United States was particularly encouraged by the significant progress of the Convention Amendment Working Group this year. We hope to continue this momentum and finish the amendment process in 2015. Clarifying the scope of the Convention and incorporating modern fisheries management principles, including the precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches within the Convention text, is critical to the continued success of ICCAT in meeting its conservation and management objectives.

Sound science is the foundation of sustainable management, and we must continue to ensure the SCRS has the best information available to do their work and strengthen the science underlying ICCAT management. In that vein, the United States applauds the SCRS for its milestone initiative in developing the SCRS Strategic Plan for 2015-2020. We also believe it is crucial to strengthen the dialogue between scientists and managers and look forward to further advancing the work of the Standing Working Group designed for that purpose. Additionally, ICCAT must continue to improve statistical data collection and support key research initiatives, including those needed to reduce uncertainties in stock assessments.

At this annual meeting, we expect the parties will again adopt management measures that follow the scientific advice for both bluefin tuna stocks, giving due consideration to the uncertainties in the assessment results, and that are consistent with the respective rebuilding plans. For the western stock, management measures must be robust under both recruitment scenarios, including providing for a high probability of continued growth in spawning stock biomass and allowing the strong 2003 year-class to continue to enhance the productivity of the stock. The United States supports management actions that will help resolve the uncertainty associated with the stock-recruitment relationship for western Atlantic bluefin tuna. We suggest that the measure be for two years given the timing of the next stock assessment.

ICCAT should also continue its work to support the conservation of sharks caught in ICCAT fisheries. A joint proposal by Belize, Brazil, European Union, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States would require all sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached. This would improve conservation by enhancing species-specific data collection and improving the enforceability of ICCAT's existing ban on shark finning. We are also mindful of scientific advice recommending that we take action to ensure recovery of porbeagle sharks and ensure that catches of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased above 2010 levels.

It is essential that we continue to strengthen adherence with ICCAT measures and improve the compliance review process, including taking meaningful measures to address non-compliance. Working together, we must continue our efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in particular by enhancing the monitoring of ICCAT fisheries with more frequent reporting of vessel positions through vessel monitoring systems and establishing programs to assist developing States in implementing their port inspection responsibilities. Finally, we must ensure effective and timely implementation of ICCAT's electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation system.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to your leadership. ICCAT is becoming a stronger organization and the actions that can – and must – be taken at this year's meeting will continue this important progress. We look forward to working with you and our partners around this table to continue the momentum towards a stronger, more effective ICCAT that grounds its measures in science, holds all accountable to their obligations, and ensures the long-term future of all the stocks under its charge.

## **Uruguay**

The delegation of Uruguay wishes to thank the Government of Italy for hosting the 19th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in this beautiful city of Genoa. Uruguay would also like to extend its appreciation to the European Union and the ICCAT Secretariat for all the work undertaken in connection with the organization of this event.

To a large extent, Italy, and Genoa in particular, have marked the history of the American continent and Europe. It was a Genoese, Christopher Columbus, who made the discovery for the Europeans, taking the first steps to conquer and dominate the Americas. It was also an Italian (Amerigo Vespucci) who conceived the territory of the Americas as a continent and to who our beloved Americas owes its name.

Today, more than 500 years after these events, we are gathered here in the port of Genoa willing to seek agreements on fishery related issues. In this regard, we understand that it is crucial to ensure equality among the CPCs working within this Commission so as to reduce and/or close the large gap that has been generated between the poor countries and those that became rich during this time of history. To achieve this, we believe that analysis of the resource allocation criteria should be resumed, taking into account the advice of the SCRS as well as the needs of poor coastal countries.

We continue to be concerned about the scope and the direction that the aspects of control and compliance have taken in recent years. We need greater commitments, lower costs and less bureaucracy to make compliance possible. We need to build capacities so that poor economies can achieve a level of control and compliance that will enable these imbalances to be resolved.

Uruguay has achieved great improvements in controlling illegal fishing. It is the first nation in Latin America as well as third jurisdiction in the world, after Norway and the European Union, whose centralised parliament has approved the Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU). This agreement has been law in Uruguay since December 2012; although the agreement has not yet entered into force due to the lack of the necessary ratifications, it is a rule of law in Uruguay and as such, mandatory. Regulations are currently being developed, which will allow tighter control.

These imbalances are also reflected in the costs of some fleets, and therefore in the price of the product caught. Many fleets have unregulated crews who do not receive minimum social benefits, obtaining subsidies of different types, which gives rise to unfair and illegal competition with those fleets that do comply with all the regulations, controls, research necessary to assess resources, and the rights of crewmembers.

Uruguay is also concerned by the rush by some delegations to make their presence known by submitting a large number of recommendations and resolutions, often without a technical or scientific basis. Since 1996, ICCAT has endorsed some 316 recommendations and resolutions and only about 100 of these are in force. This overcomplicates matters and does not always lead to improved fishery and resource management. We have gone to great lengths to amend the Convention, seeking a more “modern” approach better adapted to today’s reality. However, during this time, we have omitted to comply with Article V of the Basic Texts: *“There is established within the Commission a Council which shall consist of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission together with the representatives of not less than four and not more than eight Contracting Parties.”* The main objective of this Council, which has not been constituted, is to provide greater safeguards to all Contracting Parties and greater transparency to the processes of the Commission. Uruguay considers that it is very important to establish this Council as soon as possible. Firstly, because express provision is made for this body in Article V, requiring it to be formalized. And secondly, it is the Commission's responsibility to achieve the objectives set out in the Convention, as provided in Article III (1) of the Basic Texts.

It is our understanding that the Commission should undergo a process of change, with greater transparency, simpler actions and enhanced commitment of the Parties to compliance with the objective of the Convention. *“The Governments whose duly authorized representatives have subscribed hereto, considering their mutual interest in the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes found in the Atlantic Ocean, and desiring to co-operate in maintaining the populations of these fishes at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes, resolve to conclude a Convention for the conservation of the resources of tuna and tuna-like fishes of the Atlantic Ocean”.*

Uruguay would like to welcome all the participants and wishes that this year’s meeting is a productive one, reiterating once again its willingness to work with all Parties.

### **3.3 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE (EAC)**

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) is encouraged by the recent scientific assessments on Atlantic bluefin tuna, suggesting growth in both the eastern and western populations. However, now is not the time to risk reversing these trends and halting the progress that ICCAT Parties have made on Atlantic bluefin tuna in recent years so a precautionary approach is critical. Additionally, important discussions are underway to include sharks, the precautionary approach, and ecosystem based management in the ICCAT Convention amendments. However, conservation measures to protect vulnerable sharks must be adopted in the meantime.

We look forward to working with ICCAT Parties throughout the meeting and recommend that ICCAT Parties take the following actions this year:

#### ***Atlantic bluefin tuna***

##### *Maintain current quotas for western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna*

The latest stock assessment results for the western and eastern stocks suggest that there is growth in these populations, indicating that having reduced and maintained quotas in line with scientific advice is helping to rebuild these populations. However, there is still a high degree of uncertainty in the data that should cause scrutiny on the magnitude of growth. Fortunately, improved stock assessments methodology in 2016 will help to reduce these uncertainties.

The western stock is still at only 55% of 1970s levels, and only 5 years remain in the 20-year rebuilding plan. In order to help ensure that the population continues to rebuild, parties should maintain the western Atlantic bluefin tuna quota at 1,750 t, inclusive of any scientific research quota, for the 2015/2016 fishing seasons.

In the eastern stock, there is also a lot of uncertainty in the latest stock assessment and unreported illegal fishing is not accounted for. EAC recommends maintaining the eastern bluefin tuna quota at the current level of 13,400 t, inclusive of any scientific research quota, to ensure that recovery in the population continues.

##### *Implement the electronic Bluefin Catch Document (eBCD) by the March 2015 deadline*

ICCAT put forward a plan at the 2010 meeting to implement the eBCD system and replace the flawed paper-based system. The eBCD has the potential to help combat the serious problem of illegal fishing in the eastern bluefin fishery, which could help further the recovery of the population. However, the implementation of the eBCD has already been delayed with risky loopholes in discussion. We urge the Commission to remain committed to the March 2015 eBCD implementation deadline and agree to track all catch regardless of origin or destination.

#### ***Sharks***

##### *Prohibit the retention of porbeagle shark in the ICCAT Convention area*

According to the SCRS, porbeagle sharks are one of the most vulnerable sharks in the ICCAT area. Estimates of dead discards, post release mortality or environmental changes over the possible century of recovery time are not accounted for, and there may be unregulated and unreported high seas catch not represented in abundance models. We urge the Commission to prohibit retention of porbeagle sharks in the ICCAT Convention area to ensure the shortest recovery time for porbeagles and to also help ensure that the CITES Appendix II listing can be implemented successfully.

##### *Establish science based catch limits for shortfin mako and blue sharks*

The SCRS continues to recommend that fishing mortality should not increase for shortfin mako. Catch should be limited to historical average catches that ensures mortality is below current levels until such a time as scientifically based catch limits can be established.

The SCRS Ecological Risk Assessment has also identified blue sharks as vulnerable and recommends measures to ensure catches stay within the Convention objective. Establishing precautionary catch limits based on historic averages that maintain mortality below current levels is the first step until such time as scientifically based limits can be established.

*Improve the existing finning ban by moving to a 'fins naturally attached' rule*

ICCAT was the first RFMO to ban shark finning, but loopholes exist with the 5% rule that mean illegal shark fins are still being landed. Requiring sharks to be landed with fins attached at the first point of landing is the most straightforward way of enforcing the finning ban and will greatly improve species-specific data collection for sharks. The Ecology Action Centre urges the Commission to support a proposed 'fins naturally attached' regulation.

### ***ICCAT amendments***

While the process is currently underway to amend the ICCAT Convention text, Ecology Action Centre urges members to expand the list of species covered explicitly by the Convention to include all shark species listed in Article 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Annex 1). In addition, EAC urges the Commission to integrate the precautionary approach and ecosystem based management when amending the Convention text and that ICCAT Parties move to make the Amendment changes quickly.

## **INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION (ISSF)**

### ***Tropical tunas***

Skipjack tuna stocks were re-assessed in 2014 and are estimated to be in a healthy status. The SCRS recommended that harvest levels for the eastern stock not be allowed to increase over the level achieved in recent years. Since the current management plan for tropical tunas (Recs. 11-01 and 13-01, primarily focused on bigeye and yellowfin) expires at the end of 2015, ISSF urges the Commission to extend the measures at least through 2016, by which time the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin will have been re-assessed.

### ***Temperate tunas***

The 2014 stock assessments of bluefin tuna indicate that the stocks are rebuilding under ICCAT management plans. ISSF urges the Commission to adopt TACs consistent with SCRS advice that will continue the rebuilding programs.

In 2013, SCRS conducted new assessments for northern and southern albacore. The northern stock assessment indicates that the stock is slightly overfished but increasing (spawning biomass is 6% below the MSY level) and overfishing is not occurring. *ISSF urges ICCAT to not increase the current TAC of 28,000 t for northern albacore in order to allow the stock to continue to rebuild.* For the southern stock, different models gave different results, but the median estimate suggests the stock is somewhat overfished (spawning biomass 8% below the MSY level) and subject to slight overfishing (fishing mortality is 4% above the MSY level). Projections indicate that at the current TAC level the stock status will improve only by 2020 in terms of rebuilding and ending overfishing with a probability greater than 50%. *ISSF urges ICCAT to consider decreasing the current TAC of 24,000 t for southern albacore, and in no case to increase it.*

Serious data deficiencies for the Mediterranean albacore stock have been highlighted by the SCRS for several years, but have not been addressed by CPCs. *The Mediterranean albacore stock is the only major commercial tuna stock in the world that remains to be assessed quantitatively. ISSF urges the CPCs identified by SCRS to review their historical data for Mediterranean albacore and submit revisions to SCRS.*

### ***Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and Reference Points***

HCRs are a set of well-defined management actions to be taken in response to changes in stock status with respect to target and limit reference points. ISSF endorses the application of the Precautionary Approach using clear target and limit reference points and HCRs, as called for by the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and by some RFMO Conventions.

*ISSF applauds the successful first meeting of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) in 2014. ISSF now urges the Commission to take this work into consideration for the establishment of target and limit reference points and a HCR for North Atlantic albacore. This requires a thorough dialogue between decision makers, scientists and stakeholders involved in the process. ISSF further urges ICCAT to initiate similar work for other tuna stocks under its purview.*

#### **Observer coverage for large-scale purse seiners**

Comprehensive observer coverage on purse seine vessels is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas. *ISSF urges ICCAT to extend the 100% observer coverage on large-scale purse seiners in its tropical tuna fisheries to cover the entire year as the IATTC and WCPFC have done.* This would be facilitated if it included a regional mechanism that provides that an observer from a coastal State national program (registered with the Secretariat) will be valid in other countries' EEZs.

In order to assist RFMOs and CPCs in developing or strengthening their national, regional or sub-regional human observer programs for purse seine vessels, and to ensure that observer programs worldwide are striving to reach the same set of high standards, ISSF recently published a *technical paper* that includes a set of best practices. For more information, and a link to the ISSF Technical Report, please see:

<http://iss-foundation.org/2014/03/28/promoting-best-practices-for-purse-seine-observer-programs-worldwide/>

In addition, ISSF has adopted a *conservation measure* that requires companies to conduct transactions only with those large-scale purse vessels that have 100% observer coverage (human or electronic, if proven to be effective) of each fishing trip. ISSF Participating Companies are audited annually, on their compliance with this measure in order to show leadership and underscore the importance of 100% observer coverage in purse seine fisheries globally.

#### **Full retention of tuna catch**

While other RFMOs have adopted tuna catch retention measures, to date ICCAT has not taken steps to do the same. The dumping of less valuable tuna in favor of higher value catch distorts our understanding of the actual impact on the tuna stocks by fishing operations. *ISSF continues to urge ICCAT to adopt comprehensive catch retention measures for all tunas.*

#### **VMS**

ISSF recommends that purse seine and longline vessels participate in VMS programs that meet global standards. To assist CPCs and RFMOs in achieving this goal, *ISSF has released a technical paper that surveys the VMS programs in RFMOs*, and identifies a set of best practice elements for States and RFMOs to use in developing or strengthening VMS programs for fishing vessels. This technical paper highlights a number of areas in which the current ICCAT VMS provisions fall short of global best practices. Therefore, the ICCAT Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group recommendation to amend Recommendation 03-14 on VMS to change the current 6 hour transmission rate to 4 hours is a positive step forward. *ISSF urges ICCAT to adopt this amendment this year, and take further steps to modernize its VMS measure in 2015 to bring it in line with global best practices.* For more information, and a link to the ISSF Technical Report, please see:

<http://iss-foundation.org/2014/05/14/implementing-best-practices-for-vessel-monitoring-systems/>

#### **Sharks**

ISSF urges CPCs to follow the SCRS recommendation to report fishery statistics of all ICCAT and non-ICCAT fisheries capturing pelagic sharks, including recreational and artisanal fisheries. Furthermore, ISSF is urging all tuna RFMOs to adopt measures to *prohibit deliberate purse seine setting around whale sharks, and the at-sea removal of shark fins – mandating that they remain naturally attached until the shark is landed.* Further, *ISSF urges ICCAT to request the SCRS to undertake an assessment of blue sharks, shortfin makos and common thresher sharks by a date certain so that catch or effort limits, reference points and HCRs can be established for these species.*

### ***Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) management***

Setting on FADs accounts for nearly 40% of global tuna catches and 50% of global skipjack catches. The time is ripe for a concerted global effort to gather and report to RFMOs data on FADs (e.g., via logbooks) in order to better monitor FAD usage and to establish a sound basis for their management in every ocean region. ISSF notes the substantial progress made by ICCAT through the 2013 adoption of amendments to Recommendation 11-01 regarding FAD management and reporting. *ISSF strongly supports the SCRS recommendation for the creation of a Working Group on FADs that involves all stakeholders and urges all CPCs, if they have not already done so, to provide these data starting 1 January 2015, as called for in the Recommendation, and also a detailed analysis of FAD usage patterns and catch per effort analysis by their fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean in order to enable a determination of changes in fishing capacity and likely impacts on stocks managed through ICCAT. ISSF also encourages the Commission to adopt a marking scheme for identifying individual FADs.*

In addition to improving FAD management, *ISSF strongly supports the provisions in Recommendation 11-01 that CPCs should promote the use of non-entangling FADs (FAD designs to reduce the incidence of entanglement of bycatch species, using biodegradable material as much as possible). ISSF encourages all CPCs to take this step as soon as possible and to undertake research on the effectiveness of various FAD designs. This is a critical step in the reduction of shark mortality and reduction of other ecosystem impacts in the Atlantic Ocean.*

### ***Closed vessel registries and management of fleet capacity***

Experts agree that there is overcapacity in the global tuna fleets. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures and eventually leads to stock overexploitation.

ISSF continues to be concerned with the global growth of fishing capacity. To underscore the importance of this issue, in October ISSF clarified its Resolution to Limit the Growth in Fishing Capacity of the Global Large-Scale Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fleet. Through this Resolution, ISSF Participating Companies must refrain from transactions in skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught by large scale\* purse seine vessels that are not actively fishing for tuna, or under contract for construction, as of December 31, 2012 or a replacement for an existing vessel.

*ISSF urges ICCAT to establish limited entry through closed vessel registries and to develop a common currency to measure fishing capacity, such as cubic meters of well volume. ISSF also supports the Kobe III call for creating mechanisms to transfer capacity to developing countries.*

*Given the importance of a mechanism to transfer capacity from developed to developing countries to any regional capacity management scheme, ISSF hosted a Workshop in March 2014 to start a dialogue among stakeholders on this issue. ISSF hopes this Workshop and dialog will contribute to progressing capacity management in the tuna RFMOs. The workshop report can be accessed here:*

<http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=522>

### ***Compliance***

ICCAT has one of the best designed and most transparent compliance assessment process of the five tuna RFMOs. The one area where it can improve, however, is regarding its scheme of responses to non-compliance. The Compliance Committee (CoC) is currently using such a scheme only on a pilot basis. *ISSF urges the Commission to finalize the development of a scheme of responses to non-compliance and codify it in a permanent Recommendation, as soon as possible.*

For more information tuna RFMO compliance processes, access an *ISSF Technical Report* that includes a set of best practices at: <http://iss-foundation.org/resources/downloads/?did=447>

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\* For the purpose of this resolution, large-scale purse seine vessels are those with at least 335 m<sup>3</sup> fish hold volume.

## OCEANA

Oceana would like to thank the European Union and the Government of the Italian Republic for its warm hospitality in hosting this 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT. It is particularly significant that this year's meeting is being held in Italy, considering that the main challenges to be dealt with here include how best to ensure the recovery of stocks of key relevance to this country, such as eastern bluefin tuna and Mediterranean swordfish.

This is a year in which ICCAT's leadership among RFMOs has been illustrated by the encouraging results being delivered by the recovery plan for eastern bluefin tuna. These incipient signs of recovery, as a result of efforts initiated in 2006, confirm an important message that applies equally to all species under the purview of ICCAT: together, political will and science deliver management results.

In this important year for ICCAT, Oceana would like to remind CPCs that there is still a long way to go in addressing overexploitation and mismanagement, and ensuring full compliance in the ICCAT Convention area. There is a long list of species of concern to ICCAT; many lack adequate measures to guarantee their sustainable exploitation, and existing measures are not equally applied or respected by CPCs.

At this meeting, Oceana calls upon ICCAT CPCs to broadly demonstrate the same political resolve and science-based decision-making that is helping to set eastern bluefin tuna on the path towards recovery:

- *Exercise continued precaution for eastern bluefin tuna, by following the most conservative scientific advice.* Given the high uncertainty in the last stock assessment and the 2014 update, current TAC levels should be maintained, or only slightly increased over a period of three years or longer.
- *Address overfishing of Mediterranean swordfish.* The 2014 assessment showed, as has each assessment since 2003, that this stock is overfished and subject to continued overfishing. Inaction and mismanagement of this neglected stock, which is equal in biomass to the North and South Atlantic stocks, blatantly undermines Convention objectives.
- *Eliminate loopholes allowing shark finning.* Due to a minority blockade, ICCAT has repeatedly failed to amend its flawed recommendation on finning. It is time for ICCAT to become the leading tuna RFMO in shark policy by adopting a strict prohibition on finning that requires sharks to be landed with their fins attached; failing again should not be an option.
- *Manage commercially exploited sharks, and protect threatened ones.* ICCAT's management of sharks remains far from adequate. Critically, two major scientific recommendations have been ignored and should be immediately applied: catches of shortfin mako should be limited, and highly threatened porbeagle sharks should be prohibited for retention and landing.

In addition, Oceana calls upon ICCAT to direct additional efforts towards tackling non-compliance and IUU fishing within the Convention area; analyses should be followed by action in order to ensure real and effective management. In particular, Oceana would like to highlight the need for consistency and efficiency in identifying vessels involved in IUU fishing, and in adopting measures to deter them from engaging in future IUU activities. Enhancing cooperation and communication among CPCs and with other RFMOs is also essential for eradicating this plague from our oceans.

## THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS (PEW)

The Pew Charitable Trusts is encouraged that the Commission has taken steps in recent years toward more sustainable management of tunas and sharks and that it has improved compliance with existing management measures. However, further actions are needed to restore and guarantee healthy populations of these species across the Atlantic Ocean. This year, it is critical that ICCAT adopts measures that are in line with precautionary scientific advice for Atlantic bluefin tuna, that reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and that ensure the sustainable management of all sharks caught in the ICCAT area.

Pew calls on ICCAT members to take the following actions at the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT:

**1. Maintain Atlantic bluefin quotas at current levels, inclusive of any scientific research quota, for 2015 and 2016**

The updated stock assessment results for the eastern and western bluefin populations suggest that the current science-based catch limits are allowing both populations to grow. However, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) points to problematic levels of uncertainty in the assessment results that call into question the size and speed of this growth. In 2016, an improved stock assessment methodology will allow the Commission to reduce uncertainty and implement measures that increase the likelihood of full recovery of both populations.

This year, it is imperative that the Commission follow a risk-averse approach within the bounds of the SCRS advice by maintaining quotas at current levels for both populations, inclusive of any scientific research quota, for 2015 and 2016. The existing scientific uncertainty should be cause for caution and should not be seen as an opportunity to raise quotas and risk reversing recent gains. More specifically:

- The western Atlantic population has been at a low level for more than three decades, in part because nearly every time there is evidence of population growth, the Commission has raised the quota essentially undoing any gains. With the western population estimated to be at just 55% of the already-depleted 1970 level and given SCRS concerns that this updated estimate is overly inflated, the responsible management response is to maintain the western quota at 1,750 t, inclusive of any scientific research quota, in line with the scientific advice.
- While there are strong signs that the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean population is on the path to recovery, there is even greater uncertainty in the most recent assessment update than in the 2012 assessment. Given increased uncertainty and in light of ongoing illegal fishing in the East, it is imperative that the Commission maintain the eastern quota in line with the precautionary bound of the scientific advice (13,400 t), inclusive of any scientific research quota, until the stock assessment is overhauled in 2016 and a robust electronic bluefin catch documentation system (eBCD) is fully implemented.

**2. Ensure that the eBCD system is fully operational and implemented by all Parties by the March 2015 deadline and that it electronically tracks all catch and major sources of trade**

Any recent gains in the eastern bluefin population will be put in jeopardy if fishery managers fail to put effective controls in place to deter illegal fishing and ensure that actual catch remains at or below the science-based catch limit. In the past five years, ICCAT has worked to develop the eBCD system to replace the outdated paper forms, noting that the old system “suffered from a number of shortcomings” that limited its ability to stem illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. The electronic system would ensure real-time submission of data and reduce opportunities for misreporting and fraud.

However, there have already been multiple delays in the development of the eBCD system and any move to minimize the scope of electronic tracking or to allow continued use of the ineffective paper system would reduce the efficacy of the eBCD and potentially undermine the recovery of the eastern bluefin population. Thus, the Commission should ensure full implementation of a robust eBCD system by the March 2015 deadline, including electronic tracking of all catch and major sources of trade.

**3. Require all authorized fishing vessels to have fully operative, tamper-proof VMS, to transmit required data to the ICCAT Secretariat in a centralized way**

Pew welcomes agreement at the last meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures to reduce the VMS transmission rate to 4 hours, and also welcomes the proposal submitted by Côte d’Ivoire and Senegal amending Recommendation 3-14 on VMS. Both proposals will lead to necessary improvements in ICCAT’s VMS, but they are not sufficient to render VMS a useful tool for ICCAT’s management objectives. In addition to adopting this year’s proposed amendments to [Rec. 3-14], CPCs should commit to significantly strengthen ICCAT’s VMS at the 2016 meeting so that at least the standards currently applied to eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna are extended to vessels fishing for all other ICCAT species. As recommended in 2014 by the SCRS for bluefin tuna, the Commission should increase the frequency of VMS data polling to one hour or less.



#### **4. Make vessel data requirements more complete and harmonized across all ICCAT vessel records**

Last year, ICCAT made important strides by requiring International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers for large vessels and by improving the quality of the existing Record of Vessels. These records would be even more effective if IMO numbers were required also for vessels covered under the recommendations on transshipment, vessels fishing for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and chartered vessels. In addition, vessel records should include additional valuable information such as official records of any enforcement action taken against a vessel as soon as it becomes available.

#### **5. Establish a procedure that permits the listing of IUU vessels to ensure the IUU vessel list is updated whenever a vessel changes, name flag or other identifying elements**

The effectiveness of ICCAT's IUU Vessels list to deter unacceptable practices is diminished by the fact that vessels can only be added to the list once a year. Vessels can be delisted intersessionally so it should also be possible to add them to the IUU vessel list intersessionally to help ensure that they cannot continue to operate unhindered.

#### **6. Properly manage sharks**

The proper management of sharks by ICCAT is of huge importance due to their inherent vulnerability to overexploitation and the extremely high numbers that are caught in ICCAT managed fisheries annually. We warmly welcome the ongoing discussions on amendments to the ICCAT Convention, particularly with regard to sharks. We support the use of the SCRS' recommendation to include a preliminary list of sharks covered by the term oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs in these ongoing negotiations. It is essential that ICCAT formally recognizes its obligation to manage sharks by including all shark species caught in ICCAT fisheries in the amended Convention. It is also essential that action on sharks continues while we await these changes.

Over 56,000 metric tons of blue shark, and over 5,500 metric tons of shortfin mako shark were caught in ICCAT managed fisheries in 2013, but these stocks are still not subject to management controls. Additionally the scientific advice from the SCRS on porbeagle shark continues to indicate that the retention of this species should be prohibited to allow the stock to recover. This year the Commission must agree to strong measures in line with both scientific advice and the precautionary approach for blue, porbeagle and shortfin mako sharks. Catches of blue and mako sharks should be limited to current levels while improved scientific advice is developed to manage these heavily exploited species sustainably. Also, based on the advice of the SCRS, ICCAT should finally act to prohibit the retention of the porbeagle shark when caught.

#### **WWF**

Only a few years ago, at the height of the bluefin tuna mismanagement crisis, ICCAT was often cited as the quintessential example of a failed international organization. In parallel, the Atlantic bluefin tuna became a global icon of overfishing and the greedy, short-sighted destruction of our natural commons. ICCAT's reputation, like the fish it was tasked to sustainably steward, was on the verge of collapse.

What has happened in the short time elapsed since then could well be labeled as a resounding success. The first half-hearted measures adopted in 2006 were increasingly strengthened over the following years, gradually configuring a sound science-based rebuilding scheme addressing crucial aspects of the fishing and farming system. Some have expressed concern that the strong focus on bluefin tuna might have taken attention away from other species under the purview of ICCAT, but the extraordinary measures adopted for this particular fishery in the last years are relevant much more broadly. The Mediterranean bluefin tuna recovery plan has set precedents to improve global fisheries governance and has been a change-maker for ICCAT. By saving the bluefin tuna, ICCAT has saved itself.

But the job is far from finished yet, and progress is precarious. ICCAT's SCRS is very clear in pointing to methodological shortcomings and the paucity of data resulting in huge uncertainties on the precise status of the stock. While there is consensus that the size of the stock shows an upward trend, it remains unknown where the stock is regarding management reference points. It is expected that a much better picture of the stock will emerge out of the full assessment proposed for 2016. Nevertheless, one key current concern is that ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Catch Document scheme is clearly plagued with shortcomings that undermine the ability of the system to ensure real traceability. Tuna fished beyond quotas can still be easily laundered during the fishing and farming process.

It is sometimes said that, as difficult as it may be, managing a crisis is easier than managing a success. This principle perfectly summarizes the current moment regarding the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. After the sacrifices of the last years, the recent tentative good news is leading to unreasonable requests to relax management measures, including calls for dramatic increases in fishing possibilities based on a biased reading of scientific reports. If these materialize, it would be the end of an idea before it has really taken hold: that of real societal progress towards sustainably managing our oceans.

WWF calls on all ICCAT CPCs and the industry to be proud of the work done so far, and to honour it by adopting a precautionary attitude towards decisions to be taken on bluefin tuna management this year, along the lines expressed in WWF's position paper.

The real make or break for ICCAT is now.

## REPORTS OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

### **4.1 REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 AND THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (Madrid, Spain- March 3-5, 2014)**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Morio Kaneko (Japan) and the Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States).

#### **2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

At the beginning of the session, the Chair proposed some changes to the original agenda in order to better facilitate discussion of relevant items together. There were no objections. The revised Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 of ANNEX 4.1**. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 of ANNEX 4.1**.

#### **3. Appointment of the Rapporteur**

Mrs. Staci Rijal (United States) was designated as the Rapporteur.

#### **4. Consideration of adjusted E-BFT quotas for 2014**

After providing a brief explanation of the table, the floor was opened for questions and concerns.

Several small errors were noted for correction and the group agreed to all changes. Among those were the separate quota for Croatia, who is now a member of the EU; the wording regarding Algeria's additional allocation; and a note to reflect Turkey's formal written objection to its quota allocation in [Rec. 13-07]. Egypt and Algeria also recalled objections they had expressed regarding their E-BFT quota at the 2013 ICCAT meeting, however the PA2/COC observed that this did not necessitate changes to the table as these were not formal written objections made pursuant to Art. VIII of the Convention.

The revised table is attached as **Appendix 3 of ANNEX 4.1**.

#### **5. Consideration of fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans for 2014 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota**

The fishing plans that were considered at the meeting are attached as **Appendix 4 of ANNEX 4.1**.

#### ***Albania***

Albania was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Albania's plan. A letter will be sent to Albania requesting clarifications on the flags of their vessels, the fishing gears, the past record of bluefin tuna catch for the last three years, observer coverage, whether or not the vessels are engaged in farming related activities and whether or not the vessels are engaged in JFOs. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to March 31, 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of [Rec. 13-07].

### ***Algeria***

Algeria presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2013 plan, with improvements. They noted for their monitoring measures that they are in the process of preparing for the 2014 campaign for the crew and national observers in order to strengthen knowledge and expertise. No questions or concerns on Algeria's plan were raised by the group.

### ***China***

China was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed China's plan. A letter will be sent to China requesting further clarification on the flags of their vessels as well as the past record of BFT catch for these vessels for the last three years. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to March 31, 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of [Rec. 13-07].

### ***Egypt***

Egypt presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2013 plan, with improvements. They noted that they plan to use eBCD this year, but would still benefit from additional training to ensure full implementation. No questions or concerns on Egypt's plan were raised by the group.

### ***European Union***

The European Union highlighted several aspects of its plan, including that they have indicated very clearly how different gears will be managed. They emphasized their multi-level inspection plan, with engagement with other CPCs, inspection done on the national level, and control at the European Union level. The European Union also noted the importance of capacity management, generally, and the importance of the use of stereoscopic cameras to monitor caging operations. No questions or concerns on the European Union's plan were raised by the group.

### ***Iceland***

Iceland was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Iceland's plan. A letter will be sent to Iceland requesting further clarification of the flags of the longline vessels, the tonnage and lengths of the vessels, the catch record of bluefin tuna for the last three years, and the record for the number of recreational fishing boats and catch volume caught by them for the last three years. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to March 31, 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of [Rec. 13-07].

### ***Japan***

Japan presented its 2014 plan, highlighting their legally binding individual quota system and their reduced capacity since 2008. No questions or concerns on Japan's plan were raised by the group.

### ***Korea***

Korea presented its plan, noting that there were no significant changes from its 2013 plan. No questions or concerns on Korea's plan were raised by the group.

### ***Libya***

Libya presented its plan, noting that there were no significant changes from its 2013 plan. Libya mentioned that they will be activating one new farm installation with a capacity of 1000 t. One CPC sought clarification that the new farm would use stereoscopic cameras, as outlined in the recommendation. Libya confirmed that they would implement [Rec. 13-08] for the activities of this new farm. To make this clearer, Libya sought a slight edit to its plan.

***Morocco***

Morocco presented its plan, noting that there were no significant changes from its 2013 plan other than a new pilot caging program with a quota of 200 t. The European Union sought clarification that the new caging operation would be fully complying with Recommendation 13-08. Morocco confirmed that the caging operation would follow and be monitored by current ICCAT regulations.

***Norway***

Norway presented its plan, noting they will only have one vessel targeting bluefin tuna and that the quota not allocated to that vessel has been set aside for bycatch. No questions or concerns on Norway's plan were raised by the group.

***Syria***

Syria was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Syria's plan. A letter will be sent to Syria requesting further clarification on the flags, allocated quota, gear types, observer coverage, catch record of bluefin tuna for the last three years of each vessel, as well as information on whether or not they are involved in farming related activities or joint fishing operations. A response will be requested by 20 March 2014 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2014, in accordance with paragraph 11 of [Rec. 13-07].

***Tunisia***

Tunisia presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2013 plan, with improvements based on a June 2013 Ministerial decree. One CPC sought clarification on how Tunisia would implement Recommendation 13-08, noting that the European Union would be hosting a seminar on cameras and monitoring of caging operations and that all CPCs were invited. Tunisia responded that they have used stereoscopic cameras in the 2013 season and envisages continuing implementation in 2014 of monitoring of caging operations in 2014. Tunisia also envisages participating in the seminar on the use of stereoscopic cameras and monitoring of caging operations which will be hosted by the European Union in 2014. Tunisia noted that they will endeavor to implement all the ICCAT Recommendations including [Rec. 13-08].

***Turkey***

In Turkey's plan presentation, they noted that they are actively working towards implementation of eBCD this year, but need further trainings to ensure compliance. They also highlighted a pilot farming project and informed the group that results of that pilot project would be conveyed to the SCRS shortly. Following request for confirmation, Turkey confirmed that the information regarding the implementation of Recs. 13-07 and 13-08 included in the plan, was up to date.

***Chinese Taipei***

Chinese Taipei was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Chinese Taipei's plan. While the Joint Meeting did not find any serious fault with the plan submitted by Chinese Taipei, some clarifications were requested. Although recognizing that Chinese Taipei's letter indicated it has prohibited its fishing vessels from fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2014, a letter will be sent to Chinese Taipei requesting clarification by the end of March on whether or not they intend to fish in the Mediterranean in 2014 and how they plan to record and handle bycatch in regard to their quota. The letter will also inquire whether Chinese Taipei has any plans at this time to fish for bluefin tuna in the near future.

### ***Request relating to farming activity***

The review of the fishing plans also highlighted a number of issues that the PA2/COC would like the Commission or its subsidiary bodies to consider in future meetings. The first was regarding the need to properly report in a timely manner to the SCRS on the results of pilot studies and/or programmes using stereoscopic system or alternative techniques in order to refine the number and weight of the fish at point of capture and/ or caging, in accordance with paragraph 88 of [Rec.13-07] and [Rec.13-08], and which had previously been contained in [Rec. 12-03]. Second, although noting the difficulties in setting a standard format to be reported to the SCRS, the PA2/COC asked the bluefin tuna data preparatory meeting to be held in May to discuss the issue of lack of reporting and to establish a standard format for reporting so that reported data could be more useful for the upcoming eastern bluefin stock assessment.

All CPCs undertook to implement [Rec. 13-07] and, where applicable, [Rec. 13-08].

### **6. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 5**

Fishing, capacity, and inspection plans for the following CPCs were endorsed: Algeria, Egypt, EU, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway, Tunisia, Turkey. The plan of Chinese Taipei was also endorsed, but it was agreed that some clarifications would be sought by correspondence.

It was decided to send a letter seeking clarifications to Albania, China, Iceland and Syria. Responses to these letters will be requested by 20 March and distributed to Parties for review and response via correspondence. Additionally, all letters will highlight the importance of attending the inter-sessional meeting in the future so that they can discuss their plan in person. If prior to 31 March a member finds serious fault with the plans as clarified by the additional information in any response received by 20 March, then a mail vote may be triggered pursuant to paragraph 11 of [Rec. 13-07] to decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in 2014 by that CPC. If on the other hand no member finds serious fault by 31 March, the plans will be deemed endorsed.

The issue of what to do in the face of repeated absences from this inter-sessional meeting was raised during this discussion. As noted by several CPCs, the purpose of this inter-sessional meeting is to review the eastern bluefin tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans and to answer questions regarding those plans for decisions on endorsement or finding serious fault requiring additional actions prior to the current fishing season. Five CPCs did not attend yet turned in their management plans and are allowed to respond via written correspondence. Since this inter-sessional meeting is held at considerable cost to the delegates who travel to the meeting and to the Secretariat who hosts the meeting, it was requested that the Commission discuss the utility of future meetings and potential consequences for non-participants, should the meetings continue in the future.

### **7. Finalisation and approval of Call for Tenders ROP-BFT**

The group agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference for the Call for Tenders for the ROP-BFT and had no comments regarding the 2014 draft reporting form. The Secretariat still needs information regarding maximum unit costs, which are required to be established for the program, and asked that Parties convey their thoughts on this topic by correspondence by 31 April. In the event that no information was forthcoming, it was agreed that the Secretariat would publish the Call for Tenders without the maximum unit costs.

There were no volunteers to develop the training manual.

### **8. Clarification of requirements of E-BFT in 2014**

The group reviewed several requests for clarification of the provisions of Recommendation 12-03, as outlined in document Request for Clarifications of Provision of [Rec. 12-03], attached as **Appendix 5 of ANNEX 4.1**.

#### ***8.1 Dates of vessels***

The group agreed with the current understanding as expressed in the document mentioned above that lists are annual, the start date should change each year, and vessels whose authorizations have expired should be removed from the list.

### **8.2 Submission of BFT\_other lists**

The group agreed with the current understanding noting that the extensions of authorization periods should be accepted at any time before the expiration of the current authorization and for new vessels, the one month advance rule should apply except for the replacements of authorized vessels.

### **8.4 End of authorization dates of vessels BFT\_catching/BFT\_other list**

The group agreed that it should be up to each CPC to request modification of authorization dates and that they are allowed to do so.

### **8.5 Changes to fishing plans**

The group agreed with the current understanding that the 48 hour notification period refers to the start of the fishing activity.

### **8.6 Transfer declarations JFOs**

The group agreed with the current understanding, noting that only the vessel that catches the fish has to complete the transfer declaration.

### **8.8 Catching other species**

After significant discussion regarding possible scenarios where this might apply, the group agreed with the current understanding that the vessels may continue to fish for other species and do not need to have an observer on board when they are no longer authorized to fish for bluefin tuna.

### **8.9 Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs)**

Taking into consideration the various scenarios under which a vessel could be required to cease its fishing activities within a JFO, (e.g. authorization is revoked by the CPC, authorization still in force but no quota left, *force majeure*) the group considered that the provisions of the current Recommendation apply and that any decision to change these should be taken by the Commission.

### **8.10 Fishing, Inspection, and Capacity Management Plans**

Although seeing the merit of combining obligations, the group agreed that the inspection plans in the Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans and the Provisional Inspection Plans under the International Scheme of Joint Inspection are two separate obligations. Therefore, those Parties required to submit both need to submit them separately according to the deadlines in each provision, as applicable. The consequences of not submitting the plans should be determined by the appropriate groups overseeing the review of these plans.

### **8.11 Traps**

The group agreed with the current understanding that the total number of traps should remain at 2008 levels, including if that number in 2008 was zero.

### **8.12 NCPs and BFT\_other vessels**

The group agreed with the current understanding that non-CPCs can include their carrier vessels on the Record of E-BFT-Other Vessels.

### **8.3 and 8.7 Vessels to be registered under the BFT -other list and By-catch vessels**

Items 8.3 and 8.7 were discussed together, as both related to the BFT\_other vessel list, bycatch and have implications for the implementation of BCDs. It was noted that this was a larger question than simply if a CPC was required to have that vessel put on a list, but rather a question of how to practically list those vessels, for the sake of transparency and management and efficient implementation of the eBCD, without overwhelming the current system. It was noted that it is very hard, if not impossible to pre-determine which vessels would have bycatch of bluefin tuna and that listing additional vessels could have implications for capacity management. The group decided to refer this issue to the PWG and the IMM Working Group so that a solution can be found that improves transparency and traceability.

## **9. Clarification of other requirements under ICCAT measures**

The Compliance Committee Chair began the session by noting that the outcome of discussions under this section (as well as the Review of the Active Compendium and Information on Tentative and Proposed Adjustments for 2014 under Item 10 – Other Matters) should be seen as provisional, considering that these matters were not within the primary mandate of the joint PA2/COC meeting, which was convened to review the eastern bluefin fishing plans, and given the limited representation of Commission members at this inter-sessional meeting, which consisted primarily of eastern bluefin harvesters.

The following points were raised for consideration in future discussions on the issues highlighted in the document “Request for clarifications of provisions contained in ICCAT conservation and management measures”, attached as **Appendix 6**:

### ***9.1 BET/YFT vessel list - Recommendation 11-01***

The COC Chair noted that while this measure did not specify the dates of authorization that should be notified by CPCs when vessels are notified to the BET/YFT vessel list by the 1 July deadline, para 5 of [Rec. 11-01] provides that vessels 20 meters LOA or greater not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for BET or YFT, and para. 6 requires that CPCs notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list at any time such change occurs. The United States pointed out, and the group agreed, that if there were specific concerns about lack of compliance concerning submission of information to this list, that the Compliance Committee should address that issue at the 2014 annual meeting. The group agreed to refer this item to Panel 1 for further discussion at the annual meeting.

### ***9.2 Port inspection - Recommendation 12-07***

9.2.1 The COC Chair observed that [Rec. 12-07] does not explicitly require the ICCAT flag CPC to take measures to prevent its vessels entering ports not on the ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports established pursuant to 12-07. The Chair noted that ICCAT could consider expanding [Rec. 12-07] to include specific provisions on flag State obligations, which are found in other international port State measure instruments such as the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures. This item was referred to the PWG and the IMM Working Group for further discussion. The Chair also asked the Secretariat to provide additional information about landings in non-designated CPC ports so that the Compliance Committee can consider the port CPC’s failure to designate such ports pursuant to [Rec. 12-07] in its review of compliance with this measure at the annual meeting.

9.2.2 This item was referred to the PWG and the IMM Working Group for further discussion.

9.2.3 This item was referred to the PWG and the IMM Working Group for further discussion.

9.2.4 The group noted the importance of capacity building in helping developing CPCs to comply with [Rec. 12-07], and recommended that the PWG, the IMM Working Group, and other interested bodies such as the STACFAD, consider the Secretariat’s question and develop advice on implementation of paragraph 26, in coordination with other relevant international bodies such as the FAO, as appropriate.

## **10. Other matters**

### ***Review of the Active Compendium of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures***

The COC Chair presented a list of active measures proposed by the Secretariat for removal from the Active Compendium on the grounds that the measures are redundant or have been superseded. As noted by the COC Chair and agreed by the group, the PA2/COC group does not have the authority to remove such measures from the Compendium, which is a decision that must be taken by the Commission. To expedite further review by the Commission and taking into account CPC comments on what procedures should be followed, the Chair proposed that following the inter-sessional meeting of PA2/COC, the list, along with any views expressed at the meeting, will be circulated to the Commission for inter-sessional decision on whether or not these provisions should be removed from the active compendium. There was no objection to this proposal.

No objections were noted regarding the proposed removal of [Res. 09-12], [Rec. 11-19], [Rec. 00-22], [Rec 97-03], [Res. 01-09], [Res. 06-08], [Res. 96-13], [Res. 02-25], and Res. [01-20].



Objections were noted to the proposed removal of [Res. 11-25], [Rec. 10-11], [Rec. 11-21], [Rec. 06-14], and [Rec. 06-16].

The COC Chair also suggested that to avoid redundancy and to improve transparency, new species management measures could incorporate payback components of otherwise redundant preceding management measures to allow for the removal of those redundant measures from the Compendium.

#### ***Information on tentative and proposed adjustments for 2014***

The Secretariat presented a document that reflected information provided by certain CPCs concerning quota calculations to be approved at the 2014 annual meeting. The Secretariat clarified that this was only presented for informational purposes. With respect to some of the information provided, certain CPCs had contacted the Secretariat with regard to views of the COC on their adjusted quotas. The COC Chair noted that the PA2/COC had no mandate to consider these issues for approval during the inter-sessional period and that these adjusted quotas were subject to change and were to be approved at the 2014 annual meeting. The Chair also expressed his desire that presentation of these matters for action by the PA2/COC inter-sessionally not be considered a precedent for future calls for inter-sessional COC decisions on these types of matters.

The United States recognized the desire of the Secretariat to respond to requests from CPCs for information on their adjusted quotas for the western bluefin fishery, but suggested that CPCs should instead refer to the relevant Recommendation, which clearly outlines the quota and carryover rules. It was noted that it is premature to review and present the tables, as these adjusted quotas are still subject to change and are only to be approved at the 2014 annual meeting. Additionally, it was noted that the presentation of this information in tentative tables is confusing, outside the COC's mandate, and should not be considered by the COC inter-sessionally in this manner in the future.

No comments were received regarding a table submitted by Belize that reflected its calculations of adjusted quotas for NALB, SALB, NSW, and SSW.

With respect to a southern albacore overharvest payback plan proposed by the Philippines, the Chair noted that since the provisions in the southern albacore recommendation concerning payback clearly state how overharvest is to be deducted from future quotas, the Commission was the appropriate body to review and approve the Philippines' proposal to derogate from those provisions.

No comments were made regarding a southern albacore quota transfer between South Africa and Namibia and a northern swordfish quota transfer between the EU and Canada, which had been notified to the PA2/COC meeting by the Secretariat solely for informational purposes.

#### ***Clarifications on fishing vessels***

Tunisia sought clarification from the group as to whether or not a farmer could use a vessel, such as a purse seiner as a support vessel in the farming operation after the fishing season has ended and how to register said vessel on the appropriate list(s). The Secretariat clarified that there is a provision that BFT\_other vessels should be communicated one month in advance of its authorization period and that vessels cannot be on both active fishing and support fishing vessel lists simultaneously. No other comments were made.

#### ***Clarifications on selling parts of dead farmed fish***

Tunisia also sought clarification regarding the procedure that should be followed if a bluefin tuna died in a farm, specifically whether or not that fish could be sold if a national rather than regional observer was present for the harvest. The group said that the Recommendation does not foresee specific provisions for these cases which rarely happen; this case and the issue could be discussed again at the annual meeting in November.

#### ***Senegal BFT catch***

Senegal noted that they had informed the Commission of some bluefin tuna bycatch. They said that they do not intend to become members of the Panel, in the short term, but wanted to be present to highlight this unusual situation and the need for ecosystem management. Senegal expressed their continued desire to better understand what changes and interactions are occurring with ICCAT species and highlighted their continued commitment to transparency and sharing results of sampling.

### ***Format of E-BFT plans***

The Compliance Committee Chair suggested that PA2 consider developing guidance or a model format for the preparation of eastern bluefin fishing, inspection, and capacity plans to reduce the types of issues that arose at this meeting due to the absence of certain information in CPC plans and to facilitate the efficient review of plans by the PA2/COC. In response to this suggestion, Morocco raised questions about the utility of having the joint PA2/COC meeting and the need for the Commission to consider alternatives for inter-sessional review of the plans or stricter rules for participation in this inter-sessional meeting, and that such considerations should take place prior to movement forward on the development of guidance on the preparation of eastern bluefin plans. The PA2 Chair then proposed, and the group agreed, that the PA2 should develop a draft model format for the plans at the 2014 annual meeting. The EU requested that such a format also include farming capacity plans.

Morocco asked the Commission to require, in the future, the practice of the submitting fishing, inspection and capacity plans to all CPCs catching BFT in the ICCAT Convention Area.

## **11. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The report was adopted. The 2014 meeting of PA2/COC was adjourned.

### **Agenda**

#### **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of adjusted E-BFT quotas for 2014
5. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2014 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
6. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 5.
7. Finalisation and approval of Call for Tenders ROP-BFT
8. Clarification of requirements for E-BFT in 2014
9. Clarification of other requirements under ICCAT measures
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of Report and adjournment

#### **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1**

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## Quotas for eastern bluefin tuna 2014

CPC	2014 Rec. 13-07	%	Adjusted quotas 2014	Notes 2014
Albania	33.58	0.2506266	33.58	
Algeria	143.83	1.0733333	243.83	100 t extra temporary allocation
China (People's Rep.)	38.19	0.2850125	38.19	
Egypt	67.08	0.5006266	77.08	10 t from Chinese Taipei
European Union	7,938.65	56.328772	7,938.6	
Iceland	30.97	0.2311278	30.97	
Japan	1,139.55	8.504110	1,139.55	
Korea	80.53	0.6010025	80.53	
Libya	937.65	6.9973935	937.65	
Morocco	1,270.47	9.4811529	1,270.47	
Norway	30.97	0.2311278	30.97	
Syria	33.58	0.2506266	33.58	
Tunisia	1,057.00	7.8880702	1,057.00	
Turkey*	556.66	4.1541604	556.66	
Chinese Taipei	41.29	0.3081704	31.29	10 t transferred to Egypt
TOTAL	13400.1			

\*Turkey lodged a formal objection to [Rec. 13-07] under Article VIII of the Convention and, consistent with Res. 12-11, submitted measures to be taken.

## Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1

## Bluefin fishing, inspection and capacity management plans

## ALBANIA

## Management plan for fishing the Albanian allocated quota of the bluefin tuna in the Atlantic and Mediterranean for the year 2014

Albania is a member of the ICCAT Convention, by Law No. 9822 dated 29.10.2007 “*For the accession of the Albanian Republic in the International Convention for Atlantic tuna Conservation (ICCAT)*”.

The fishing of large pelagics in Albania is a new activity which began in Albania in 2013. Traditionally, this kind of fishing has not been very developed in Albania. There have been attempts to fish tuna before the 1990s, but the results were not promising or such as to cover the expenses required for the fishing. This concerns the bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus thynnus*, as the type with the highest commercial value. During these years different quantities of tuna and swordfish have been fished, but this has been occasional and concerns items fished during fishing for small pelagics. An important element is the skipjack tuna which is common in Albanian fishing, both in the occasional catch and by traps (stationary gear of coastal artisanal fishing).

The ICCAT Convention covers a variety of tuna species towards which obligatory managing measures are taken for the countries which are or are not members, starting from fishing to the product marketing.

A variety of international recommendations and resolutions have been approved which concern the fishing management as well as the control measurements in an international and national level of the species covered by this Convention. One of the most recently of them is: *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 13-07].

The recommendation by ICCAT [Rec. 13-07] was totally incorporated in the Minister’s decree which has been prepared and substitutes the former recommendation [Rec. 12-07].



Based on the Ministerial Decree No. 44, dated 14.02.2014, “*For the implementation of the multi-annual recovery plan of the blue fin tuna in the Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic, by ICCAT,*” clause 12 states:

*Every country contracting part will draft an annual fishing plan for the fishing vessels and fishing traps of the Blue fin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan will be addressed to the allocated quota for every group of fishing vessel as it has been referred in the paragraphs 21 to 26, the used method for the allocation and the management of the quotas as well as the measurements to maintain the individual quota and the by-catches as well.*”

Based on this clause of the recommendation and the quota allocated to Albania, the following management measures are determined:

***Albania has a catch quota of bluefin tuna of 33.58 tons.***

To exploit this quota there are selected two licensed fishing vessels for pelagic fishing, which in turn have been authorized for bluefin tuna fishing.

Authorization for the Albanian quota is given to the fishing vessels below:

**Vessel characteristics:**

“Rozafa 13”	“Rozafa 14”
Net weight: 120 tons	Net weight: 120 tons
Length: 21.0 m	Length: 21.0 m
Width: 6.0 m	Width: 6.0 m
Diving: 3.50 m	Diving: 3.50m
Engine: 447.00 KW	Engine: 447.00 KW
Crew: 5 fishermen	Crew: 5 fishermen
Equipped with Blue box: Yes	Equipped with Blue box: Yes

The abovementioned quantities constitute in total 100% of the quota, without anticipating the sport or recreational fishing of bluefin tuna, on which no prediction will be made.

**Fishing period**

***Fishing of bluefin tuna with pelagic trawler will be allowed during the period of June 16 - October 14, 2014.***

**Obligations for the authorized vessels**

The fishing vessels, performing common fishing operations will impose an allocation key among them concerning their common catch.

The catch will be landed in Shengjini fishing harbor between the hours 17:00 and 19:00.

Before returning from the fishing activity to the designed landing port, the bluefin tuna fishing vessels must inform the harbor authorities at least 4 hours in advance of the following:

- Time vessel will enter the harbor
- Estimated quantity of tuna on board
- Information on the geographical area where the tuna was caught
- In case the area the bluefin tuna was fished is closer than 4 hours from the harbor, the quantity of the tuna must be corrected on board on the way to the harbor, but always prior to arrival

The subjects of the bluefin tuna fishing are obliged to install and maintain active Blue Box within the VMS system, even while in the harbor.

Once the authorized allocated quantity has been accomplished, the tuna fishing vessel(s) will remain in the designed harbor.

### **Data recording and transmittal**

The captains of the bluefin tuna vessels must keep a logbook on the vessel, paper notebook or electronic version, to record their activity, noting especially the quantities of bluefin tuna fished and kept on board, the weight of the catch or the estimated weight, the date and the position of the catches, the kind of fishing tools used in accordance with the anticipated requirements by ICCAT.

Transmitting the VMS data from the bluefin tuna vessels registered in ICCAT must begin 15 days before the authorized fishing season begins and must continue at least 15 days after the season has ended. So that the vessels are kept under inspection, the VMS broadcasting from the authorized fishing vessels must not be interrupted even when the vessels are harbored.

### **Transshipment**

The transshipment of bluefin tuna on the high seas is prohibited.

The fishing vessels may transship bluefin tuna only in the designated harbors, at the time defined by the fishing authorities.

The master of the transshipping bluefin tuna vessels must complete the transshipping declarations according to the form in Annex 3 of the ICCAT recommendation.

Before entering the fishing harbor, the receiving vessel, or its representative, must give this information to the harbor authorities 48 hours before the estimated arrival time in the harbor:

- Time entering the harbor
- Estimated quantity of tuna on board and information on the geographical coordinates where the tuna was caught
- The name of the transshipping vessel and its number in the ICCAT register of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna
- Tonnage and the geographical area of the caught tuna that will be transhipped
- Quantity of tuna that will be transhipped
- Date and harbor of the transshipment
- Name, register number and flag of receiver fishing vessel and the ICCAT register number of authorized vessels for the fishing of the bluefin tuna in eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

### **Prohibitions:**

The use of airplanes and helicopters to search and observe tuna to be fished in the area of the Convention is prohibited.

It is prohibited to catch, keep on board, transship, transfer, store, sell or make an attempt to sell bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg/ piece.

The authorized bluefin tuna vessels are allowed only 5% accidental catch of fish weighing 10-30 kg.

It is not allowed to charter the allocated tuna quotas.

It is not allowed to carry over to the subsequent year the uncaught quantities of bluefin tuna authorized for the previous year.

### **Obligations and measurements of the fishing authorities**

The fishing Authority is obligated to:

- Inform, by 1 April 2014, the ICCAT Secretariat the quantity of the bluefin tuna caught in the previous year. This information must include:
  - Name and ICCAT number of all bluefin tuna fishing vessels
  - Authorized period for all fishing vessels
  - Landing and transshipment harbor

- Total catch for each fishing vessel during the entire fishing period, including those with zero catches
  - Total fishing days for every fishing vessel through the entire authorized period
  - Total catch as by-catch of non-authorized vessels, including those with zero catches
- Assure that the harbor authorities keep a register where all the announcements for entering the harbor of the blue fin tuna fishing vessels are kept, throughout the year.
  - Guarantee that the authorized vessels have implemented the Blue Box device, have their calling signal inside the system and have communicated their calling signal to the ICCAT Secretariat in order to be observed from the national VMS system, as well as by ICCAT observers. Transmitting the VMS data must begin 15 days before the bluefin tuna season commences and end 15 days after the season ends. The VMS system must stay active even when the vessel is in the designed fishing harbor.
  - Make sure that all the active bluefin tuna fishing vessels execute the communication daily throughout the period they have been authorized to fish bluefin tuna, electronically or in other ways, with the competent authority through the correct completion of the logbooks, including date, time, coordinates (geographical width and length), weight and number of bluefin tuna specimens caught and kept on board in the designated area.
  - Guarantee the coverage with inspection of all landings, all the time and in all the places of the landings, transshipment (time and place), as well as to cover the off shore inspection during the fishing operation period.
  - Guarantee the observation of the authorized vessels, at least for:
    - 20% of trawlers (over 15m long in total)
    - 20% of active longliners (over 15 m long in total)
    - 20% of active trawlers (over 15 m long in total)
    - 100% of trawlers
    - 100% of the activities from the recovery of the purse seiners
  - Monitor the tuna fishing activity to be in compliance with the ICCAT recommendations.
  - Monitor and register the fishing strain used from the authorized vessels in accordance with the fishing gear type.
  - Report to the ICCAT Secretariat the temporary monthly catch by the gear type of bluefin tuna within the 30 days of the calendar month in which the catch was made.
  - Report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates of bluefin tuna fishing closure as well as when the allocated quota has been accomplished.
  - Take precautions to stop the trade, landing, the import, transfer in fattening cages, transshipment, re-export of bluefin tuna that has not been accompanied with the correctly filled, completed and valid required documentation (ICCAT Recommendation).
  - Request the immediate return of the fishing vessels to the designed harbor as soon as it notices that quota allocated by ICCAT for the actual year has been accomplished.
  - Perform crosschecking and verification, including reports made by the inspectors and the observers, of data from the VMS system, completed logbooks, transfer or transshipment papers held for the authorized fishing vessels.
  - Take precautions that the harbor authority and/or fishing inspectors inspect the receiver vessel once the tuna shipment arrives and also verify the documentation concerning the transshipment. Likewise, take precautions that the harbor authority sends, to the flag State authorities, a transshipment report within 5 days of performing the transshipment.

## ALGERIA

The bluefin fishing, inspection and capacity management plan submitted by Algeria for the 2014 fishing season takes in account the provisions contained in ICCAT Recommendation 13-07 and in the Ministerial Order of 19 March 2013 which establish bluefin tuna fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag as well as methods for their distribution and their implementation.

## **1. Fishing plan**

### ***1.1 Quotas***

Algeria's bluefin tuna quota for 2014 is 243.83 metric tons (t), which will be divided among the different types of vessels (purse seiner and longliner) which will be participating in the bluefin tuna fishing campaign, based on the SCRS estimates.

An individual quota allocation for this type of tuna vessel (purse seiner) will be applied based on the SCRS estimates of potential catches by length.

Moreover, the definitive confirmation of the list of Algerian tuna vessels that will be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2014 as well as their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by the dates set by the Commission (one month before the campaign).

Given that there is no bluefin tuna sport fishery in Algeria and that the recreational fishery does not target this species, no specific quota will be allocated for this type of fishery in 2014.

### ***1.2 Trade and joint fishing agreements***

Private trade agreements and/or the transfer of catch quotas/limits with other CPCs will not be authorised under national regulations in force.

Only joint fishing operations (in groups) among Algerian vessels may be authorised. The methodology adopted to distribute the quota among the tuna vessels will be the same as that applied in 2013, and will be notified to the Commission by the required deadlines.

### ***1.3 Granting of fishing permits***

Individual fishing permits will be granted to the vessels authorised to participate in the 2014 fishing campaign by the Algerian Fishing Administration, in accordance with national regulations.

### ***1.4 Fishing periods***

The fishing periods will be those set by the ICCAT and established by the provisions of national regulations. Accordingly, the authorised fishing periods will be as follows:

- For longliners over 24 metres, from 1 January to 31 May 2014
- For purse seiners, from 26 May to 24 June 2014

Moreover, and in the case that the authorised quota is exhausted during the authorised period, the Algerian Fishing Administration will announce the closure of the fishing season.

### ***1.5 Minimum size***

Pursuant to the provisions contained in Executive Decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 amending and supplementing the Executive Decree of 18 March 2004 on the minimum sizes of biological resources, the minimum size of bluefin tuna will be 30 kg, or 115 cm.

### ***1.6 Accidental catches/by-catches***

A 5% tolerance of by-catches weighing less than 30 kg or a size of 115 cm per fish will be allowed, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

### ***1.7 Use of aircraft***

The use of airplanes or helicopters to detect bluefin tuna schools will not be authorized during fishing operations by national regulations.

### ***1.8 Transshipment***

Transshipment is prohibited under national regulation, in particular, Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fishing and aquaculture.

### ***1.9 Transfer operations***

In accordance with national regulation, before each transfer operation from the fishing vessel to the towing vessels, the master of the vessel must transmit a prior notification of transfer to the competent authorities. The transfer operation may only be authorised once authorisation has been received from the competent authorities. Moreover, following each transfer operation, the vessel master must forward the transfer declaration to the administration in charge of fishing.

Transfer operations will be monitored by an underwater video camera. The recording will display the date and time of transfer.

### ***1.10 Trade measures***

All bluefin tuna trade must be accompanied by a duly validated bluefin tuna catch document (BCD).

### ***1.11 Sampling requirement***

At the time of transfer of live fish caught by Algerian purse seiners to a towing cage for farming in another CPC, a specific percentage of live fish must be sacrificed for sampling purposes, as required by the provisions of the ICCAT Recommendation. The randomly selected samples must be sacrificed, measured and weighed.

## **2. Monitoring and inspection plan**

### ***2.1 Joint international inspection plan***

As Algeria only has 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, it does not anticipate participating in the joint international inspection plan.

### ***2.2 Requirements of the vessel monitoring system***

The tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a beacon, which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and will start 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the fishing campaign.

### ***2.3 National observers programme***

Bluefin fishing operations for 2014 will be monitored throughout the fishing campaign by the Algerian controllers/observers deployed on board each purse seine and longline vessel, in accordance with the provisions of national regulation in force.

The mission of the controllers/observers deployed will include, among other activities, collecting all information relating to bluefin tuna fishing, completing the standard forms delivered to them before the start of the campaign and they will monitor compliance with ICCAT Recommendations regarding bluefin tuna fishing.

The controllers will be in permanent contact with the fishing administration and will communicate all the information related to fishing and transfer operations.

### ***2.4 Regional observers programme***

The owners of tuna purse seiners that are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2014 will be required to deploy an ICCAT observer on board.

## 2.5 Landing ports

Bluefin tuna vessels can only land their catches in the ports designated by the competent authorities, which are as follows:

- Algiers, Annaba, Béjaïa, Cherchell, Oran and Ténès

## 2.6 Implementation measures

National regulation, in particular, the provisions of Law 01-11 of 3 July 2001 on fishing and aquaculture, sets out sanctions and penalties in cases of non-compliance with the provisions of regulatory measures concerning fishing activities.

Accordingly, in cases of non-compliance with closed fishing seasons, Article 89 of the above-mentioned law provides for custodial sentences and/or fines.

As regards non-compliance with minimum size and proportions of by-catches, Articles 90, 92 and 93 of the same law also provide for custodial sentences and/or fines.

## 3. Capacity management plan

The current fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 15 tuna vessels, is adapted to Algeria's historical catch limit, i.e. 654 t (5.073% of the TAC). Accordingly, Algeria does not have overcapacity for bluefin tuna.

However, for 2014, and taking into account Algeria's reduced quota, 243.83 t, its fishing capacity will be adapted accordingly through the distribution of the quota among the active tuna vessels.

**Table 1.** Algeria's fishing capacity.

<i>Vessel category</i>	<i>Best catch rates set by the SCRS</i>		
		<i>Number of vessels</i>	<i>Capacity (t)</i>
PS between 24 and 40 metres	49.87	11	548.57
PS less than 24 metres	33.68	1	33.68
LL between 24 and 40 metres	5.68	1	5.68
LL less than 24 metres	30	2	60

## CHINA

### 1. Fishing Plan

**Fishing vessels:** In 2014, two longline vessels, namely *Jin Feng No.1* and *Jin Feng No.3*, will seasonally participate in a group manned to conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity.

**Fishing period:** Normally the vessel shifts to the fishing ground at the end of September and shall proceed to designated ports immediately when it is deemed that its individual quota is likely to be exhausted.

**Quota:** 38.19 metric tons in the 2014 fishing season.

### 2. Enforcement Plan

**Observers:** 100% observer coverage will be implemented annually during the BFT fishing season. The observers will record the required data and discards, monitor the catch, and ensure the compliance of ICCAT Recommendations.

**Data record and catch report:** The logbook shall be filled in every day or before port arrival. Daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) is required to record and report, which must contain the date, area of catch, fork length, number of catch, weight and tag numbers.

**VMS requirement:** Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational vessel monitoring system onboard, and can be tracked and reported normally to the ICCAT Secretariat.

**Transshipment:** Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purposes. Mindelo in Cape Verde is the registered port.

**Cross checks and BCDs:** Cross checks of data from catch reports, VMS, requests for authorization of transfer, transfer declarations, and national observer as well as inspection reports shall be made. In case the aforementioned records do not match the content in the BCD, the document will be rejected by the government.

### **3. Capacity Management Plan**

Due to the small quota allocated to China, the number of fishing vessels has been cut from four to two, to limit our catch under quota. Taking into account the serious sea conditions during that season and for the safety of the vessels, it is necessary to maintain two vessels fishing in a group manner and no further reduction could be made for the season.

The Individual Quotas allocated to each vessel authorized for BFT fishing in 2014 are as follows:

*Jin Feng No.1:* half of the BFT quota allocated to China

*Jin Feng No.3:* half of the BFT quota allocated to China

**Methodology used for Individual Quota Allocation:** The Individual Quota has been allocated provisionally in an equal share to each fishing vessel. Since the two vessels belong to one owner and their fishing season begins at the end of September each year, there will be a flexible carry over between the two vessels, provided the total catch by the two vessels is not over the Chinese BFT quota and that a prior notification to the Bureau of Fisheries is made and is so authorized; the Bureau of Fisheries will communicate such authorization to the Secretariat.

### **EGYPT**

Fishing activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. According to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that was adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of ICAAT in Cape Town (November 2013), the quota allocated to Egypt will be divided equally between the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are *Seven Seas*, which is registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) (50% of the quota) and *Khaled* (50% of the quota) also registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005).

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) will announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the General Authority for Fish Resources Development resolutions regarding bluefin tuna.

#### **Potential fishing grounds**

The potential fishing ground for the eastern bluefin tuna fishery will be off the area along the Egyptian territorial and EEZ waters, Mediterranean Sea (26-32E).

#### **List of authorized bluefin tuna catching vessels**

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development of Egypt (GAFRD) issued a special fishing permit to only two bluefin catching vessels for 2014. These vessels shall be equipped and monitored with a vessel monitoring system (VMS).

#### **Licensing**

A special fishing permit, which will be issued by the provincial directorates of GAFRD for the eligible purse seiners to conduct the bluefin tuna fishery, is mandatory for bluefin tuna catching vessels to operate in the 2014 season. No towing licenses will be issued, and transshipment operations will not allowed.

### **Allocation of BFT catch quota**

According to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that adopted at the 23rd Regular Meeting of ICAAT in Cape Town (November 2013), the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Egypt, will be divided equally between the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are *Seven Seas*, which is registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) (50% of the quota) and *Khaled* (50% of the quota), also registered on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005).

### **Coastal recreational, sport fisheries**

No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.

### **Regulations for 2013 bluefin tuna fishing season**

#### ***Fishing Period***

The authorized period for fishing is from 26 May to 24 June 2014. Bluefin tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 25 June to 25 May of the next years. Moreover, the closed season for the bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by the Fisheries Agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.

#### ***Joint Fishing Operations***

A joint fishing operation will be allowed between these two Egyptian vessels. Joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will also be allowed if a JFO is requested by our fishing companies.

#### ***BFT landing/transshipment ports***

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catch in the ports designated for that purpose.

The following ports have been designated by the relevant Fisheries Authority for the purpose of bluefin tuna landing:

1. ElMeAdia fishing port for bluefin tuna landing during the fishing season only
2. Alexandria commercial port for the export and import of tuna

#### ***Vessel Monitoring System requirements***

The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2014 shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite tracking device (or vessel monitoring system, VMS) onboard, as required by GAFRD.

#### ***Recording and reporting***

Recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented.

#### ***Towing operations***

No towing operations will be allowed for the Egyptian vessels. Live tuna transfer to other CPC towing vessel for the purpose of caging will be authorized. The prior transfer request shall be implemented.

#### ***Caging operations***

There are no caging operations in Egyptian waters.

#### ***Transfer operations***

In case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purposes in other CPCs, a percent of selected live fish caught randomly shall be killed at time of capture, sized and weighted for sampling as required in paragraph 87 of ICCAT Recommendation 10-4. The size of the sample that is intended to be killed for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs in Mediterranean for better estimation and sampling programs at time of caging, under paragraph 88 of [Rec.12-03].



In the case of a JFO with other CPCs this sampling process will be carried out jointly between the Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

BCD Scheme requirements will be fully implemented. In 2014, the eBCD will be used, but Egypt required a short-term training course on eBCD.

### ***Transshipment***

Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in paragraph 64 of Recommendation 12-03.

### ***Cross check***

The relevant information recorded in the logbooks of the fishing vessel, in the transfer documents and in the catch documents shall be verified by GAFRD – using available inspection reports, regional and national observers reports and VMS data – onboard vessels and at ports.

GAFRD shall carry out cross checks on all landings, between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the landing declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoices and/or sales notes. Document cross checking with the other CPCs be also carried out by GAFRD in the case of transfer of live fish for farming purpose in this CPC.

### ***Enforcement***

Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of bluefin tuna.

#### *Decree Number (827) for 2011*

- Article (1) on the prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 25 of June to 25 of May as from the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.
- Article (2) on the prohibition of the transfer of any bluefin tuna fishing at sea unless for purposes of farming and development.

#### *Decree Number (828) for 2011*

- Article (1) on the prohibition of fishing of Bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.
- Article (2) all the fishing operations shall be documented through videos documentaries for all fishing operations and transfer to cages and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions.

#### *Resolution Number (829) for 2011*

- Article (1) on the prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except for the port of ELMeAdia for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.
- Article(2) on prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD on board.
- In the case of non-compliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in bluefin tuna fishing for the next season. In the case of repetition of non-compliance, this vessel will be prohibited from the bluefin tuna fisheries.

### ***Market measures***

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and its products as well as keeping them onboard without validated documentation from the relevant authority shall be prohibited.

### ***Observer requirements***

Two national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions.

Permanent observers will be in ports to follow up the landed catch and to review the on-board observers reports.

Concerning the ICCAT Regional Observers programme, Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have Arabic speaker observers for the two authorized vessels (100%), and to have their data early in order to issue the necessary permissions for them to work in Egyptian ports and waters.

### ***Use of aircraft***

There are no aircraft.

### ***Minimum size***

Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be implanted.

### ***Sampling requirements***

In the case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purpose in other CPCs, part of the live fish caught shall be killed for sampling as required in paragraph 87 of ICATT Recommendation 10-04, where randomly selected samples of fish shall be killed, sized and weighted. The size of the sampling percentage that is intended to be killed at the time of capture for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs for better estimation and the sampling program at time of caging, under paragraph 88 of [Rec. 12-03].

In the case of a JFO with other CPCs this sampling process will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

Owners /operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICATT.

## **Summary: Framework of MCS for the bluefin tuna fishery, transfer and trading**

### ***Catch***

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation
- BFT catching /two vessel to be registered in ICCAT record
- Legal fishing season
- No BFT Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) will be allowed with other CPCs; JFO can be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels "In case of their request "
- BCD scheme requirements
- Logbook requirements
- 100% ICATT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verifications

### ***Transfer***

- Prior transfer notification & authorized
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verifications
- 100% ICATT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessels)
- 100% National Observer coverage (for all towing vessel)
- BCD Scheme requirements
- ICATT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements

**Export**

- 100% GAFRD with the Egyptian Veterinary Services organization
- Representatives coverage
- BCD Scheme, eBCD will be used, but Egypt required a short term training course on eBCD

**Inspections**

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2014 BFT fishing season by GAFRD inspectors.

**EUROPEAN UNION****1. Annual Fishing Plan 2014****1.1 Background**

The European Union (EU) adopted Council Regulation (EC) No. 302/2009<sup>1</sup> on 6 April 2009 transposing into Community Law ICCAT Recommendation [08-05] to establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Following ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] amending ICCAT recommendation [08-05] adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual Meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [10-04] into EU law.

The EU is committed to follow the Recommendation [12-03] in 2014.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided under Recommendation [12-03], the quota for the EU in 2014 will be 7.939 t.

**1.2 Details**

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [12-03] the EU has drawn up an annual fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 metres and their associated individual quotas. Individual quotas are still being allocated by EU Member States authorities and will be applicable to all purse-seiners irrespective of their length.
- All purse seine vessels over 24 metres will be allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SRCS catch rates as adopted by the Commission for estimating fleet capacity.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [12-03] the EU has allocated quotas to the following sectors:

Purse seiners	[4525.1 t]
Longliners	[989.5 t]
Baitboats and trolling boats and line vessels	[836.2 t]
Atlantic trawlers	[150 t]
Traps	[1056.7 t]
By-catches, sport and recreational, reserve	[353 t]

- The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other' vessels' in accordance with paragraph 58 of ICCAT Recommendation [12-03].
- The EU submitted a complementary inspection plan covering all BFT fisheries capable of addressing the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation [12-03] and other Recommendations concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries, including Recommendation [06-07], [11-20] and [11-21].

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 96,15.04.2009, p.1

The EU will submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2014 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 58 of Recommendation [12-03].

## **2. Inspection Plan 2014**

### ***2.1 Introduction***

The European Union actively fishes eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) with a range of fishing gears with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors.

The EU contains 8 Member States which actively fish BFT across a number of sectors. The authorities for control and inspection fall on different actors across Member States and in many cases involve a combination of competent authorities.

ICCAT introduced a comprehensive set of conservation and management measures for E-BFT under the 2006 multi-annual recovery plan. Amendments in 2008, 2010 and more recently in 2012 have significantly reinforced the recovery plan which operates in parallel with an extensive catch documentation programme introduced in 2007 and subsequently amended in 2009 and 2011. The full implementation of the new electronic BCD programme (eBCD) throughout 2013 and 2014 will further strengthen this suite of management and conservation measures.

The European Commission coordinates with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member State law and fully enforced.

### ***2.2 Overview of inspection measures adopted in 2013 by the EU***

#### ***2.2.1 Specific Control and Inspection Programme***

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) covering the period 15 March 2011 to 15 March 2014 to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna recovery plan. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Member States involved in the fishery. This programme is currently being amended to reflect the conservation and management measures found under Recommendation [12-03] and the new SCIP should be implemented from mid-March 2014. The EU will forward details of the SCIP, including benchmarks for inspection, as soon as it is approved.

#### ***2.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for bluefin tuna***

The resources of the European Commission are complemented by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) who will adopt their 2014 Joint Deployment Plan for bluefin tuna (JDP-BFT) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bringing the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect. It covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land and traps and farms and as in previous years the 2014 plan brings together the European Commission, Member States and the EFCA and draws on the resources of the eight EU Member States involved in the fishery.

Operationally the EU will coordinate joint inspection and control activities in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircraft. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2014 JDP-BFT will be the eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern).

The Steering Group, composed by representatives of the EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, provides advice on the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation.

The joint control, inspection and surveillance activities carried out under the JDP are coordinated by the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG) whose headquarters are based in the EFCA in Vigo, Spain. The TJDG is composed of national coordinators designated by the Member States and supported by the EFCA's own coordinators.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel / operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required under Recommendation [12-03].

In order to enhance the monitoring and control strategy used in the JDP the EFCA is also cooperating with other EU agencies including EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) through the Marsurv-3 project. Marsurv-3 is an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, AIS and other maritime related data, such as sightings. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment.

### *2.2.3 Control of caging operations*

The EU has been at the forefront of focusing towards controls of the caging stage and using modern technologies to implement these controls in an effective way. The recently adopted [Rec. 13-08], including the technical aspects involved in the use of the stereoscopic cameras, is to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. In 2014, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras. The EU Member States have also engaged into a wider reflection on how to further improve and harmonize these control procedure. For this purpose the EU, via EFCA, will be organizing a specific workshop prior to the first cagings taking place in 2014. The recently EU contacted the ICCAT secretariat to extend the invitation to this workshop to other Contracting parties. Furthermore, the EU is also preparing the transposition of the provisions contained in [Rec. 13-08], for a full implementation for the 2014 fishing and caging season.

### *2.2.4 Member States National Control Action Programmes*

Under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme, EU Member States have each developed and submitted a National Control Action Program for 2014. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategy they intend to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (Commission Decision No.246/2012), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks', which include in particular:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;
- d) the control of all documents required by the legislation applicable to bluefin tuna, in particular verifying the reliability of the information recorded.

These Specific Control and Inspection Programmes and are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [12-03]. The full list of benchmarks to which the programs refer will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as the SCIP is adopted and in any case prior to the start of the fishing season.

### *2.2.5 European Commission inspections*

Under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors. Whilst different in their powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfillment of their duties and obligations, including those under the bluefin tuna recovery plan and associated ICCAT recommendations concerning BFT.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the particularities of the 2014 fishing seasons, European Commission Inspectors will once again be very active in 2014.

### *2.2.6 Vessel monitoring system and Operations team*

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor submissions on an hourly basis and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

### 2.2.7 Cooperation with other CPCs

As in previous years, in 2014 the EU will once again seek to establish and further promote cooperation and coordination with other Contracting parties (CPCs) in the Mediterranean concerning the exchange of monitoring, control and surveillance methods and information, as illustrated by the organization by EFCA of a workshop on BFT controls, open to all CPCs.

### 3. EU capacity plan for 2014

<i>Catch rate</i>		<i>No. of Vessels and Traps</i>		<i>Capacity, tons</i>	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Catch Rate</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2014*</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2014*</i>
PS large (>40m)	70,7	38	18	2.685	1.272
PS med. (24-40m)	49,8	91	25	4.530	1.245
PS small (≤24m)	33,7	112	2	3.772	67
<i>PS total</i>		<i>241</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>10.987</i>	<i>2.584</i>
LL med. (24-40m)	5,7 t	7	6	40	34
LL small (≤24m)	5,0 t	329	104	1.645	520
<i>LL total</i>		<i>336</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>1.685</i>	<i>554</i>
Baitboat *	19,8 t	68	22	1.343	435
Handline *	5,0 t	101	101	505	505
Trawler	10,0 t	160	57	1.600	570
Other artisanal *	5,0 t	253	253	1.265	1.265
<b>Total</b>		<b>1159</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>17.385</b>	<b>5.912</b>
Trap	130,0	15	12	1.950	1.560
<b>Total</b>		<b>1174</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>19.335</b>	<b>7.472</b>

\* Within these categories and for the area delimited by 27°N to 29°N and 13°W to 18°W in the eastern Atlantic, the fishing season shall start on 24 March 2014 and shall end on 23 July 2014.

## ICELAND

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland.

In 2014 the Icelandic bluefin tuna quota will be allocated as follows:

- One longline vessel will be allocated 26 tons of bluefin tuna
- 2 tons of bluefin tuna will be reserved for recreational fisheries
- 2.97 tons of bluefin tuna will be reserved for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fishing fleet

When the individual quota of the longline vessel is fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence of the vessel expires for the year. In 2014 the Icelandic fisheries authorities will only issue a fishing licence for directed bluefin tuna to one Icelandic longline fishing vessel.

All catches shall be landed in Icelandic designated ports, no transshipments will be allowed.

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board for at least 20% of the fishing operations.

The Marine Research Institute in Iceland supplies the Directorate with relevant information for the inspectors.

All landings will be monitored by the Directorate.

The longline fishing season starts 1 August and ends 31 December 2014. The fishing area is south of Iceland. The vessel is required to have a general fishing licence and a sufficient quota for other species within in the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quota is fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires, else the licence expires 31 December 2014.

The vessel cannot be regarded as a designated tuna vessel as it has a quota for other fish species in Icelandic waters and only engages in bluefin tuna fisheries part of the year.

The recreational fisheries will be allowed from 16 June to 14 October. Vessels participation in E-BFT recreational fisheries need to have a licence from the Directorate of Fisheries. All landings by recreational fishers shall be notified to the Directorate of Fisheries before landing and shall be monitored and registered into the central database of the Directorate.

All discards are banned on the Icelandic fleet; all bycatches are to be landed and recorded. Should the bluefin tuna longline vessel catch shark species that are under special provisions by ICCAT, stipulating that retaining, storing, landing and selling are prohibited, these catches are to be submitted to the Icelandic Marine Research Institute for scientific research. The Marine Research Institute will then report relevant information to the ICCAT Scientific Committee.

## **JAPAN**

### **1. Fishing Plan**

#### ***a) Fishing vessel type***

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs).

#### ***b) Management period***

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) will continue to manage its allocation based on the Japanese fishing season, which is, in the case of the 2014 allocated quota, from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015.

#### ***c) Quota and number of authorized fishing vessels***

Japan's quota for the 2014 fishing season is 1139.55 t. The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has amended the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding individual quota system.

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch BFT for 2014 fishing year as soon as those vessels are selected. FAJ will, upon Minister's licensing, inform the names, amount of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat one month before the Japanese fishing season begins (paragraph 58 of [Rec. 13-07]).

### **2. Enforcement Plan**

#### ***a) Catch report***

The Minister will continue to require fishing operators to affix tags to each BFT which have been authorized and distributed beforehand, and to report daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day of their catch in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain information/data including the date, area of catch, number of catch, time of catch, individual BFT weight and tag numbers (paragraph 72 of [Rec. 13-07]).

#### ***b) Transshipment***

The Minister will continue to prohibit transshipping BFT at sea and allow transshipment only at ports registered to ICCAT by the Ordinance and conditions on the licenses (paragraph 64 of [Rec. 13-07]).

#### ***c) Landing***

The Minister will continue to prohibit overseas landing of BFT, and allow landing only in eight domestic ports which the Minister has designated by the Ordinance for enforcement purpose. FAJ will continue to have its enforcement officers inspect all BFT landings at the designated ports (paragraph 69 of [Rec. 13-07]).

**d) Closed fishing season**

The Minister will continue to prohibit the operators from BFT fishing in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July, and in other areas during the period from 1 of June to 31 December by the Ordinance (paragraph 21 of [Rec. 13-07]). FAJ will continue to ensure the compliance of these closed seasons by monitoring VMS data (paragraph 89 of [Rec. 13-07]).

**e) Observers**

FAJ will place observers onboard LSTLVs (paragraph 90 of [Rec. 13-07]).

**f) Inspection vessel**

FAJ will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2014 (paragraph 101 of [Rec. 13-07]).

**g) Imposition of sanctions**

In the case that violation is discovered, the Minister will impose a penalty on the fishing operator, which could include both port confinement and five year suspension to allocate BFT individual quota.

**3. Capacity Management Plan****a) Reduction of fishing capacity**

The number of Japanese LSTLVs and the corresponding gross registered tonnage (GRT) during the period from January 2007 to July 2008 were 49 vessels and 21,587 tons.

Japan reduced its fishing capacity by buy-back schemes in 2009. The number of vessels and the GRT in the 2009 fishing year were 33 vessels and 14,427 tons (33% reduction at both number and tons from 2008 fishing year).

Japan further reduced its fishing capacity to 22 vessels and 9,831 tons in 2011, 20 vessels and 8,953 tons in 2012 so that its fishing capacity continues to be commensurate with its allocated quota.

**b) Adjustment of fishing capacity**

The Minister will continue to allocate each LSTLV an individual quota more than the capacity (25 t per one LSTLV) estimated by SCRS. Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in [Rec. 13-07], will continue to ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota.

	<i>Year 2011 (August 2011 ~ Jul. 2012)</i>	<i>Year 2012 (August 2012 ~ July 2013)</i>	<i>Year 2013 (August 2013 ~ July 2014)</i>	<i>Year 2014 (August 2014 ~ July 2015)</i>
Allocated quota (tons)	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55
Number of large scale longline vessels (Total GRT)	22 (9,831)	20 (8,953)	22 (9,641)	to be decided by June 2014
Individual quota per vessel per year allocated by the Government of Japan (tons)	49.865	54.850	51.797	to be decided by June 2014

**KOREA (REP.)**

In accordance with the paragraph 11 of ICCAT Recommendation 13-07 (a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean), the Republic of Korea submits its fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT.



Korea has its bluefin tuna quota of 80.53 tons in 2014 and has only one purse seine vessel (*Sajomelita*) targeting bluefin tuna since 2008. In terms of capacity management plan, it is not applicable for Korea as it has only one purse seine vessel. Thus, the fishing capacity for Korea is commensurate with its quota. This vessel will be operating in the Mediterranean Sea during the authorized fishing period (5.26-6.24, 2014).

Joint fishing operation with Libya will be conducted this year with bilateral consent. Korea will inform the Secretariat of the details at least ten days before the start of the joint fishing operation, including names of Libyan catching vessels and their quota respectively allocated by the Libyan authority.

The ICCAT Regional Observer will be deployed on board. Only bluefin tuna weighing over 30kg can be caught. Adjustment of farming capacity is not applicable as Korea has no farming facility. Transshipment at sea of bluefin tuna is prohibited. The vessel will comply with recording requirements, communications of catches and reporting of catches. The Korean authority will verify, including by using inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of its fishing vessel, in the transfer document and in the catch documents. Transfer operation of live bluefin tuna will be only authorized by our authority in advance.

With regard to by-catch management, longline vessels not authorized to fish bluefin tuna should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any BCD made by the Korean longline vessels are not authorized to be validated by the Korean authority. The amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to our authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. All by-catch of bluefin tuna should be deducted from the quota of Korea.

In accordance with newly enacted Korea's Distant Water Fisheries Development Act (2014), the vessel should comply with other requirements and provisions in the Recommendation 13/07. If there are any infractions or the vessel fails to comply with any regulations in the Recommendation, our authority will investigate the case and take actions in accordance with the Recommendation and, as appropriate, sanctions against the vessel depending on the level of violations.

Please refer to the information on the Korean vessel as follows:

- Nationality: Republic of Korea
- Vessel Name: SAJOMELITA
- ICCAT No.: AT000KOR00211 (Bluefin Tuna Active Vessel)
- Register No.: 1104001-6261403
- Call Sign: DTBV2
- GRT: 105.00
- LOA: 22.25m
- Type of Vessel: Purse Seine
- Mode of Operation: Joint Fishing Operation in Mediterranean
- Authorized Fishing Period: 26 May-24 June 2014
- Bluefin Tuna Quota: 80.53 t

## **LIBYA**

Following ICCAT [Rec. 13-07] amending ICCAT [Rec. 12-03] adopted at 2013 ICCAT annual meeting in Cape Town, Libya adopted the Ministerial Decree No.205/2013 amending Decree No. 61/2010 transposing the latest adopted ICCAT Recommendation.

Libya also will fully implement the new Recommendation in 2014.

### **1. Fishing Plan**

#### ***1.1 Fishing fleet***

The number of fishing vessels that will participate in catching E- BFT for the 2014 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea is: 15 catching vessels [14 purse seiners (PS), 24-40 m and 1 longliner (LL), over 40 m]. No vessels less than 24 m and no recreational or sport fishery will participate in the 2014 fishing season.

The total number of other vessels that will participate in the 2014 BFT fishing season is: 6 vessels with no fishing gear on board, except transfer cage or services supplies.

Since the total allocated quota assigned to Libya in [Rec. 13-07], paragraph 9, is 937.65 t, then the individual quota for Libyan vessels authorized to participate in the 2014 season will be distributed as follows:

- 14 Purse seiners over 24 m and one longliner over 40 m authorized to fish BFT in 2014 have been allocated an individual vessel quota taking into consideration the SCRS best catch rate, whereby 40 t will be allocated to one LL vessel over 40 m and 895 t will be allocated among 14 PS vessels (24- 40 m), with 2.65 t to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or bycatch that might occur in the artisanal fleet. The list of authorized vessels and their individual quota is indicated in **Table 1**, and any changes to this fishing possibilities allocation or vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately and in accordance with recommendations adopted by ICCAT ([Rec. 13-07]).

The authorized vessels are expected to carry out fishing activities during the 2014 season in working groups and the details of these groups and allocation key will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the required time frame.

The respecting of individual quota limits shall be monitored by the fishery authorities and cross checked with ROP and national observers on board fishing vessels.

All vessels deemed to have exhausted their individual quota shall be ordered into port immediately.

### ***1.2 Joint Fishing Operations***

JFOs will be only authorized with other CPC authorities that have less than 5 PS authorized to fish BFT and registered in the ICCAT list.

If any request for a JFO received from a CPC that has less than 5 PS, Libya will study this request very carefully and will consent to the JFO after making sure that all the requirements of JFO required by [Rec. 13-07] adapted at the last Commission meeting 2013 are fulfilled, and inform ICCAT Secretariat with its consent within the time frame required.

### ***1.3 Enforcement of Fishing Plan***

#### ***1.3.1 Regulations***

- Ministerial Decree (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) No. 205/2013 amending Decree No. 61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic.
- Law No. 14/1989 which organizes the fishing and aquaculture in Libya.
- Other Acts that organize and manage BFT licenses.

#### ***1.3.2 Licensing***

Individual fishing permits shall be issued by the fishing Authority based upon Decree, No. 205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) for each vessel authorized to fish BFT in 2014 specifying the following conditions as required by [Rec. 13-07]. As soon as the individual vessel quota is used, the vessel will be required to return to its home port and its fishing permit will be withdrawn.

- \* Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, Article-3/Decree No. 205/2013)
- \* Individual Quota Acc. (Art.11/Decree, No. 205/2013)
- \* Logbook on board Acc. (Art. 28/Decree, No. 205/2013)

#### ***1.3.3 Vessels Monitoring System (VMS)***

All fishing vessels and other vessels active in BFT fishing shall not be authorized unless equipped with a fully active VMS (Art.18/Decree No. 205/2013).

The fishing Authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed up immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

#### *1.3.4 Observers*

Regional and national observers shall be placed on board all PS and LL vessels and traps authorized to fish BFT in 2014 (Art. 14/Decree, No. 205/2013).

A Regional Observer will be assigned at caging and harvesting in the BFT farm.

#### *1.3.5 Reporting of catch*

The catch vessel master shall communicate by electronic or other means to competent authorities daily and weekly catch reports, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight, (Art.20/Decree No. 05/2013).

Daily ,weekly and monthly catch repots (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels and traps active in BFT catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

#### *1.3.6 Transfer*

The catch vessel master shall request an authorization, by email or fax, from the competent authorities to transfer BFT catch, specifying, date, area and position of catch, number of fish and estimated weight and expected date, time of transfer, towing vessel information, number of cages and the final destination conformed and signed by Regional Observer and the National Observer.

A numbered transfer authorization shall be sent to the catching vessels after checking that all requirements by paragraphs 77, 78, 79, 80..., of [Rec. 13-07] are met.

In case there are indication of differences in the estimated weight of fish, including the number that died during the transfer operation, between the Regional Observer onboard the catching vessel and the vessel master by more than 10%, or 5% in case of number of fish less than 30 kg, an investigation will take place according to the procedure stated in paragraph 87 of Recommendation13-07.

All BFT transfers to tugs shall be documented by video camera and copy shall be on board of tug boat and another copy shall be handed to the Regional Observer and vessel master (Art.24/Decree No. 205/2013).

The vessel master shall complete the transfer declaration and BCD forms and transmit these forms to the fishing Authority after confirming the data from the Regional Observer (Art.25/Decree No. 205/2013).

The master of the tug boat shall not leave the transfer site before receiving the original documents which proves the legality of the catch (Transfer Declarations, BCDs and Catch Vessels Logbook (Art.23/Decree No. 205/2013).

The master of the fishing vessel or his representative shall inform the flag State competent authorities of the name, location and flag State of the farm to which the fish is marketed (Art. 21/Decree No. 205/2013).

The master of the catching vessel shall keep an on-board logbook of the operation and must complete the information on all vessel activities by midnight every day, and shall declare the number and weight of dead fish retained on board and to be landed in ports (Art.25/Decree No. 205/2013).

#### *1.3.7 Sampling requirements*

All catches transfers will be documented by video footage.

All authorized PS vessels will have full deployment (100%) of ROP and National Observers; also all Tugs shall have a National Observer on board.

Libya shall require all operators of PS to transfer their catches only to farming units that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival at the towing cages to their farms.

### *1.3.8 Landing/transshipments ports*

Transshipment at sea is prohibited.

BFT fishing vessels shall only land/transship BFT catches in ports designated by the fishing Authorities (Al-khums, Tripoli and Misurata) ports.

All vessels entering any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities (Art.22/Decree No. 205/2013).

All landings or transshipments shall be inspected by Port and fishing Authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag State with a report (as stated in paragraph 70 of [Rec. 13-07]).

### *1.3.9 Use of aircraft*

Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited (Art.10/Decree No. 205/2013).

### *1.3.10 Minimum size*

Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg is prohibited (Atr.15/Decree No. 205/2013).

For catching vessels fishing actively for BFT, an incidental catch of a maximum 5% of fish weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted and shall be counted against Libyan quota.

### *1.3.11 Market measures*

Foreign and domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages and transshipments of BFT and its products, which are not accompanied by accurate, complete and a validated BCD is prohibited (Art.21 & 24/Decree No. 205/2013).

### *1.3.12 Imposing of sanctions*

Any non-compliance with the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree No. 205/2013/Art.17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of quota).

## **2. Fishing Inspection Plan**

The controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Libya are governed by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, No. 14/1989, Decree No. 205/2013, transposing [Rec. 09-06], and by the Coast Guard and Port Security Act No. 229/2005, and considers the core legal documents that define activities and actions which are to be infringements of fishery policy.

### **2.1 Human Resources**

Fishing inspection will be implemented by Fishing Inspectors from Fisheries Authority and Coast Guard personals and in coordination with Port Authority.

The Coast Guard shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea of all activities linked to fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with the consent of the Fishery Authority.

A Central Control Room will be established during the 2014 BFT fishing season to supervise the monitoring of fishing activities.

Specific fisheries inspection tasks shall be planned, including a list of relevant provisions of national and international regulations covering the management of fishery resources and a description of inspector tasks as per [Rec. 13-07].

### 3. Capacity Management Plan

Libya reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with the requirement of ICCAT measures until its fishing capacity was commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 2**), considering ([Rec.12-03] and [Rec.13-07] – Article 9) where the new TACs set as 13400 t and the allocation for Libyan is 937.65 t for the 2013 and 2014 seasons, respectively.

**Table 1.** Catching vessel actually engaged in BFT fishing in the 2014 season.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Vessel type</i>	<i>Individual Quota</i>
1	ALHILAL	AT000LBY00016	PS, 24-40m	67.125
2	OZU-2	AT000LBY00009	PS, 24-40m	22.375
3	CYRENE	AT000LBY00010	PS, 24-40m	67.125
4	TRIPOLITANIA	AT000LBY00013	PS, 24-40m	67.125
5	MORINA	AT000LBY00028	PS, 24-40m	67.125
6	ELHADER 2	AT000LBY00037	PS, 24-40m	67.125
7	ALMAHARI I	AT000LBY00046	PS, 24-40m	67.125
8	AL SSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060	PS, 24-40m	89.500
9	AL HARES 2	AT000LBY00074	PS, 24-40m	78.312
10	TELEL	AT000LBY00076	PS, 24-40m	55.937
11	ALBAHR ELHADER	AT000LBY00077	PS, 24-40m	89.500
12	KHANDEEL II	AT000LBY00038	PS, 24-40m	67.125
13	JARJAROMA	AT000LBY00023	PS, 24-40m	44.750
14	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047	PS, 24-40m	44.750
15	ZARQA ALYAMAMA	AT000LBY00003	LL over 40m	40.000
TOTAL				934.999

#### 3.1 Farming (caging activities)

Libya has authorized and will activate one new BFT farm installation named (Blue Diamond), registered in ICCAT in 2013 / No. AT000LIB00002, with a total capacity 1000 t of live BFT.

All caging for farming or fattening of BFT shall be accompanied by accurate, complete and validated documentation as required by ICCAT ([Rec.13-07], paragraph 86).

All caging and harvesting operations shall be inspected by the competent Authority ([Rec.13-07]), including the requirement under paragraph 88 to implement a program using a stereoscopic camera system or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision covering of 100% of the caging operations in order to refine the number and weight of BFT caged.

#### 3.2 Farming capacity plan

In accordance with paragraphs 52 and 53 of [Rec.13-07], the Libyan farming installation targeting a maximum caging foreseen and desired in the 2014 season is about 1000 t; fish will be mostly imported by Libyan catching vessels.

**Table 2. FISHING CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LIBYA 2010 - 2013**

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)						Fishing capacity				
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Purse seiner over 40m	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	1,493	1,444	1,045	896	846
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	1	1	1		0	0	34	34	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL PURSE SEINE FLEET</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>846</b>
Longliner over 40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	100	50	50	50	25
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL LONGLINE FLEET</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total fleet/fishing capacity</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,627</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>871</b>
<b>TAC</b>								22,000	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
<b>Quota Libya</b>								947	581	903	903	903
Report/quota transfer*								145	145	0	0	0
Underharvest report 2009											0	0
"Overharvest reimbursement"									0	0	0	0
Adjusted Libya quota								1,092	726	903	903	903
Under/overcapacity								535	801	192	43	-32

Reduction 2011                      78.70%  
 Reduction 2012                      95.20%  
 Reduction 2013                      103.50%

## **MOROCCO**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with the provisions in force concerning the recovery of the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, in particular Recommendation 12-03, the aim of this document is to submit to the Commission for its approval the Kingdom of Morocco's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for the 2014 fishing season.

In general terms, this plan is identical to the plan submitted to and adopted by the Commission for the 2013 fishing season.

### **1. Quota allocation/operational sectors**

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its last annual session, held in Cape Town, in November 2013, the national quota, which was set at 1,270.47 t, will be distributed among the operational segments, namely: (a) traps, (b) artisanal vessels and coastal vessels fishing not targeting bluefin tuna, and (c) two high seas purse seiners.

The Administration will establish the relevant quota levels for each of the sectors, in accordance with the ICCAT provisions on individual quotas and these will be notified by the deadlines set by the Commission.

### **2. Fishing conditions**

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the current annual bluefin tuna fishing management plan to take into account the new provisions of the East bluefin tuna recovery plan, adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Kingdom of Morocco undertakes to comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 12-03 during the 2014 fishing campaign, which will start in April for the trap segment.

### **3. Fishing capacity**

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 46 of ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorised to target bluefin tuna directly is broken down as follows:

- 10 traps
- 1 tuna purse seine vessel LOA>40 m
- 1 tuna purse seine vessel 24>LOA<40 m

Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing vessels authorised by the Moroccan Administration can catch bluefin tuna incidentally during their migration period. These vessels are included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and their catches will, as in the past, be counted against the quota limit allocated to the trap sector.

Accordingly, the national management/capacity reduction fishing plan for the 2014 fishing season is shown below:

	<i>Potential catches SCRS</i>	<i>Units registered with ICCAT before 2010</i>	<i>Theoretical catches</i>	<i>Authorized units for 2014</i>	<i>Theoretical catches for 2014</i>
PS large LOA > 40 m	70.7	2	141.4	1	70.7
PS med 24 < LOA < 40	49.8	3	149.9	1	49.8
PS small LOA < 24 *	33.7	1	33.7	0	0
LL large	0	0	0	0	0
LL med	5.7	1	5.7	0	0
LL small	5	63	315	0	0
Baitboats	19.8	0	0	0	0
Handliners	5	0	0	0	0
Trawlers	10	1	10	0	0
Other artisanal**	5	pm	pm	pm	26.97
Traps (Moroccan indicators)	112.3	18	2,021.4	10	1,123
Total		89	2,691.6	12	1,270.47
2013 quota					1,270.47
Total theoretical catches			2,691.6		1,270.47
Theoretical rate of capacity/quota excess					0.0

pm: To be reported.

#### 4. Fishing periods and areas where fishing is prohibited

In accordance with the provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the fishing periods authorised by the Commission for the different gears will be applied.

#### 5. Control and compliance

Fishing monitoring, control and surveillance practices will be implemented in accordance with the national and international regulations in force, and will be carried out in the 2014 *Modus operandi*, which has the following objectives:

- Monitoring and control of fishing activities
- Monitoring and control of transfer and caging activities
- Communication scheme and the reporting of fishing, transfer and caging information
- VMS monitoring of fishing vessels and support vessels (trap vessels)
- Documentary procedure for bluefin tuna trade
- Compliance with the international provisions established within the framework of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean
- Compliance with international obligations by the Kingdom of Morocco vis-à-vis the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

#### 6. Other information

Morocco will reactivate the authorised farming facility AT001MAR00001 through a pilot scheme whereby 200 t will be supplied from two authorised traps. Moreover, the facility will operate under a new legal identity and a new geographical location.



## NORWAY

### 1. Background

Norway became member of ICCAT in 2004. In light of the stock situation for bluefin tuna, Norway adopted 3 May 2007 a prohibition for that year for Norwegian vessels to fish and land bluefin tuna in Norway's territorial waters, in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in international waters. A new regulation adopted 19 December 2007 provides for the same prohibition. This regulation, which entered into force 1 January 2008, has remained in force until now. Consequently, there has been no targeted fishery for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone during the past years.

Following ICCAT Recommendation [13-07] adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission, Norway will in 2014 open up for a limited exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna. The Norwegian fishing and inspection plans are presented below. As Norway has not had any targeted fishery for bluefin tuna over the last years, and hence no fishing vessels targeting this species, no capacity management plan is presented.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2014 adopted 13 February 2014. In addition to national requirements, this Regulation covers the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation [13-07].

### 2. Annual Fishing Plan 2014

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 9, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2014 is 30.97 tons.

Norway has established the following fishing plan for bluefin tuna in 2014:

- A targeted fishery for bluefin tuna will be permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October.
- One purse seine vessel will be authorized to participate in this fishery.
- The vessel will be allocated a quota of 30 tons of bluefin tuna.
- 970 kilos of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catch in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna.
- All catches shall be landed. Vessels not targeting bluefin tuna shall release incidental by-catch of bluefin tuna if alive. Dead or dying bluefin tuna shall be landed.
- Transshipment of bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- Both the purse seine vessel authorized to target bluefin tuna and vessels getting incidental by-catch of dead or dying bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.
- The vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna can be instructed to have observers from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research on board.
- Recreational and sport fisheries for bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 28, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes or helicopters will be prohibited.
- In accordance with Recommendation [13-07], paragraphs 91 and 92, the vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must have an ICCAT regional observer onboard and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 17, no carry-over of any under-harvest will be allowed.

### 3. Annual Inspection Plan 2014

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07], paragraph 58, Norway will submit information concerning the vessel authorized to conduct the exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing season.

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07]. The Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) will follow also the bluefin tuna fishery closely.

The vessel authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour and electronic logbook on a daily basis. Both position reports and electronic logbooks will be received by the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of either VMS signals or electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by our staff at the FMC.

The Norwegian Coast Guard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.

VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Rec 03-14.

Landing notes and sales notes will be issued when the fish is landed. These notes will be forwarded to the Directorate of Fisheries in real time, and the reported catches will be deducted from the vessel's quota. Officers at the Directorate of Fisheries will also cross-check information obtained from VMS, electronic logbooks and landing/sales notes.

All landings will be monitored by the Directorate of Fisheries.

When the Norwegian quota of bluefin tuna is exhausted, the Directorate of Fisheries will stop the fishery.

## **SYRIA**

### **Fishing Plan of BFT for 2014 Fishing Season**

Referring to the 23rd Regular Meeting of ICCAT held from 18 to 28 November 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa, which was attended by our representative Mr. Bassam Darwish (Syrian Ambassador in South Africa) and according to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2014, Syria has an annual quota of 33.58 tons of bluefin tuna (BFT) from the Mediterranean Sea catch during the 2014 season. The Syrian Arab Republic adopted the following plan for the 2014 season:

#### **1. Fishing vessels**

The number of registered vessels in Syria for catching BFT and other species of tuna 19 boats, with only one boat (Fesal) registered in ICCAT in the past years witch used previously to catch Syrian quota.

The vessels classified according to the length as follows:

- Two vessels with length of more than 20 m
- 6 vessels with length between 15 m and 20 m
- 11 vessels smaller than 15 m

(The tables sent to the Secretariat\* show details about all vessels. ICCAT will be informed of any change on the data.)

#### **2. Fishing procedures**

- The applications submitted by fishermen will be discussed for issuing a special fishing license to each boat authorized to fish BFT in 2014 according to the laws and regulations in Syria, taking into account the recommendations and specifications adopted by ICCAT.
- Fishermen will be informed of the fishing and closed seasons as adopted by ICCAT.
- Observer operations during closing season will be conducted by protection monitors working in the General Commission for Fisheries Resources, and sailing from ports determined by the General Directorate of Ports; sanctions will be applied against violators according to national laws.  
(Syria will submit the names and specifications of the licensed vessels that will participate in the 2014 BFT fishing season before starting fishing operations.)

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\* Available upon request.

### 3. Fishing operations

- Only vessels licensed to fish BFT will be allowed to participate in fishing operations during the BFT fishing season.
- The catch will be monitored and recorded daily throughout the fishing season by accredited observers.
- The BFT catch will be landed at the specified fishing port in Lattakia.
- Respecting individual quota limits for vessels shall be monitored by national observers on board.
- Monitoring operations by protection observers from the General Commission for Fisheries Resources will continue after the close of the season to prevent any IUU fishing operation.
- No activities for recreational or sport fishery.
- No use of aircraft shall be allowed for catching operations.

(Daily and monthly catch reports of all authorized Syrian vessels active in the BFT catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format established for this purpose.)

### 4. Joint fishing operations

- The fishing operations will be conducted by national vessels. Foreign vessels are not allowed to catch Syrian allocated quota.
- No joint fishing operations with any foreigner vessels.

(Any fishing contract with foreign vessels or joint fishing operations will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately.)

### 5. Marketing

- The quota allocated to Syria is very small and often marketed at once in the local market or may export in accordance with regulations after approval of the official authorities.

(The ICCAT Secretariat will be informed about the marketing ways of catch quotas at the time.)

### 6. Farms

There are not net any facilities for farming BFT in Syrian waters; BFT will not be caught in small sizes or weights.

### 7. Important note

Due to exceptional circumstances in Syria for the past three years we could not attend the scheduled meetings of ICCAT to discuss the matters related to BFT fishing, which led to prevent Syria from fishing BFT during the past two seasons, we request the ICCAT Secretariat to allow Syria to carry over the unused 2012 and 2013 quotas from BFT, and to be added to our quota for the 2014 fishing season. (We should be grateful if our request is discussed and considered in next annual meeting in Italy.)

## TUNISIA

### 1. Fishing plan

All the Tunisian fishing vessels expected to fish for bluefin tuna during the 2014 season are tuna purse seiners.

The fishing management of these vessels in 2014 will be governed, as in 2013, in accordance with the national regulation as well as ICCAT Recommendations.

In 2014, the competent authority will continue to monitor fishing activities between 26 May and 24 June, through the monitoring of VMS data.

In 2014, Tunisia will continue to grant individual quotas to its vessels, and the national quota will be distributed among the tuna vessels in such a manner that the fishing capacity of each vessel is commensurate to the quota allocated to it. The quota allocation methodology that will be adopted in 2014 will be the same as in 2013.

The number of vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna is set at 21 vessels, as in 2013.

The vessel names and the volumes of the preliminary individual vessel quotas are provided in **Table 2**.

Under the Tunisian regulation, transshipment of fishing products is subject to prior authorisation, and the competent authority will maintain this provision in 2014. Consequently, there will be no transshipment at sea of bluefin tuna, in accordance with ICCAT Recommendations.

The Tunisian regulation also requires that the landing of fishing products must take place in Tunisian fishing ports, except where exceptional authorisation is included in the fishing permit. This provision will also be maintained in 2014 and the pertinent measures will be taken to avoid any landing of bluefin tuna outside the designated ports.

In 2013, the Tunisian administration deployed 16 observers on board Tunisian vessels. In 2014, the administration anticipates maintaining the same number of observers.

### ***1.1 Joint fishing operations***

Within the context of implementation of the ICCAT provisions, during the 2014 season the Tunisian administration plans to authorise 21 vessels to engage in joint bluefin fishing operations. Information related to the duration of the joint fishing operations, the identities of the participating operators, the individual vessel quotas, the allocation keys among the vessels for the catches concerned and the information on the farming facilities of destination will be communicated to ICCAT within the required time period before the start of the campaign.

### ***1.2 Chartering***

The Tunisian regulation prohibits foreign vessels, in particular, tuna vessels, from fishing in Tunisian waters, and the chartering of bluefin fishing vessels is therefore prohibited.

### ***1.3 VMS reporting***

In 2014, Tunisia will continue to implement the VMS system for bluefin fishing vessels. In accordance with ICCAT requirements, all vessels over 15 m, including towing vessels and support vessels, will be equipped with VMS devices. Accordingly, in 2014, the activities of some 40 vessels will be monitored by this VMS system.

The data related to the authorised vessels and their itineraries will also be transmitted regularly and within the time periods required by https between the ICCAT server and those of *Centre d'administration et de gestion des informations des pêches-CAGIP* (Fishing Information Administration and Management Centre), located in Tunis.

### ***1.4 Record of farming facilities***

Six Tunisian farming facilities are included in the ICCAT register. Four farms were operational in 2013 and deployed observers. Moreover, a farm associated with one of the four farms, and one (THC) was not ready to operate as a farming facility in 2013. This farm is expected to become operational in 2014.

## **2. Fishing capacity management plan**

### ***2.1 Fishing capacity management plan***

In 2014, Tunisia will continue to comply with the obligation to reduce the capacity defined in the ICCAT Recommendation so that this rate corresponds to at least 100% of the fishing capacity and the capacity commensurate with the quota for 2014. For this purpose, 20 vessels over 24 m long and one vessel less than 24 m long will be authorised to participate in the 2014 bluefin tuna fishing season. There will probably be a change in the structure of the fleet.

The attached **Table 1** shows Tunisia's planned fishing capacity for the 2014 fishing season, in numbers, according to length range of the vessels.

## ***2.2 Farming capacity management plan***

Pursuant to paragraphs 52 and 53 of Recommendation 13-07, Tunisia envisages maintaining in 2014 the same farming capacity of bluefin tuna caged in 2013, i.e. 2,134 tons, which includes imports entering Tunisian farming facilities (**Table 3**).

The companies SNB and THC plan on carrying out their activities independently from the substitute facility (ex-SMT), which may partner with the company TT in 2014.

## **3. Inspection plan**

In Tunisia, the control and monitoring of bluefin fishing are governed by Law 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing and by its implementing measures, and in particular, the Decree of 21 May 2008, as amended by the Decree of 10 June 2013, on the organisation of bluefin fishing.

This law defines the steps taken to ensure implementation of the fisheries resources conservation and management measures, *inter alia*, the species managed by ICCAT as well as the enforcement measures for fishing vessels infringing the provisions of this law.

Moreover, this law lists the agents authorised to detect fishing infringements.

### ***3.1 Human and technical inspection resources***

Inspection in the fishing areas will be carried out by the active maritime surveillance services attached to the fishing administrations, customs and coastal surveillance services. This control will cover, in particular, the activities of fishing vessels in waters under national sovereignty or jurisdiction.

During the 2014 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, and within the context of implementation of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection, it is envisaged that the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 will participate in the joint international inspection scheme during the bluefin fishing season. This vessel will work in partnership with vessels attached to the active at sea surveillance and control services.

The team of inspectors expected to be embarked on board AMILCAR will comprise, in addition to the regular crew, a commanding officer attached to the coastal surveillance services and three inspectors.

The joint activities linked to the fisheries inspection operations will be planned and coordinated among the different inspection vessels and administrations involved.

The agents boarding the inspection vessels will be certified. On this basis, they will be authorised to perform checks on fishing vessels or any means which may contain aquatic species, in particular bluefin tuna, as well as on any fishing gears used. The main tasks will focus particularly on verification of compliance with and observance of ICCAT recommendations as well as the drafting of inspection reports, in accordance with the model established and approved by ICCAT.

A training session for inspectors is scheduled for March 2014. This session will deal with compliance with ICCAT recommendations and specifically with bluefin tuna catches, transfer of fish to towing vessels, on-board documents and the smooth conduct of inspection operations etc.

**Table 1.** Tunisia's fishing capacity for 2014.

<i>Vessel category</i>	<i>Catch level</i>	<i>2010</i>		<i>2011</i>		<i>2012</i>		<i>2013</i>		<i>2014*</i>	
		<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
PS 40 m or over	70.66	1	70.66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PS between 24 m & 40 m	49.78	24	1,194.72	19	945.82	20	995.6	20	995.6	20	995.6
PS less than 24	33.68	16	538.88	4	134.72	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68
LL less than 24 m	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>1,809.26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,080.54</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,029.28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,029.28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,029.28</b>
<b>% reduction</b>					<b>76.78 %</b>		<b>98.51 %</b>		<b>103.68%</b>		<b>103.68%</b>

\*Data for information purposes only.

**Table 2.** List of Tunisia's tuna vessels and individual quotas for 2014.

	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT register</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>	<i>Vessel owner</i>
1	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065	36.7	98.04	Socoplat
2	Ghedir El Golla	AT000TUN00030	35.05	98.04	Socoplat
3	Mohamed Sadok	AT000TUN00051	37	87.72	Meridien Pêche
4	Hassen	AT000TUN00008	26.84	49.02	Meridien Pêche
5	Jaouhar	AT000TUN00046	32.3	29.24	Société Ben Hmida et Cnie
6	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024	29.25	49.02	Société Ben Hmida et fils
7	Tijani	AT000TUN00026	27.2	29.24	Société Ben Hmida et fils
8	Horchani	AT000TUN00009	32.65	88.58	Horchani Pêche
9	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014	25.4	29.24	Horchani Pêche
10	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049	35	29.24	Jomaa Chaari
11	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025	31.85	29.24	Jomaa Chaari
12	Haj hedi	AT000TUN00007	28	29.24	Société Chaari et fils
13	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070	34.9	49.02	Spac Services
14	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045	28	29.24	Tahar Hajji-Cnie
15	Sallem	AT000TUN00023	38.13	78.26	Fish Tunisie
16	Ibn Rachiq	AT000TUN00037	34.39	49.02	Fish Tunisie
17	Imen	AT000TUN00010	29.10	58.48	Sami Neifer
18	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047	25.3	58.91	Mohamed Chiha

19	Abou Chamma	AT000TUN00002	25.42	39.13	Héritiers Kamel Moncer
20	Ghali	AT000TUN00036	21.94	19.78	Nejib Chiha
21	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479	37.05	29.24	Sté Dauphin
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,056.940</b>		

**Table 3.** Farming capacity for 2014.

<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Facility management</i>	<i>Maximum caging planned in 2014 (t)</i>
AT001TUN00001	S. VMT Sahbi Sallem	356
AT001TUN00002	S. TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane *Substitute facility	444 444
AT001TUN00004	S. TFT Ridha Sallem	356
AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher Ben Hmida & Sami Neifer	267
AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji & Mohamed Chiha	267

\* Temporary arrangement, the company being set up plans to partner with VMT.

## **TURKEY**

### **1. Eastern Bluefin Tuna Fishing Plan for 2014**

Fishing, transferring and farming activities for eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT recommendations. An individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel shall be applied. Fishing for E-BFT shall only be conducted in respect of the catching vessels' individual quotas.

The Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Communiqué and Notifications regarding E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.

#### ***1.1 Potential fishing grounds***

The potential fishing grounds for E-BFT fishery will be off the western and southern coasts of Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean region. Sparse fishing activities may occur in the southern parts of the Aegean Sea.

#### ***1.2 List of authorized E-BFT catching vessels***

MoFAL shall issue special fishing permits for all E-BFT catching vessels to be authorized for 2014 in accordance with criteria specified by domestic legislation as well as by relevant ICCAT regulations on capacity adjustments. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

### ***1.3 Licensing***

Special fishing permits issued by the provincial directorates of MoFAL shall be mandatory for E-BFT catching vessels to operate for the 2014 fishing season. Only purse seine vessels, which have formally possessed such permits during previous years, shall be eligible for certification. Special fishing permits shall be granted to 13 purse seine vessels by MoFAL in accordance with relevant ICCAT recommendations.

Special tug and towing permits, which are mandatory for E-BFT other vessels to operate for 2014 season, shall be issued for 30 towing vessels eligible to carry out E-BFT towing operations by provincial directorates of MoFAL.

Special support-ship permits, which are mandatory for E-BFT other vessels to operate for 2014 season, shall be issued for 13 vessels by provincial directorates of MoFAL.

### ***1.4 Allocation of E-BFT catch quota***

Despite the formal objection lodged by Turkey to the quota allocation scheme from the year 2014, the objected quota level of 556.660 metric tons (t) shall be respected to contribute to the multi-annual recovery plan for E-BFT. In this regard, 540.523 t of quota shall be allocated to 13 E-BFT catching vessels acquiring special fishing permits for the 2014 E-BFT fishing season.

### ***1.5 Methodology used for quota allocation***

MoFAL plans to allocate 98% of the total domestic quota through its distribution in an equal ratio to each of the fishing vessels, based on a domestic criterion to be applied.

For the fishing vessels having allocated an individual quota but not intending to operate for the 2014 E-BFT fishing season, the right to transfer its individual quota to another fishing vessel shall be given. Should any E-BFT catching vessel may not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carryover shall not be allowed.

### ***1.6 Coastal, recreational, sport fisheries***

A specific quota level shall be allocated for the purposes of coastal, recreational and sport fisheries, as well as incidental and by-catches, which is of 2% of the total. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited except for charitable purposes.

### ***1.7 Regulations for 2014 E-BFT fishing season***

#### ***1.7.1 Fishing period and open season***

Open fishing season for E-BFT shall be from 26 May 2014 to 24 June 2014 in accordance with relevant ICCAT rules and recommendations.

#### ***1.7.2 Joint Fishing Operations***

No joint fishing operation (JFOs) with any other CPC is allowed unless the concerned CPC has less than 5 authorized (maximum 4) purse seiners.

A JFO for E-BFT shall only be authorized with the consent of MoFAL and of the other CPC authority concerned, if the vessels to be involved are equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has sufficient individual quotas.

Fishing vessels to conduct any JFO with the vessels of any other CPC shall present the required certificates and letter of consent to MoFAL at least 15 days before the start of the operation (departure from port) to be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat within the specified deadline.

#### ***1.7.3 E-BFT landing/transshipment ports***

E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purposes.

The following ports have been designated by MoFAL for the purpose of E-BFT landing/transshipment:



	<i>Province</i>	<i>Designated landing/ transshipment port</i>
1	ADANA	Karataş fishing port
2	ANTALYA	Antalya port Gazipaşa fishing port
3	MERSIN	Karaduvar fishing port
4	HATAY	Iskenderun fishing port
5	ÇANAKKALE	Kabatepe fishing port Gülpınar fishing port
6	ISTANBUL	Kumkapı fishing port Tuzla fishing port
7	IZMIR	Karaburun fishing port

#### *1.7.4 Vessel Monitoring System requirements*

Fishing vessels requesting any of the special E-BFT catching, towing and support permits for the 2014 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoFAL in accordance with relevant ICCAT rules and recommendations.

#### *1.7.5 Recording and reporting*

Recording and reporting shall be made as required by ICCAT Recommendation No.13-07.

#### *1.7.6 Towing and caging operations*

Provisions regulating towing and caging operations shall be applied as laid down in ICCAT Recommendation 13-07.

#### *1.7.7 Transfer operations*

All transfer operations shall be carried out in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation No.13-07.

#### *1.7.8 Cross check*

The relevant information recorded in fishing logbooks / daily logs, transfer declaration, and in the catch documents shall be verified by MoFAL by using available inspection reports, observer reports and VMS data.

MoFAL shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

#### *1.7.9 Enforcement*

Any noncompliance to the regulations regarding E-BFT fishing and transfer shall lead to nullification of the special fishing permit or the special tug and towing permit issued by MoFAL.

Noncompliant fishing vessels shall not get any of the above mentioned special permits for future operations.

#### *1.7.10 Market measures*

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of E-BFT products (with the exception of fish parts other than the meat i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) as well as their keeping onboard, at storage or inside the towing cages attached to a catching/towing vessel which are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.11 Observer requirements*

Presence of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT catching vessels and farming facilities; and presence of “CPC Observers” on E-BFT towing vessels shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2014.

#### *1.7.12 Use of aircraft*

Any use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for E-BFT shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.13 Minimum size*

Catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale E-BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.14 Sampling requirements*

During the course of the year 2014, E-BFT sampling requirements shall be conducted in accordance with Articles 87 and 88 of ICCAT Recommendation 13-07 and provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 13-08.

Fishing/farming operators shall apply technologic methods, including the utilization of stereoscopic cameras to improve accuracy of weight estimation and quantity without killing any fish. In this context, technical specifications defined in ICCAT Recommendation 13-08 will be applied.

The operators who will not be able to implement the above-mentioned technological methods are obliged to conduct a sampling programme in which they shall sample at least 1.5% of the live E-BFT transferred from the catching net to the towing net and at least 1.5% of the live E-BFT caged at farm.

In this way, E-BFT fishing/farming operators to choose the second option shall apply a sampling protocol based on killing deliberately of; at least 3% of the transferred and caged E-BFT in total in order to estimate and determine the values of fish size and mean weight of the transferred / caged live E-BFT.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as of other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICCAT.

## **2. E-BFT Fisheries Inspection Plan**

### ***2.1 ICCAT inspections in 2014***

In 2014, Turkey plans to continue its contribution to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection with 55 vessels from Turkish Coast Guard Command with 183 inspectors and 30 vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command.

## 2.2 Framework of MCS for E-BFT fishery, transfer, farming and trading

### Catch

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation
- E-BFT catching/other vessels to be registered in ICCAT record
- Legal fishing season
- E-BFT Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) rules
- BCD Scheme requirements
- Log Book requirements
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verification



### Transfer

- Prior transfer notification and authorization
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verification
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessels)
- 100% National Observer coverage (for all towing vessels)
- BCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements



### Transport/towing

- 100% National (CPC) Observer coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements



### Import (for live E-BFT)

- 100% MoFAL Representative coverage
- 100% ROP-BFT coverage (at farm site/caging)



### Caging

- 100% Video footage
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage
- 100% ICCAT Observer coverage (farming)
- BCD Scheme requirements
- Caging Declaration



**Farming**

- Random MOFAL inspections
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage
- 100% Video footage



**Landing ports**

- Random MOFAL inspections at 7 authorized landing fishing ports for dead E-BFT
- Random MOFAL inspections at some landing fishing ports used for by-catch dead E-BFT



**Harvest**

- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- 100% MoFAL Representative coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements



**Export**

- 100 % MoFAL Representative coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements



**Inspections**

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2014 E-BFT fishing season (by Turkish Navy, CGC, MOFAL and other CPCs' Inspection/Control Assets)
- Random inspections by MOFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season

**3. Turkey's Fishing Capacity Management Plan for 2014**

Category	Catch rate	Number of vessels			Catch fates of the vessels		
		2008	2010	2014	2008	2010	2014
PS 40	70,66	47	11	0	3.321	777,26	0
PS 24-40	49,78	49	6	13	2.439	298,68	647,14
PS 24	33,68	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		96	18	13	5.760	1075,94	647,14
<b>ALLOCATED QUOTA</b>					887,90	419,183	556,66

**4. Turkey's Provisional Inspection Plan within the framework of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection 2014**

**4.1 Introduction**

The Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection in 2014 with 55 Coast Guard boats and 62 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, the participation of high seas inspection vessels from the Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) in the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, the Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 97 inspector staff and 24 vessels to participate in ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2014.

Due to logistical reasons, the envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may subsequently be subject to some changes. The provisional list of active inspection vessels is given in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**.

Details of the planned at-sea inspection plan are given in the following sections.

#### ***4.2 Planning of inspection activities***

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons are planned to be focus for 2014. It is estimated that the locations where fishing and towing vessels were detected by the inspection assets still have the potential of concentrated bluefin tuna fishing and transferring activities.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored on the premises of the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock and at Coast Guard Main Operation Center in Ankara, as well as at regional operation centers of TCGC.

The CGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

#### ***4.3 Inspection time and area by regions***

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Turkey, the high seas of the Mediterranean and the high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of the bluefin tuna (BFT) fishing season.

#### ***4.4 Means of at-sea inspections***

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at BFT fishing grounds which are determined based on 2013 risk assessment data.

As for TNFC, the inspections are being planned to be conducted during the whole period of the fishing season with the NFC flagged frigates and corvettes. However, in accordance with the planned missions, the inspections may be conducted in other areas within the international waters by TNFC, as far as possible.

#### ***4.5 Planned number of ICCAT inspection assets to be deployed***

Number of coastal patrol vessels: 55 (details of 4 Coast Guard boats will be communicated as soon as available)

Number of high seas patrol vessels/inspection vessels: 24 (including 4 search & rescue ships)

Where needed or required, additional vessels and/or inspector staff shall be authorized. Within the bounds of possibility, aerial inspections are also planned to be carried out by Maritime Patrol Aircrafts by NFC during the entire BFT fishing period for 2014.

Five staff will be working permanently in shifts on a 24 hour basis at the Coast Guard Main Operational Center in Ankara. In addition to Main Operation Center in Ankara Headquarters, 3-4 staff will be working in shifts at each operation center of the Turkish Coast Guard Regional Commands which are located in Izmir and Mersin and the operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Group Commands which are located in Iskenderun, Antalya, Marmaris and Çanakkale.

The TNFC Operations Center shall maintain its communication with the inspector vessels during 24 hours. With a view of activities' coordination in the Operations Center, 3 officers and 4 Petty Officers will be employed fulltime.

*Addendum 1 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1*

FlagName	IDName	IDNumber	Type	Active Year
Turkey		TCSG-1	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-101	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-102	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-103	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-104	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-105	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-108	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-109	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-11	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-13	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-14	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-16	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-18	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-2	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-3	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-302	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-304	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-305	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-306	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-308	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-309	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-310	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-311	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-313	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-6	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-61	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-62	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-67	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-68	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-7	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-70	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-73	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-8	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-80	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-81	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-82	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-83	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-89	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-9	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-91	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-92	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-57	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-84	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-85	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-107	Ships	2014
Turkey		TSCG-20	Ships	2014
Turkey		SG-DOST	Ships	2014
Turkey		SG-GUVEN	Ships	2014
Turkey		SG-UMUT	Ships	2014

Turkey		SG-YASAM	Ships	2014
Turkey		TCSG-21	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey		To be notified	Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BAFRA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BANDIRMA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BARBAROS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BARTIN		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BEYKOZ		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BODRUM		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG BOZCAADA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG FATIH		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GAZIANTEP		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GEDIZ		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GELIBOLU		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GEMLIK		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GIRESun		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GOKCEADA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GOKOVA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG GOKSU		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG HEYBELIADA		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG KEMALREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG ORUCREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG SALIHREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG TURGUTREIS		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG YAVUZ		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG YILDIRIM		Ships	2014
Turkey	TCG ZAFER		Ships	2014

## CHINESE TAIPEI

### Chinese Taipei's Regulation Prohibiting Fisheries of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in 2014

In accordance with ICCAT [Rec. 13-07], I have the honour to inform you that a regulation has been established domestically to prohibit our fishing vessels from fishing bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2014. Besides, in accordance with the pertinent provisions of our domestic regulations, bycatch of bluefin tuna shall be released or discarded, and recorded on the logbook to this Agency:

Furthermore, in accordance with the paragraph 62 of ICCAT [Rec. 13-07], I hereby inform you that Chinese Taipei also prohibited our fishing vessels from fishing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in 2013, which was notified to you by mail on 1 February 2013.

### Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1

#### Requests for clarification of provisions of [Rec. 12-03]

##### 1. Dates of vessels

Where vessels have been on BFT lists in previous years, can the start date of the authorisation remain as the original date, or should it be changed to the current year?

**Current understanding:** The lists are annual and the start date should change each year. Vessels whose authorizations have expired (i.e., previous year vessels) should be removed from the list.

RESPONSES:

*EU - We agree with the understanding of the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - The effective authorization date is the one contained in the document. This document is issued each year. It is therefore suggested that the ICCAT lists of authorised vessels be annual.*

**2. Submission of BFT\_other lists**

For BFT\_other lists [Rec. 12-03] currently reads: *The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.b) shall be submitted one month before the start of their period of authorisation.*

Not all BFT\_other vessels of a given CPC, however, have the same authorisation periods and hence a “list” cannot be submitted, but inclusions in the Record. Guidance is sought on the following:

- a) Can multiple submissions be accepted?
- b) Must these lists be annual?
- c) When a vessel is already on the Record, but an extension to the authorisation period is reported, does the one month in advance rule apply, or is notification before expiry sufficient?

**Current understanding:** As the Secretariat is unsure how to deal with this issue, in 2013 multiple submissions have been accepted, but on the general assumption that authorisations should be for yearly periods. For new vessels, or vessels which have already expired, the one month in advance rule should apply, but for vessels which are still authorised, extensions to authorisation periods are accepted any time *before* the expiry of the current authorisation.

RESPONSES:

*EU - a) Yes; b) Yes; c) We agree with the Secretariat position.*

*Tunisia - The extensions of authorization periods should be accepted at any time, before the expiration of the current authorization. For new vessels, the one month in advance rule should apply except for replacements of authorized vessels.*

**3. Vessels to be registered under the BFT-other list**

[Rec. 12-03] does not define “other” vessels beyond catching vessels being excluded. Catching vessels are defined as b) *"Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.* Some CPCs have included vessels which may take bluefin tuna as by-catch in the BFT-other vessel list, as the primary use of these vessels is not the commercial capture of bluefin tuna. This results in these vessels being assigned an ICCAT number, which is then used on the BCDs. Can BFT-other vessels catch bluefin and report BCDs?

**Current understanding:** The Secretariat has included the lists of BFT-other vessels as reported by CPCs with by-catch vessels included. While [Rec. 12-03] stipulates that a vessel cannot be on both BFT catching and BFT other lists, there is no provision to indicate that BFT-other vessels cannot take bluefin as by-catch. Confirmation that by-catch vessels may/should be included on BFT-other vessel list is sought.

RESPONSES:

*EU - The EU interpretation is that vessels authorised on the "Other Vessels" list are not vessels authorised to have by-catch of BFT during the period of authorisation. It would be useful to have clarification from the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - Vessels that do not carry out commercial fishing can be assimilated to other bluefin tuna vessels in accordance to [Rec. 13-07] and can therefore be included on the ICCAT list of bluefin tuna other vessels.*



#### 4. End of authorization dates of vessels BFT\_catching/BFT\_other list

When a vessel is reported as having finished its quota or finished operating in a given year, which of the following actions should be taken:

- a) No action, the vessel remains in the Record for the remainder of the current year with the original dates reported.
- b) The dates of the vessel authorization should be amended to reflect the end date, but the vessel continues to appear on the web site for the remainder of the current year.
- c) The vessel should be removed from the Record of authorized vessels (on the assumption it is no longer authorized).

**Current understanding:** The Secretariat is currently operating under the instructions of the CPCs and modifying dates (option b) when requested. Confirmation that this is in accordance with paragraph 58 of [Rec. 12-03] is sought.

RESPONSES:

*EU - The EU advocates the removal of the vessel from the Record of Authorised Vessels, but this removal should be followed by a confirmation from the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - When information is reported that a vessel has caught its quota or no longer operates in a given year, the authorisation dates should be modified upon request of the CPCs concerned.*

#### 5. Changes to fishing plan

Clarification of paragraph 15 in [Rec. 12-03] concerning modifications of fishing plan. What is the deadline for last modification of the plan, and which modifications are permitted? Does 48 hours refer to start of fishing season or the start of activity?

**Current understanding:** [Rec. 12-03], paragraph 15, allows for modification to the CPC fishing plan and/or individual vessel quotas allocated by the CPC, provided that 48 hours notification is transmitted to the Secretariat. The 48 hour period for advance notification is established in relation to the fishing activity or vessel allocation that is being modified from the previously endorsed plan. The 48 hour notice is not linked to the start date of the fishing season for the vessel and gear type concerned.

RESPONSES:

*EU - We agree with the understanding of the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - The 48 hour information which should be reported to the Secretariat for the last modification of the fishing plan should refer to the start of the fishing activity.*

#### 6. Transfer declarations JFOs

In case of a JFO, does only the vessel which caught the fish need to fill out the transfer declaration, or does every vessel involved in the JFO have to fill out this declaration.

**Current understanding:** In the case of a JFO, the transfer declaration (ITD) must be completed and signed only by the reference vessel associated to the cargo of live fish.

RESPONSES:

*EU - If the Secretariat means that the ITD must only be signed by the catching vessel, then we agree with the Secretariat. [Secretariat confirms this is what is meant.]*

*Tunisia - In the case of a JFO, only the vessel that catches the fish has to complete the transfer declaration.*

## 7. By-catch vessels

Can vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna but are authorised to take this species as by-catch be added to the ICCAT Record of BFT vessels? If so, to which list should they be added, BFT\_catching or BFT\_other.

**Current understanding:** CPCs are not required to register such vessels but may do so if they wish. The Secretariat understands that they should be added to BFT\_catching, but submissions for inclusion in BFT\_other list have been received, and processed as such.

RESPONSES:

*EU - Our understanding is that at the EU level there is no compulsory requirement to register vessels on the list.*

*Tunisia - Vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna and yet are authorised to catch this species as by-catch can be added to the ICCAT record of bluefin tuna vessels on the list of bluefin tuna other vessels.*

## 8. Catching other species

If a BFT purse seiner also licenced to catch other species catches its BFT quota early in the season, can it continue to fish for other species during the BFT fishing season? If so, do they need an ICCAT observer on board during this period.

**Current understanding:** The vessels may continue to fish for other species under the MCS measures of its CPC. Paragraph 91 of [Rec. 12-03] states that “An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage - on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna”. However, once the quota is reached, the vessel is no longer authorized to fish for bluefin tuna and hence no longer needs and observer.

RESPONSES:

*EU - We agree with the understanding of the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - A purse seiner that targets bluefin tuna holds a specific license for bluefin tuna fishing during the fishing season. It is therefore not authorized to target other species with this licence. If the vessel exhausts its bluefin tuna quota before the end of the season, it is requested to proceed to the port of registry until the end of the season. However, the purse seiner could be authorized to operate after the bluefin tuna fishing season if it hold a fishing permit for other species.*

## 9. Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs)

If one of the vessels in a JFO returns to the port and stops its activity, can the other vessels continue to operate in the JFO? If so, what notification period is required for the change in individual quotas of the vessels and allocation key of the JFO?

**Current understanding:** The other vessels may continue fishing, but any changes to individual quotas or the allocation key must be notified in accordance with the deadline stipulated in paragraph 20 of [Rec. 12-03].

RESPONSES:

*EU - If a vessel has been de-authorised and stopped its activities, the JFO in which this vessel is involved is no longer operational; it would be useful to get clarification from the Secretariat.*

*Tunisia - If a vessel taking part in a JFO proceeds to port and terminates its activities, the other vessels can continue to operate within the framework of the JFO. A 48h notification period could be applied for the modification of individual quotas of vessels and the allocation of the JFO.*

## 10. Fishing, Capacity and Inspection Plans

The deadline for provisional plans for conducting inspection is 1 January according to Annex 8 of [Rec. 12-03], but paragraph 11 of [Rec. 12-03] requires the fishing, inspection and capacity management plans by 15 February. Does the inspection plan referred to in paragraph 11 include inspection under the International Scheme of Joint Inspection referenced in Annex 8. If not, what should such plan include? Does the non-submission of an inspection plan under Paragraph 11 automatically lead to the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing?

RESPONSES:

*EU - We consider that these are two distinct plans and we advocate the suspension of BFT fishing.*

*Tunisia - Fishing, capacity and inspection plans should be submitted before the 15 February and should include information on inspection within the framework of the Joint International Inspection Scheme. If this plan has not been submitted by a CPC, the provisional inspection plan presented under Annex 8 should prevail and should be submitted for review of the inter-sessional meeting responsible of this issue.*

## 11. Traps

Can traps be added to the ICCAT Record by CPCs that have not previously listed any traps?

The Secretariat has received a request for the inclusion of a new trap in the ICCAT Record of Traps. This CPC did not have any registered traps in 2008 or since then. [Rec. 13-07] (and previous Recs.) states that “CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008”.

**Current understanding:** From the provisions indicated above, it is the Secretariat’s understanding that the total number of traps should remain at 2008 levels for all CPCs. If this number was 0, then the CPC cannot register a trap. Confirmation or otherwise of this sought.

## 12. NCPs and BFT\_other vessels

Can non-CPCs with carrier vessels on the ICCAT Record include such carriers on the BFT-other list (a requirement in order to be able to transport BFT)?

**Current understanding:** [Rec. 12-06] allows non-CPCs to include their vessels on the Record of Carrier Vessels. As Recommendation, paragraph 57.b states that “The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels (i.e. catching vessels excluded) authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea”, and does not expressly exclude the possibility of non-CPCs including vessels, the Secretariat would understand that such vessels may be included and should be included to prevent any possible IUU transport activity of BFT.

## Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1

### Request for clarifications of provisions contained in ICCAT conservation and management measures

#### BET/YFT vessel list:

[Rec. 11-01]: The current deadline is 1 July, but most CPCs are reporting, on 1 July, the list of vessels from January to December of the year of reporting. This often leaves a gap of six months where the vessels on the list do not have current authorization. For which period should the list submitted 1 July cover?

**Port inspection:**

1. [Rec. 12-07]: It has been noted that few CPCs have sent their lists of authorised ports, but the Secretariat has received information regarding vessels entering ports outside their CPC which are not on the list. The Recommendation is silent on the obligations of flag CPCs of the vessels in relation to this measure. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendations, can CPCs allow their vessels to enter ports which are not on the ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports?
2. CPCs shall apply Recommendation [12-07] in respect of foreign fishing vessels *carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed or transshipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels"*.  
Does this include carrier vessels and container vessels, or only catching vessels?
3. Para 20 of [Rec. 12-07] states that "*The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.*"  
What should the Secretariat do with the reports received if no infringement is reported?
4. Para 26 c) of [Rec. 12-07] provides that "*Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation*". To date, one Cooperating Party has requested assistance with training, and has indicated that they could pay for such training, but the Secretariat has no guidance to offer. What is the role of the Secretariat in the implementation of this provision?

**4.2 REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)**  
(Madrid, Spain, 6-7 March 2014)

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Inter-Sessional Meeting of the PWG was opened by the Chair Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco).

**2. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements**

The agenda was adopted as attached (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**). The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

**3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Rachel Galea (EU-Malta) was appointed as Rapporteur.

**4. Brief report of the January meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group**

The Summary Report of the eBCD Working Group Meeting, 21-24 January 2014 (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**) was circulated to the PWG. The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group reviewed the report, as well as the 13 policy issues appended thereto (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**). Several CPCs expressed the opinion that testing the system internationally, and as soon as possible, for its general improvement is of utmost importance. Egypt sought clarification on the understanding of domestic trade operation and the issue of double validation requirements for export and import.

**5. Consideration of remaining policy matters affecting the development of the eBCD system, including development of recommendations or other approaches for addressing the same**

**5.1 Sport and recreational fisheries**

It was the general consensus that the BFT fished and landed in sport and recreational fisheries remains outside the scope of the eBCD system, the group having been reminded by the Chair that the Commission needs a definite answer from the PWG in order to guide the action to be taken. Recommendation 13-07 and Recommendation 13-09 state that the marketing of BFT caught and landed in recreational or sport fishing is prohibited.

One CPC noted that sport and recreational fishery data should be reported to ICCAT and quotas should be allocated accordingly.

**5.2 Dead fish in purse seine fishery**

Since no consensus was reached on this issue, the PWG decided to refer the matter to the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group on IMM, scheduled for May 2014.

**5.3 Registering and treatment of JFO**

The PWG Chair proposed two options for this issue: the issue could remain as pending business or alternatively be referred to the Working Group on IMM in May 2014, or to the Commission. One party called for flexibility and sought clarification on the JFO process. The EU indicated that that item needed to be clarified to prevent potential difficulties to carry out eBCD testing in the context of JFOs involving more than one Flag State.

Japan expressed that JFOs reporting obligations shall be adopted to ensure full functionality of the eBCD system, in particular the appropriate allocation of both number and weight in accordance with the authorized allocation key. The Chair asked operators to meet after the PWG meeting to present practical proposals for continuing the testing.

## **5.4 By-catch**

### *5.4.1 Bycatch: Eastern fishery*

Regarding section 4 of the Summary Report of the eBCD Working Group Meeting, 21-24 January 2014 (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**), Morocco asked how best to deal with vessels catching E-BFT as by-catch in the eBCD system. The PWG acknowledged that it is difficult for CPCs to determine which vessels are involved in by-catch fishery prior to the start of the fishing season. The Chair of the eBCD Working Group explained that at the eBCD Working Group in January 2014 it was considered that vessel data could be entered in the eBCD system using the national registry number and a free text field for the vessel name and, that this would in turn generate a shadow list with vessels' names but would not involve the creation of an ICCAT register vessel number. This is because a vessel that catches E-BFT as by-catch is not authorized to fish for BFT under Recommendation 12-03 (paragraph 57). The Working Group considered that with such a system errors of data entry into the eBCD system would be reduced.

The PWG noted that by-catch data for trading purposes should be included in the eBCD system by either of the following options: 1. Registration of the vessel in the BFT other list; or 2. Self-registration functionality, validated by the government. The PWG recognized that if traceability of BFT in the eBCD system is required, one of the above options must be chosen.

The Chair raised the subject of some importing CPCs not recognizing imports of BFT, even as by-catch. In fact, some countries refuse to import fish caught incidentally by other vessels. The question also arose of who should register the vessels, either the administration or the operator.

The Chair stressed that the situation where CPCs use the pretext of having small fleets to avoid registration of catch should be avoided at all costs. Self-registration of non-authorized vessels was acceptable to the group for validation of eBCDs. The Chair asked Japan, as an importing country, whether a paper BCD for by-catch issued by some CPCs would be legally acceptable and Japan answered in the affirmative.

### *5.4.2 Bycatch: Western fishery*

The Chair asked whether the solution proposed for addressing the inclusion of catches by by-catch vessels in the eastern fishery in the eBCD was acceptable for the western bluefin tuna fishery. In response, one western bluefin tuna harvesting CPC noted that the distinction between by-catch and other catches in the eastern fishery did not apply to the western bluefin fishery and the eBCD system had already been revised to reflect that. However, there are instances of catches by vessels that are not included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and, therefore, these vessels are not included in a relational database accessible by the eBCD system. This situation would need to be accommodated in the eBCD system development. The United States indicated it could support the approach proposed – that is, the creation of a free text box under the catch section of the eBCD program so that unlisted vessel data could be entered individually as needed. The United States noted, however, that it could not speak for the entirety of the western bluefin tuna harvesting CPCs, most of which were not present at the meeting.

The PWG agreed to discuss the matter again in the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group on IMM scheduled for May 2014.

## **5.5 Trade of <3 fish/1 ton**

The PWG discussed the consideration raised by the eBCD Working Group concerning the validation of the trade section prior to export where the quantities of bluefin caught and landed are less than 1 metric ton or three fish.

The EU proposed that:

- Based on existing requirements regarding operators landing less than 3 fish/1 t (paragraph 13.d of ICCAT [Rec. 11-20]), the eBCD program should afford a similar degree of flexibility by enabling the use of a temporary paper-based BCD system.
- The eBCD and trade key would be pre-assigned on a yearly basis so as to ensure the effectiveness of the paper-based BCD system.
- The information should be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within seven working days by the fisherman or his representative for entry into the eBCD system.

Noting the need to further consider how paragraph 13d of Recommendation 11-20 would be implemented in the e-BCD system, two CPCs requested more information on the abovementioned EU proposal.

The seven-day period of acceptance of paper BCDs prior to conversion into eBCDs was discussed.

The PWG agreed that the Consortium would not develop a seven-day prior notification in the eBCD system.

#### ***5.6 Importer/buyer field in the trade section***

On this issue, Japan stated that the seller may use a free text box temporarily to complete the importer/buyer information of section 8 and, consequently, the information may be changed in the future by the buyer, the importer or the importing country's authority.

In addition, the EU requested that a 15-day time period be allowed for completion of the information regarding the importer/buyer before an alert would be issued.

Several CPCs pointed out that in relation to ICCAT [Rec. 11-20], all the fields of the eBCD must be completed prior to validation.

The PWG agreed that this issue would need further consideration and would be discussed again in the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group on IMM scheduled for May 2014.

#### ***5.7 Domestic trade and trade key***

Regarding a specific regime for implementation of eBCD for domestic trade, the EU made a proposal. One CPC noted that this appeared to be a derogation from ICCAT Recommendations and that changes to ICCAT Recommendations were not yet being discussed by the PWG.

The Chair requested the EU to present clearly its proposal so as to be included in the report of this meeting and to further facilitate consideration on that issue. The proposal was the following:

- For BFT traded domestically, and after the first trade, the trader has the option to enter the relevant trade information into the eBCD using section 8 of a blank paper version of the eBCD.
- This section 8 of the eBCD is generated by printing the original eBCD, and is also available as an annex of the ICCAT Recommendation if required for additional trade.
- The trader attaches this section 8 to the original printed paper eBCD.
- Each buyer shall verify that the information is complete for previous operations and trades.
- When the fish is exported outside the CPC, the exporter can access the corresponding eBCD using the eBCD number and trade key.
- The exporter completes the export data in the eBCD system and attaches the scanned copies of the section 8 for all previously completed trades.

As already stated under the discussion of agenda item 4, Japan requested the development a new user category in the eBCD system for the "trade agent".

The observer from PEW presented a written statement (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**) concerning the document "Summary Report of the eBCD Working Group Meeting (21-24 January 2014)".

#### ***5.8 Tagging, validation and re-export of tagged BFT held in cold storage after March 2015***

The PWG reached a general consensus on the requests for confirmation and clarification from the eBCD Working Group on:

- Current commercial tagging programmes provided for under [Rec. 11-20] which continue to be exempt from eBCD validation, however voluntary validation for such fish is acceptable.
- Clearly defined objectives and minimum standards are needed for commercial tagging programmes in order to provide instructions for system functionality.

It was discussed that a free text field that would allow the entering of a "range of tag numbers" could be added for the eastern fishery in the eBCD system.

The Chair requested the EU and Japan to produce a common text. The text, as agreed by Japan and the EU, read as follows: "The seller should have the option to be able to complete the buyer information using a free text box."

Regarding the request about the time limit after validation when the information concerning the importer/buyer needs to be completed, the EU used the following wording: "There should be a 15 day time-limit before an alert is issued".

It was agreed that the following issue needed further discussion, review and clarification by the IMM or the Commission:

- Whether the entry of the weight/product presentation for individual tagged fish including the uploading of Excel/csv files should be made optional in the eastern fishery and compulsory in the western fishery.

The United States noted that the BCD validation exemption was first established under the bluefin statistical document program (SDP) that preceded the current BCD program. The bluefin SDP included minimum criteria that were not expressly carried forward to the BCD program for a number of reasons. However, given the change in the implementation of the BCD with the eBCD program, the United States suggested tagging criteria for the BCD validation exemption should be adopted to prevent potential loopholes in the implementation of the eBCD.

### ***5.9 Regional Observer Programme***

On this issue, the Chair reminded the PWG that some fields of the BCD document require the signature of the Regional Observer for completion. The Chair asked how this procedure would be adapted for the eBCD system and how to deal with the practical problem of Regional Observers who change from one year to the next.

Tunisia tabled a pragmatic proposal whereby Regional Observers would provide their e-mail addresses. The Consortium could generate these e-mail addresses as well as act as the link between the operator and observer, automatically relaying information.

In this regard, it was agreed that the eBCD Working Group would have to contact the ROP BFT Consortium for a practical solution.

### ***5.10 Security and data confidentiality***

Japan suggested that a document attachment functions as "Annex(es)" field". This should be produced as transport description for sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 in relation to this matter. The EU agreed with the Chair of the PWG that a pragmatic approach should be adopted.

Three proposals were presented in this regard:

- i) Fishermen should only have access to the part of the eBCD which concerns them. As to CPCs, the flag and import State would have full access to all the information of the eBCD.
- ii) The eBCD Technical Working Group should revisit this issue since other parameters will be included at the request of a CPC.
- iii) Tunisia proposed that access should be limited in general while the administration should have full access. In addition, the administration alone should have access to annexes.

Since there was no consensus on these proposals, the item was referred to the IMM meeting in May 2014.

### ***5.11 Access by non-member CPCs and Pacific BFT***

Some delegations questioned the inclusion of Pacific BFT in the eBCD system since its management is not within the scope of ICCAT. Others noted that Pacific BFT has been covered by the existing paper BCD in order to reduce a potential loophole in the BCD program due to the inability to distinguish Pacific bluefin from Atlantic bluefin in the market. Both Japan and the United States supported the inclusion of Pacific BFT in the eBCD system.



Japan suggested the non-member CPCs with links to Pacific BFT should use the paper BCD which, in turn, would be forwarded to the Secretariat. The United States noted the trade obligations of ICCAT members to not impose additional trade burdens on ICCAT non-members. While the Commission has valid concerns regarding restricting access to the eBCD system to ICCAT members at this time, it needs to be clear that it will continue to afford non-members access to bluefin trade with the use of the paper BCD, but that is a temporary fix.

The United States presented the “Draft Proposal Re Data Elements for Pacific Bluefin Tuna”, which is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**.

Since there was no consensus on the issue, it was agreed that the proposal by the United States would be discussed at the next Working Group on IMM to ensure decisions are taken in accordance with international trade rules.

### ***5.12 Carry-over in farms***

On the treatment of paper BCD and eBCD during the transitional period after March 2015, Japan declared that, as an importing country, it is not possible to accept any incomplete paper BCDs and eBCDs. Having stated this, however, all CPCs and the Secretariat will be able to handle a mixture of BCD and eBCD data. Japan also suggested that any catch taking place before the end of February 2015 would be classified as a paper-based BCD. Accordingly, a catch with a catch date before the end of February 2015 would be considered as requiring a paper-based BCD through to the end of export. Conversely, a catch with a date on or after 1 March 2015 will be treated entirely as an eBCD in the eBCD system through to the end of export.

The EU stated that due consideration is being given to testing and that testing will, in line with Japan’s position, be conducted with the pre-production version. The EU will provide Japan with paper BCDs for the time being rather than the electronic version. The EU stated that testing would probably start in April 2014 but would not be completed by the next IMM meeting in May 2014. The EU requested confirmation from the Secretariat/TRAGSA that the server for the test version is capable of handling the data.

The Chair stated that the trade must not be affected during this transitional phase and that this matter should therefore be referred to the IMM meeting.

### ***5.13 Non-traded BFT***

Some CPCs indicated that, consistent with [Rec. 11-20], all BFT caught and landed should be entered into the eBCD system. Other CPCs noted that eBCD is designed to cover traded bluefin tuna and that the eBCD was being developed consistent with the scope of the current BCD programme. The PWG recalled that Recommendations 13-07 and 13-09 prohibit the trade of bluefin tuna caught and landed in recreational or sport fisheries and that bluefin tuna taken in these fisheries are outside the scope of the eBCD system. However, it was agreed that further discussion was necessary regarding whether and how bluefin tuna that is harvested for commercial purposes by and landed in the territory of the CPC where the vessel is flagged or the trap is established but is not internationally traded shall be included in the eBCD system.

## **6. Update on the contract extension process with TRAGSA, including any implications from decisions on policy matters**

The consortium presented three alternatives for continuing the project (see Annex to the document “Proposal for the Continuation of the Project”). In addition, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the terms of reference as well as the contract with the consortium TRAGSA/The Server Labs had been closely monitored.

The PWG examined the recommendations formulated by the Chair of the eBCD Working Group in its “Summary Report of the eBCD Working Group Meeting” (6 March 2014), attached to this report (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**), as well as the proposals tabled by the consortium on the continuation of this programme. The recommendations by the eBCD WG were approved by the PWG following consultation and they are to be circulated to the CPCs before the IMM meeting. In addition, it was agreed that the Secretariat should engage in negotiations with the consortium based on first alternative No. 1, with the possibility of including some elements of the other alternatives. The objective would be to lower the price.

The Executive Secretary reassured the PWG that, according to the contract with TRAGSA on the issue of copyright, it is documented that the eBCD project will be the sole property of ICCAT.

## **7. Any other eBCD issues**

The EU provided solutions for technical elements:

- In cage description, the number of fish by weight distribution (8 to 30 kg and >30 kg) does not give a warning/alert when the 5% limit of undersized fish (8 to 30 kg) is exceeded. The EU would like to have a warning system/alert for this scenario.
- When a trade operation of harvested fish is registered, the system allows the selling of up to 10% more of the amount of fish harvested. In the absence of corresponding provisions in the ICCAT Recommendations, the EU would like to have this corrected.
- The current eBCD system offers the option to tag fish harvested in farms. The EU would like to have this option removed to reflect the ICCAT Recommendation.

In response to the concern raised by one CPC that the 28/03/2014 deadline for submitting the necessary data on users of the eBCD system (see ICCAT Circular # 0189 of 15/01/2014) is too soon and asked for more time, the Secretariat informed that this date had been set in light of constraints regarding the approaching termination of the contract with the consortium "GRUPO TRAGSA & THE SERVER LABS". In this regard, the Secretariat will try to use the transition period to extend the deadline for submitting the necessary data for the purposes of continuing the development of the eBCD system to 28/02/2015, which is within the time limits of the contact.

## **8. Other matters**

The subject of some importing CPCs not accepting imports of BFT caught as by-catch by vessels not included on the BFT "catching vessels list" was raised. It was noted that some CPCs have refused to import fish caught as by-catch by vessels included on the BFT "other vessel list." The question also arose of who should register the vessels in the eBCD system, either the administration or the operator. This issue has been referred to the Working Group on IMM.

For the transitional period until 1 March 2015, and in the case of BCDs completed for by-catch of E-BFT by a vessel registered in the ICCAT BFT "other vessels list" or without any ICCAT identification but duly authorized by the flag CPC, some CPCs agreed on considering this fish as legal catch.

## **9. Adoption of the report and adjournment of the meeting**

The meeting was adjourned and the report was adopted by correspondence.

## **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**

### **Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Brief report of January eBCD TWG meeting
5. Consideration of remaining policy matters affecting eBCD system development, including development of recommendations or other approaches for addressing same
6. Update on the contract extension process with TRAGSA, including any implications from decisions on policy matters
7. Any other eBCD issues
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2****List of participants****CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALGERIA****Neghli, Kamel \***

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## Summary report of the eBCD Working Group meeting (21-24 January 2014)

### 1. Introduction

The eBCD Working Group (WG) was established in accordance with [Rec. 10-11] to discuss and steer the development, testing and implementation of the eBCD system.

During the 2013 Annual Meeting, the Working Group was given a clear instruction to continue their work and prioritize the resolution of the outstanding technical issues, collate those issues which need a decision of the Commission and facilitate the continuation of the programme including through a contract extension with the developing consortium (TRAGSA).

A meeting of the Working Group took place from 21-24 January 2014 inclusive, the agenda and documents were uploaded on the SharePoint of the meeting, including existing contract with TRAGSA, further technical documents submitted by TRAGSA and Recs. 13-17, 12-03 and 13-07.

Participants included Canada, European Union, Japan, Morocco, Tunisia, United States and the ICCAT Secretariat.

Following general discussion on implementation of [Rec. 13-17], it was agreed that a paper BCD would be treated as the original when a paper BCD and an eBCD version encoded by the Secretariat both exist.

### 2. Technical issues

Discussions on outstanding technical issues were based on those in the report of the eBCD Technical Working Group meeting held in Madrid in January 2013, as well as additional issues in light of recent testing reported by Algeria, Japan, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, and TRAGSA. Many of the issues reported by CPCs were related to those already listed in therein and hence were treated in turn. A number of new issues were also raised by participating CPCs throughout the meeting.

In total, 42 issues were discussed and resolved with only one remaining outstanding. The full list together with a description of each issue and the Working Group's decision are enclosed in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**. Issues which required significant discussions included those on tagging, by-catch, domestic trade and Joint Fishing Operations (JFOs) in the eastern fishery. It must be noted, that a number of items were considered to have policy implications, hence new technical issues may arise following any future decision of the Commission.

### 3. Policy issues

A number of policy issues have surfaced throughout the deliberations of the Working Group and ongoing development of the eBCD system. Policy issues are considered by the Working Group to be issues which may implicate an amendment or not to existing ICCAT conservation and management measures, and hence beyond their mandate. Some issues are clerical in nature and often only relate to a paper based reporting obligation which may not be technically compatible with the eBCD system, while others are considered more substantive in nature implying changes to current management measures (e.g. inclusion of sport and recreational fisheries).

The full list of policy issues referred to the Commission are enclosed in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**.

### 4. Financial/contractual aspects

The existing contract with TRAGSA, which has already been extended, is due to expire in April 2014. As agreed by the Commission it was considered vital to maintain the services of TRAGSA in the ongoing development of the system, even if this goes beyond the timeframe and scope of their existing contract. Hence, the framework for a potential contract extension was agreed by the Commission in their last annual session together with the appropriate financial resources. In order to facilitate discussions on a contract extension, TRAGSA was requested to provide a preliminary estimate of their costs for 2014-2015 based on outstanding and new tasks.



The Working Group discussed this proposal and concluded some issues should have been completed under their current contact while others were indeed new tasks beyond the scope of the original specifications. The presentation of six month working schedules and the absence of number of resource units (e.g., person hours/days/months, equipment costs), however, prevented a more detailed evaluation by the Working Group.

It was therefore decided to request TRAGSA to re-submit a proposal for a one year period (1 May 2014 – end April 2015) structured by system development, maintenance and support costs. Tasks shall include resource implications (both human and material) and number of units and their associated costs.

The following items were specifically requested by the WG to be removed from the extension proposal because these items were included in the existing contract or, in the case of the last two items, they were not part of the original contract specifications and did not need to be part of any extension:

- Delimitation of western and eastern bluefin tuna
- JFO multi-flag functionality
- Pacific bluefin tuna
- CPC Administrator for European Union
- Interface for electronic data exchange that includes at least catch and first trade information (the final scope to be defined)
- Development for inclusion of sport and recreational fisheries (W/E BFT)
- Data entry of paper BCDs (scope to be defined)

The following items were specifically requested by the Working Group to be included in the extension proposal:

- A clear reporting and implementation schedule including the requirement for a mid-term report and deliverables, also mid-term progress meeting in Madrid (with eBCD Working Group)
- Data extraction tool to link BCD database and eBCD system (scope to be defined)
- Further elaboration of training manual for CPC end-users (i.e. developed in more detail for each fishing sector) and including references to ICCAT Recommendation No's
- One training course (FR, ES and EN) for “trainer of trainers” in early 2015
- Further training options (with itemized costs) for e-learning materials/courses

## 5. Next steps

It was agreed that the WG would meet in the margins of the inter-sessional meeting PA2, COC and PWG foreseen for the week 3-7 March 2014 to analyse this proposal and clarify any issues, including those that may arise from PWG discussions, prior to its formalization and implementation. In the meantime, TRAGSA confirmed that it would continue with system development, including many of the technical issues addressed both during the 2013 ICCAT annual meeting and the January 2014 Working Group meeting.

It was also agreed that an international role-play testing, if possible in the production environment, of the eBCD system would be planned at the above Working Group meeting and arranged by TRAGSA.

### *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*

#### **Policy issues<sup>1</sup> referred to the Commission**

*Further details on each item, including technical details and previous deliberations of the WG can be found in the eBCD WG meeting reports.*

#### **1. Sport and recreational fisheries**

Previous discussions had not been conclusive on if and how the eBCD system should be developed to accommodate sport and recreational catches. The inclusion of sport and of recreational vessels was not considered appropriate by some WG members given existing conservation and management measures in place both the eastern and western stocks as well as new administrative burdens. The WG noted that this issue was discussed in the last Annual session in November 2013.

<sup>1</sup> Issues considered by the eBCD Working Group to be outside their mandate and which may imply a modification [or not] of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- Based on discussions of the Commission in particular during PWG in the 2013 annual meeting, sport and recreational fisheries both in the context of the eastern and western BFT fisheries will remain outside the scope of the eBCD Programme and hence will not be considered in eBCD system development.

## **2. Dead fish in purse seine fisheries**

The WG previously agreed that the eBCD system needed to clearly distinguish between live fish trade and dead fish trade; furthermore quantities reported caught in the catch section must equal the quantities reported transferred/traded/dead in the live trade and transfer sections.

The WG agreed that if further transfers take place prior to farming, new transfer sections shall be generated by the system to facilitate the recording of dead fish at each transfer. It was noted that current conservation and management measures in particular, documentary and procedural elements, did not cover these operations, e.g., what documents shall accompany dead fish (either on the purse seine vessel or an auxiliary vessel) and how shall these operations be defined/considered.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission*

- System functionality shall require the total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 to equal the quantities reported in Section 2 – compliance alerts will be generated when this is not the case.
- The system shall facilitate the entry of dead fish at each transfer through the generation of new transfer sections.
- In order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures for the reporting and recording of dead fish in purse seine fisheries are required in [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07].

It was noted by the Secretariat, that some CPCs in the past have not reported dead fish in the transfer section in the paper BCD, although less fish have been reported farmed than caught. Hence, it should be noted that any decision to amend existing ICCAT conservation and management measures would not resolve the issue of encoding paper BCDs issued throughout 2013.

## **3. Registering and treatment of Joint Fishing Operations**

System functionality has been developed to reflect the current reporting requirements of [Rec. 11-20] and [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07]. The issue of decimal places in the allocation key submitted in accordance with Annex 6 of [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07] continues to cause issues due to incorrect and/or incomplete catch allocation. Also, in accordance with the paper-based BCDs, some CPCs noted that only the weight is automatically allocated and not the number, resulting in potentially different average weights between flags operating in the same JFO.

Furthermore, the 10 day advance reporting requirement under para 20 of [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07] was considered inconsistent with some CPC requests to later amend trade companies associated with participating catching vessels.

The allocation of dead fish reported in catching and transfers was also considered an issue as some CPCs expressed the preference to allocate to one vessel/CPC while others preferred an automatic allocation based on the authorized key. One CPC proposed a secondary allocation key for the allocation of dead fish.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission*

- The reporting obligations for JFOs shall be adapted to ensure full functionality of the eBCD system, in particular the appropriate allocation of both number and weight in accordance with authorized allocation key.
- Modification of the 10 day notification rule in [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07] to facilitate the later amendment of live trade companies should be considered.

- In order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures on how the system shall allocate dead fish in the context of JFOs are required.

It should be noted that any decision to amend existing ICCAT conservation and management measures would not resolve the issue of encoding paper BCDs issued throughout 2013 and throughout the remaining transitional phase in which both paper and eBCDs are being used.

## **4. By-catch**

### ***4.1 Eastern fishery***

For the eastern stock it was agreed that the system would need to facilitate the entry of non-authorized vessels into the eBCD system. The entry of by-catch information either by port authorities or central CPC administrators was also considered necessary in order to cater for the preferences of CPCs when entering this information.

It was noted that the interpretation of BFT eastern vessel lists by some CPCs was also impacting the development of the eBCD system, in particular the use of “BFT other” lists by one CPC. Despite these not being categorized as catching vessels in [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07] one CPC submits BCDs containing by-catch catches from these vessels.

In general, it was agreed that in order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures were needed for the treatment of by-catch in accordance with [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-08].

### ***4.2 Western fishery***

In recognition of the different needs and requests of western stock CPCs, TRAGSA will develop functionalities for the entry of unlisted vessel information by dealers (through creation of a new user profile) and by vessels (self-registration). TRAGSA has been requested to work on different possibilities for W-BFT CPCs concerning approaches for registering unlisted vessels in the system and/or other data entry. It was noted that France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Mexico, and UK-OT were not represented in the WG and that their needs will need to be accommodated in this aspect of the program functioning.

#### *Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission*

- For the eastern stock, the system shall allow entry of by-catch information by non-authorized vessels.
- Access to the system by non-authorized eastern vessels with no prior ICCAT history shall be by self-registration.
- For the western stock, confirmation is needed on the preference for W-BFT CPCs for vessel registration and/or agent/government data entry. Further, the system will not distinguish between target catch and by-catch.
- For eastern harvesters, by-catch can be recorded in eBCDs by vessels authorized as non-catching vessels (BFT “other” vessels).
- In order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures may be needed for the treatment of by-catch in the eastern fishery.

It should be noted that any decision to amend existing ICCAT conservation and management measures would not resolve the issue of encoding paper BCDs issued throughout 2013, in particular from the CPCs reporting BCDs from “BFT other vessels”.

## **5. Trade of <3 fish/1 ton**

The WG discussed how they should interpret and instruct TRAGSA to develop the system in light of Paragraph 13.d of [Rec. 11-20].

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- In the context of the eBCD programme, the WG considered that this provision only requires validation of the trade section prior to export, and hence no 7 day delay function shall be developed.

## **6. Importer/Buyer field in the trade section:**

It was discussed that in accordance with [Rec.11-20], the trade shall be validated prior to the export and the re-export; however there was no clear agreement by the WG on how long the system shall allow the entry of importer/buyer information following validation.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- The trade section can be validated without the importer/buyer information being completed.
- The time limit post validation that importer/buyer information needs to be completed must be decided. Control alerts shall be developed in the eBCD system on this basis.
- In order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures are needed for this provision.

## **7. Domestic trade and trade key**

Previous discussions on this issue considered a number of options on how the system should facilitate the trade of product when it is sold domestically prior to export and re-export as well as how the system shall track domestic trade for those EBFT CPCs subject to the domestic trade provisions of [Rec. 11-20]. The generation of a trade key in the printed version of the trade section was agreed although one CPC also requested to have the trade key generated in each section.

The WG considered it important to log the intermediary movement of fish (multiple domestic trade prior to export) for EBFT CPCs subject to the domestic trade provisions of [Rec. 11-20] and underlined the importance of traceability in the eBCD programme.

One WG member proposed the temporary use of paper BCDs for some sectors/operations which would be transmitted to ICCAT following each validation in accordance with the procedures under [Rec. 11-20]. The workload as well as the working hours of the Secretariat would, however, need to be taken into account.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- The trade key shall be generated following validation at the each applicable section of the eBCD [only displayed when printed].
- For eastern harvesters subject to the domestic trade provisions of [Rec. 11-20], the temporary use of paper BCDs for some sectors/trades could be authorized provided they are submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with the current provisions of [Rec. 11-20] (notwithstanding working regime of Secretariat) and provided a record is created in the eBCD system when the catch is made.
- In order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures may be needed to facilitate import/export/re-export of WBFT and for the treatment of domestic trade (as specified in [Rec. 11-20]) in the eastern fishery.

It should be noted that this may not resolve the issue of tagged fish that are exported prior to the implementation of the eBCD system (see below).

## 8. Tagging, validation and re-export of tagged BFT held in cold storage after March 2015

How the eBCD system caters for information related to tagged fish has been extensively discussed. Some temporary decisions have been made, although given the different tagging approaches and purposes in both the eastern and western fishery, it was considered necessary to clearly define the provisions for tagging before finalizing system development. Some CPCs in the eastern fishery also expressed concern on some tagging requirements in the current eBCD system that they consider go beyond the current provisions of [Rec. 11-20], including the requirement to enter information on each individual tagged fish, rather than on the overall catch to which the eBCD relates. Others disagreed.

During the discussions one CPC expressed its intention to validate eBCDs even when the consignment to which it relates was tagged. Another CPC suggested that the requirement to validate re-export certificates for tagged fish whose product form has not been altered should be reconsidered.

The WG also discussed how to handle the possible case of re-exports of tagged fish exported prior to the implementation of the eBCD system and held in cold storage. In this situation, no eBCD record would have been created. It was suggested that paper documents be used in such instances although it was recognized that this could result in a derogation from the decision for full use of the system by March 2015.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- Current commercial tagging programmes provided for under [Rec. 11-20] shall remain exempt of eBCD validation; however, voluntary validation of such tagged fish will be accepted.
- In order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures and objectives of commercial tagging programmes should be defined.
- Pending the above defining, weight/product presentation entry for individual tagged fish including uploading of excel/csv files will be optional for the eastern and compulsory for the western fishery, and a free-text field to enter ‘range of tag number’ will be added for the eastern fishery.
- Following a request of one CPC, the requirement to validate re-export certificates for tagged fish whose product form has not been altered should be reviewed.
- For re-exports of tagged fish that were exported prior to the implementation of the eBCD system and held in cold storage (and for which, therefore, no eBCD record was created), should paper re-export certificates be continued after March 2015 as needed.

## 9. Regional Observer Programme

The requirements of [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07] concerning the tasks of the observer to sign at farming and harvesting were also discussed and confirmed. The main outstanding issue is access to the system by the observer and the development of his/her user account in light of the absence of an email address required in annex 7 of [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07].

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- The provision of email addresses are needed for defining the user profile and implementation of observer tasks required under [Rec. 12-03]/[Rec. 13-07].

## 10. Security and data confidentiality

How the information already maintained in the system as well as “annexed” to sections of eBCDs provided for by [Rec. 11-20] (sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 as well as transportation description) would be viewed and accessed by users continues to be discussed by the WG.

In general, it was agreed that respecting operator confidentiality was necessary but not at the expense of the verification requirements required under [Rec. 11-20]. Furthermore, overall system integrity and data exchange protocols must be fully consistent with the Commission general rules on data confidentiality.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- How shall information held and reported in the eBCD system be treated *vis-à-vis* the confidentiality rules adopted by the Commission at its 2010 meeting<sup>2</sup>?
- Who shall have access to “annexed” information, which is voluntarily added to an eBCD record?

### **11. Access by non-member CPCs and Pacific BFT**

Although not currently developed, the inclusion of Pacific bluefin has been discussed in light of the current provisions of [Rec. 11-20] and a request from one CPC. The WG recalled the discussions at the 2013 Commission meeting on this matter, where it was agreed that Pacific bluefin tuna should be included in the eBCD system to the extent it was covered by [Rec. 11-20]. The WG considered that Pacific bluefin tuna should, therefore, be included and discussed the data elements that should be required. The related issue of access by non-CPCs was also discussed both in the context of Pacific BFT and Atlantic BFT (e.g. by-catch or trade).

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- In light of the provisions of [Rec. 11-20], confirm that Pacific BFT is included in the eBCD system and decide what data elements/fields should be required.
- Shall access be granted to the eBCD system to non-members and if so what would be the type of access and how would it be managed.

### **12. Carry-over in farms**

The WG has discussed in several meetings how the system should deal with the entry of paper BCDs relating to fish carried over in farms, in particular after the full implementation of the eBCD system in March 2015. The Secretariat reported that they are prioritizing the encoding of paper BCDs from 2013 and encouraged CPCs to inform them if they intended to export BFT with eBCD relating to fish carried over from previous years. Notwithstanding such requests, the WG noted the workload this would create and hence questioned its potential benefits vs. costs. The WG discussed options to reduce such workload and costs, including the entry of only selected fields in sections 1-4, or the development of tools to extract electronic information already maintained by the Secretariat in other databases and related to the paper BCDs concerned.

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- Shall eBCDs created by the Secretariat/TRAGSA from paper documents generated before the full implementation of the eBCD system omit data for Sections 1-4 and still be accepted in trade (notwithstanding additional workload for Secretariat/TRAGSA).
- In order to provide instructions for system functionality, clear procedures for these issues are required.

### **13. Non-traded BFT**

The scope of the BCD Programme needs to be confirmed, since the Secretariat still receives BCDs relating to fish which have only been caught and landed but not traded. In this regard, the WG noted paragraph 3 of [Rec. 11-20].

*Confirmation/clarification requested from the Commission:*

- Is the scope limited to only BFT which is traded or to all BFT harvested for commercial purposes?

It should be noted that any decision to amend existing ICCAT conservation and management measures would not resolve the issue of encoding paper BCDs issued throughout 2010-13.

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<sup>2</sup> Rules and procedures for the protection, Access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT. ICCAT REPORT 2010-2011 (I), Annex 6.

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2****Draft proposal re data elements for Pacific bluefin tuna***(Submitted by United States)*

*Pacific Bluefin Tuna:* For Pacific bluefin tuna traded by ICCAT CPCs, only a subset of the data elements required in Recommendation 11-20 must be completed, as follows:

## -- Bluefin Tuna Catch Document

*Section: Catch Information*

- Flag
- Area
- Total Weight (kg)
- Condition (Fresh, frozen)
- Product Form (round, gilled & gutted, etc.)

*Trade Information*

- *Exporter/Seller*
- *Point of Export/Departure*
- *Transport description*
- *Government Validation*
- *Importer/buyer*
- *Point of import*

## -- Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate

- *2. Re-Export Section*
- *3. Description of Imported Bluefin Tuna*
  - Net Weight (kg)
  - Date of Import
  - BCD (or eBCD) number
- *4. Description of Bluefin Tuna for Re-Export*
  - Net Weight (kg)
  - Corresponding BCD (or eBCD) number
- *6. Government Validation*

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2****Summary report of the EBCD Working Group meeting***(6 March 2014)*

As agreed at the last meeting of the eBCD Working Group (WG), held from 21 to 24 January 2014, the WG met to discuss and evaluate the new contract extension proposal submitted by TRAGSA, which was distributed to the PWG for discussion.

On account of the ongoing discussions in the PWG and indications that some issues may be referred to the IMM WG meeting, the WG felt that a final decision on the contract extension and elements contained therein can only be taken after the PWG and IMM WG meetings (i.e. end of May 2014). Unfortunately, given the relatively late arrival of the proposal from TRAGSA and its availability, a full analysis/evaluation by the WG was not possible, nonetheless the following elements were noted and agreed:

- A number of issues requested by the WG to be removed remain in the new proposal (e.g. CPC Administrator and Data Extraction Tool).
- In general, the costs appear high, especially in light of the statement in the proposal that 90% of the tasks have already been completed.
- A significant proportion of the costs (approx. 70%) relate to support, maintenance tasks and overheads, and only a small amount to actual development costs.

In light of the above observations, the group favoured Option 1 in the TRAGSA proposal, provided that:

- The costs are further negotiated and reduced.
- Support maintenance as well as resolution of technical issues are included for a one-year period. This additional support was considered critical so as to cover the entire 2014 E-BFT purse seine fishing campaign and testing.
- Some items currently listed in Option 2 and /or 'extra' activities are included, based on requests of the WG and/or outcomes of the PWG and IMM WG meetings.
- The WG with support from the ICCAT Secretariat shall analyse in more detail which items should have been completed in TRAGSA's current contract and hence shall not be included in the contract extension.

The Secretariat with support from the WG shall initiate decisions with TRAGSA as soon as possible in order to negotiate specific and overall costs.

The final extension proposal shall be endorsed at the IMM WG meeting.

The contract extension with TRAGSA shall ensure/confirm that the ICCAT Secretariat has full and exclusive ownership of the eBCD system.

Future development of the system as well as ongoing maintenance and support shall be discussed by the Commission and further commercial contracts launched if and when required.

#### **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**

##### **The PEW Charitable Trusts statement**

##### **In regards to policy issue 7 (domestic trade and trade key) in the January 2014 eBCD Technical Working Group report**

While The Pew Charitable Trusts recognizes the challenges of tracking domestic trade, which involves a wide range of buyers and sellers, both large and small, the proposal submitted during the meeting to allow the use of a paper system to record domestic trade is a clear step back from the current monitoring and enforcement provisions and contravenes the provisions in Recommendation 11-20. Unfortunately, this proposal would remove the existing requirements of government validation of domestic trade as well as timely submission of BCDs to the Secretariat. In light of the Chairman's earlier comments on the necessity of conforming to the agreed upon measures in 11-20, we urge the members of this Group to reconsider their endorsement of this proposal and instead support a system that fully complies with all requirements of the current recommendations. Additionally, we strongly encourage the Commission to maintain its earlier and repeated commitments to transparency and to ending illegal fishing by supporting a robust eBCD system that fully tracks all Atlantic bluefin trade and closes any existing loopholes in the current system. After three years of development, three delays in implementation, and with several governments ready to fully implement the new electronic system, now is not the time to add exemptions or loopholes that undermine those efforts.



### **4.3 SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT**

*(Barcelona, Spain – 19-21 May 2014)*

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the Working Group, Mrs. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegations to the Second Meeting of the Working Group on the ICCAT Convention Amendment (Working Group).

#### **2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

The agenda point related to the election of the chair was removed from the agenda as the Chair is appointed for the whole duration of the exercise.

China requested to discuss the relationship between ICCAT and FAO as Depositary under “Other matters”. This was accepted by the Delegations. The revised Meeting Agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3**.

Ghana raised the question about when the process of the entry into force of the amendments under consideration will be discussed. The Chair noted that the Convention Article XIII set out the process for adoption and entry into force of amendments, but also noted that the Paris and Madrid Protocols both included an alternative process for entry into force. The WG will need to consider this issue at the end of its work.

The Executive Secretary introduced the following CPCs that attended the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d’Ivoire, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America and Uruguay. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3**.

The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei and Surinam that attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

The following non-governmental organisations were admitted as observers: ISSF and Pew Environment Group.

The Intergovernmental organisation CRSP was also introduced by the Executive Secretary.

#### **3. Nomination of rapporteur**

Mr. Antonio Cervantes (EU) was appointed as rapporteur.

#### **4. Consideration of proposed amendments to the Convention**

The Chair reviewed the process set out in the Working Group Terms of Reference, emphasizing that the Working Group is charged to present the proposed Convention Amendment text to the Commission at its 2015 Annual Meeting.

The Working Group began the process of developing combined proposals for amendments to the provisions of the Convention regarding its scope, the decision making process, entry into force of measures, and the objection procedure (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**) (“Proposed changes to articles IV, III and VIII - Scope and decision making for drafting exercise”). This text is understood to be without prejudice to the positions of delegations regarding the relationship of these issues and those under consideration of the Working Group which remain unresolved.

***Scope of the Convention, in particular shark conservation and management***

The Working Group considered drafting suggestions contained in the paper presented by the EU to the 2013 meeting of the Working Group (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3**) (“Drafting suggestions”) and an informal non-paper presented by Japan. There remained a general consensus that ICCAT’s mandate to regulate certain elasmobranchs, including rays and skates, both as target and by-catch species, should be clarified. The Working Group considered whether the best approach was an inclusive description that outlined the specific types of elasmobranchs to be covered, or an exclusive description that specified which types would fall outside of the Commission’s mandate. The Working Group considered that more general language may be appropriate in the Convention, but that the SCRS should be requested to develop a list of elasmobranch species that fell under that general description to inform further consideration on this issue.

There was not agreement about how such a list should be established with options including-: as an annex to the Convention; as a Recommendation or Resolution of the Commission; or as a general reference list to guide the Commission’s work in this regard.

The Working Group also took note of the changes in taxonomic classification since the Convention was originally drafted and agreed that the definition of “tuna and tuna-like species” should be revised to clearly include all such species currently under ICCAT management. The Working Group agreed to seek the advice of the SCRS on the most appropriate way to do this.

To this end, the Working Group requested the SCRS to consider the following two points and submit the results to the 2014 Commission annual meeting:

1. What constituted tuna and tuna-like species when the Convention was adopted in 1969 and how is this list of species best characterized today, given that taxonomic categories and names can change from time to time and the Convention cannot be modified frequently?
2. Which species should be covered by the term “oceanic, pelagic and highly migratory elasmobranchs”?

There was general agreement that the scope of the Convention should also more clearly cover other species caught in fisheries for ICCAT species. The Working Group considered several options for this. Some delegations preferred an approach that drew from the language in Article 119 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, while others preferred an alternative formulation.

In addition, the need to take into consideration the special requirements of artisanal fisheries, and particularly their importance to food security, was raised by Ghana and supported by a number of CPCs. There was agreement that this issue would not be taken up in the Convention. However, the Working Group agreed on the importance of the Commission taking into account the needs and circumstances of artisanal fisheries in the development of recommendations that could involve such fisheries.

There was agreement that the management objectives of ICCAT Recommendations should be different for target species and by-catch species. For target species some Delegations supported including language in the Convention indicating that maximum sustainable yield was a limit rather than a target. Other Delegations preferred sticking to the existing management objectives as laid down in the Convention and keep the language as simple as possible. The WG agreed to consider further different drafting options that are reflected in the **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**.

To avoid duplication and identify gaps, the Working Group recommended that the Commission engage with other RFMOs operating in the ICCAT Convention area, including NEAFC, NAFO, and SEAFO.

***Decision-making processes and procedures***

The Working Group reviewed the proposals for amendment of the Convention provisions for decision making presented by the EU to the first meeting of the Working Group (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3**) as well as a new proposal from the United States by the title “Proposed text for the amended Convention establishing the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas on the decision-making processes and procedures identified in Recommendation [12-10]” (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3**) and an informal non-paper from Japan.

*Entry into force provisions for Recommendations*

The Working Group agreed that the period for entry into force of adopted measures should be shortened to four months, with the flexibility to establish alternative longer or shorter entry into force periods for a given measure at the time of its adoption. Such alternative periods should in no case be less than three months.

*Voting rules*

The Working Group agreed that in general, decisions of the Commission should be taken by consensus, with recourse to a vote only when all means to reach such consensus have been exhausted. There were a range of views on the most appropriate way to establish when consensus could not be reached, and who had the ability to call for a vote in these cases. The Working Group agreed that any additional clarity on this should be dealt with in the rules of procedure of the Commission.

While the Working Group agreed that vote results should be calculated based on affirmative or negative votes, with abstentions not included in the tally, there was no consensus on the majority standard to be used. Delegations considered maintaining the current simple majority, or raising it to two-thirds or three-fourths.

The Working Group agreed that the current standard of two-thirds of Contracting Parties remains appropriate for the establishment of a quorum. Alternative rules for the quorum were not considered anymore in view of the changes in the voting rules.

The Working Group considered options to clarify the text of Article VIII.1(b) to ensure that it more clearly reflected the current process by which proposals are developed and adopted. In particular the Working Group noted its understanding that Article VIII.1(b)(i) was intended to describe four possible situations: where the Commission took a decision on a proposal that had not previously been approved in a Panel, where the Commission took a decision on a proposal that had not been subject to an earlier decision in a Panel, or where the Commission on its own initiative considered a proposal on a matter that falls under the mandate of a Panel or for which a Panel has not been established. Delegations requested more time to consider if the current drafting conveyed these scenarios clearly enough, and what the appropriate decision making standard should be in those cases. There was a suggestion that these scenarios be explained in the rules of procedure.

*Objection procedures*

The Working Group agreed that the current objection process set out in Article VIII of the Convention was overly burdensome and complex and should be streamlined. Some Delegations underlined the importance of limiting the objection procedure in order to ensure a level playing field among Contracting Parties. The Working Group also agreed to identify the grounds upon which a Contracting Party could object, including inconsistency with the Convention, another ICCAT measure in effect or international law or that a given measure unjustifiably discriminates against a Contracting Party. There was no consensus whether these grounds should also include cases where a measure is incompatible with Contracting Parties' domestic measures, which are at least as effective as the Recommendation concerned. In addition, there was not consensus on whether objecting Contracting Parties must notify the Commission of alternative conservation and management measures they are taking in lieu of the original measure.

*Dispute settlement*

The Working Group reviewed the proposal “Peaceful settlement of disputes” (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.3**) for a dispute settlement process which was originally presented by Brazil, Canada, the EU, Norway, and the United States to the first meeting of the Working Group. There was broad support for the inclusion of rules to guide the settlement of disputes in the Convention. Turkey expressed a general reservation on the wording of the proposal, given its reference to other international instruments, and introduced an alternate proposal for dispute settlement by the title “Draft proposal for an article and annex on settlement of disputes” (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.3**). Delegations expressed a willingness to continue working to find mutually agreeable language, and the EU noted that the formulation in the Antigua Convention of the IATTC might provide a useful model.

*Non-party participation*

The Working Group noted the suggestion of some Delegations to allow fishing entities wider participation in the work of the Commission, including the decision making process.

The Working Group took note of the need to change the Depository of the ICCAT Convention from the FAO to an ICCAT Contracting Party in order to allow for wider participation of fishing entities.

## **5. Consideration of other issues identified in the Terms of Reference**

### ***Precautionary approach/ecosystem considerations***

The Working Group looked at the draft recommendations on the application of the precautionary approach and on ecosystem considerations (“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” - **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.3** and “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Use of a Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures” - **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3**) (transmitted by the Commission after the 23rd Annual Meeting). There was general agreement to support the precautionary approach and ecosystem considerations as general principles for the adoption of ICCAT management and conservation measures but there was not consensus on these proposals. Some CPCs supported the recommendations, noting that Convention amendments were not required to implement these approaches. Other CPCs considered that these fundamental principles should be reflected in the Convention, although some felt that these recommendations could be an interim step while the amendment to the Convention is discussed and agreed. One CPC raised doubts that the current Convention did not allow for adoption of recommendations of this nature. These proposals are forwarded to the Commission at its upcoming Annual Meeting for further discussion with some Delegations noting they would have comments on the proposals at that time.

The Working Group also reviewed a proposal jointly presented by the US, Norway and Brazil at the first meeting of the Working Group creating a new article in the Convention with general principles for decision making for the Commission's work, as well as a paper from Ghana with related proposals for Convention amendments. These Delegations worked to combine these proposals and the revised text “Text of possible new convention article on general principles” is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.3**. There was not consensus on these proposals. Some Delegations remained unconvinced that these issues must be addressed in the Convention. Other Delegations expressed the need to first resolve the issues listed in Annex I of the Terms of Reference before considering such text.

### ***Capacity building and assistance to developing countries***

The issue of promoting capacity building in developing countries in order to strengthen their role in ICCAT processes was broadly supported. Mention was made of available mechanisms both through ICCAT and through some Contracting Parties programmes.

The issue of including this item in the ICCAT Convention was also discussed in the context of the combined proposal from Brazil, Ghana, Norway and the United States attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.3**. While there was support for this proposal from a number of Delegations, there was no consensus. The proponents agreed to work with other Delegations to incorporate any additional comment before the Annual Meeting of the Commission.

### ***Allocation of fishing possibilities***

The WG reviewed the draft proposal for Amendment of the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities which had been presented by Turkey and Korea to the first meeting of the WG “Proposal for amendment of the *ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]”, attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.3**. There was general agreement on the need to improve transparency in the application of the provisions under [Ref 01-25], but there was no consensus on this proposal. This proposal is referred to the Commission for further discussions at its next Annual Meeting.

### ***Transparency***

There was still no consensus on whether to include this concept in the Convention text. Some CPCs consider that such an amendment would not add any value to the Convention, and that ICCAT is moving anyway in the right direction with past and current initiatives such as the Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers. Other Delegations maintained their view that the principle of transparency should be reflected in the Convention text.

## 6. Other matters

China noted that any effort to include provisions in the Convention to allow greater participation of fishing entities in the Commission, such as had been developed by other RFMOs, would require a Contracting Party to take on the role of Depository from the FAO. It was understood that agreement on the issue of non-party participation was contingent on a Contracting Party agreeing to take on this role.

The Delegation of Ghana noted that in addition to the issues being included under the Terms of Reference of the Working Group there were other articles of the Convention that should be updated to reflect changes in International Law, including Article II and Article V. Ghana presented a paper on the issues “Ghana’s proposal to revise Article II of the ICCAT Convention” attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.3**. The United States noted that Ghana and the United States are working on a proposal for a revised Article II to be submitted for consideration prior to the next Annual Meeting of the Commission. The Chair invited any other Delegations wishing to raise other issues such as these to prepare proposals for the next Annual Meeting of the Commission, so that the Commission could review the Terms of Reference accordingly.

## 7. Adoption of Report and adjournment

The Report was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.

### Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3

#### Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of rapporteur
4. Consideration of proposed amendments to the Convention
  - Scope of the Convention, in particular shark conservation and management
  - Decision making processes and procedures
    - Entry into force provisions for Recommendations
    - Voting rules/quorum
    - Objection procedures
    - Dispute settlement
  - Non-party participation
5. Consideration of other issues identified in the Terms of Reference
  - Precautionary approach
  - Ecosystem considerations
  - Capacity building and assistance to developing countries
  - Allocation of fishing possibilities
  - Transparency
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of Report and adjournment

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**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Proposed changes to Articles IV, III and VIII  
 Scope and decision making for drafting exercise**

**Scope**

**Article IV**

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes [(the ~~Seombriformes~~ [Scombroidei] with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber* [as defined in Nelson (2006) *Fishes of the World (fourth edition)*] [, billfish, and swordfish]), [oceanic, pelagic and highly migratory elasmobranchs]], and such other species ~~of fishes exploited~~ caught in tuna, tuna-like, or elasmobranch<sup>1</sup> fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organization. Such study shall include research on the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes; the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance. The Commission, in carrying out these responsibilities shall, insofar as feasible, utilise the technical and scientific services of, and information from, official agencies of the Contracting Parties and their political sub-divisions and may, when desirable, utilise the available services and information of any [public or private] [official] institution, organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget [with the cooperation of concerned Contracting Parties.] independent research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations.

[In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study in the Convention area of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes [(the ~~Seombriformes~~ [Scombroidei] with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber* [, billfish, and swordfish]), [oceanic, pelagic and highly migratory elasmobranchs] (hereinafter “ICCAT Species”), ~~and such other species caught in fisheries for ICCAT Species, and such other species as the Commission may determine, taking into account the work of other relevant of fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organizations~~<sup>1</sup>. Such study shall include research on the abundance, biometry and ecology of ~~the fishes~~ ICCAT Species and, as appropriate, on associated and dependent species; the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance. The Commission, in carrying out these responsibilities shall, insofar as feasible, utilise the technical and scientific services of, and information from, official agencies of the Contracting Parties and their political sub-divisions and may, when desirable, utilise the available services and information of any [public or private] [official] institution, organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget [with the cooperation of concerned Contracting Parties] independent research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations.]

<sup>1</sup> The format of this provision may be changed to sub-paragraphs listing the different categories of species under ICCAT mandate once they have been determined based on SCRS advice.

## Decision making

### Article III

3. ~~Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention~~ Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus as a general rule. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, if consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be made by a [three-fourths] [two-thirds] majority of the Contracting Parties present and casting affirmative or negative votes, each Contracting Party having one vote. Two-thirds of the Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum [except for intersessional vote by correspondence or electronic means].

### Article VIII

1. (a) The Commission ~~{may}~~ shall, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to ~~[maintain the populations of the of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken species subject to the study in Article IV in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch] [ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources by ensuring that the level of exploitation will not exceed the one compatible with maximum sustainable yield, and ensure the protection of species caught in tuna, tuna-like and elasmobranch fishing defined in Article IV].~~ These recommendations shall be applicable to the Contracting Parties under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

- [1. (a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to:
- (i) ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT Species by ensuring that the biomass does not fall below the level that supports maximum sustainable yield; and
  - (ii) promote the conservation of other species that are dependent on or associated with ICCAT Species, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened.

These recommendations shall be applicable to the Contracting Parties under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.]

- (b) The recommendations referred to above shall be made:
- (i) at the initiative of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has not been established; or (i bis) at the initiative of the Commission with the approval of at least [two-thirds of all the Contracting Parties] if an appropriate Panel has been established;
  - (ii) on a proposal that has been approved by an appropriate Panel if such a Panel has been established;
  - (iii) on a proposal that has been approved by the appropriate Panels if the recommendation in question relates to more than one geographic area, species or group of species.
2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all Contracting Parties ~~six~~ four months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Contracting Parties, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Commission at the time a recommendation is adopted and except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article. However, under no circumstances shall a recommendation become effective in less than three months.
3. (a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) above, or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(ii) or (iii) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the [six months]<sup>1</sup> period established pursuant to [or such other period as decided by the Commission] provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for ~~an additional sixty days~~ the Contracting Parties concerned.

- ~~(b) Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional sixty days period, or within forty five days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional sixty days, whichever date shall be the later.~~
- ~~(c) The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.~~
- ~~(d) However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.~~
- ~~(e) In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of sixty days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.~~
- ~~(f) If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall become effective for the Contracting Parties that have not presented an objection thereto.~~
- ~~(g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Contracting Parties within the [six four months] period established pursuant to or such other period as decided by the Commission provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective.~~
- ~~(h) A Contracting Party presenting an objection in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) above shall provide to the Commission in writing, at the time of presenting its objection, the reason for its objection, which shall be based only on one of the following grounds:~~
- ~~(i) The recommendation is inconsistent with this Convention or another ICCAT recommendation still in effect, or other relevant provisions of international law including those reflected in UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement; or~~
- ~~(ii) The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against the objecting Contracting Party.~~
- ~~[(iii) The recommendation is inconsistent with a domestic measure that pursues compatible conservation and management objectives and that is at least as effective as the recommendation.]~~
- ~~[(i) Each Contracting Party that presents an objection pursuant to this Article shall, at the same time, to the extent applicable, specify to the Commission its alternative management and conservation measures which shall be consistent with the objectives of the Convention.]~~
- ~~(j) The Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate to all Contracting Parties details of any objection and explanation received in accordance with this article.~~

#### Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3

##### **Drafting suggestions** (Submitted by the European Union)

### 1. Convention scope

#### *Objective*

- *Create consistency between Article IV and Article VIII.*
- *Expand the Convention's scope in order to include sharks under the species regulated by ICCAT, be it as targeted or as by-catch species, together with associated species.*

**Article IV**

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna, tuna-like fishes (the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*) and oceanic, pelagic and highly migratory sharks, as well as such other species caught in tuna or shark fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organization.

**Article VIII**

1. (a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and associated species defined in Article IV. These recommendations shall be applicable to the Contracting Parties under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

**2. Decision-making****a. Voting rules**

Objective: avoid that abstentions are counted as negative votes. This will also require the modification of current rules of procedure concerning the vote by correspondence.

**Article III**

3. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be made by a majority of the Contracting Parties present at the meeting and casting affirmative or negative votes, each Contracting Party having one vote. Two-thirds of the Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum except for intersessional vote by correspondence or electronic means. Detailed provisions for the establishment of the quorum are set out in the Rules of Procedure.

**b. Entry into force of recommendations**

Objective: quicker entry into force coupled with more flexibility depending on the measures concerned.

**Article VIII**

2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all Contracting Parties three months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Contracting Parties, unless otherwise specified in the recommendation or as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article.

**c. Objection procedure**

Objective: shorten the delays entailed by the objection procedure.

**Article VIII**

3. (a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) above, or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(ii) or (iii) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the period provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for an additional thirty days.

[ Two options: specification of acceptable grounds in the Convention or as a Recommendation ]

- (b) Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional thirty days period, or within fifteen days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional thirty days, whichever date shall be the later.

- (c) The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.
- (d) However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one-fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.
- (e) In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of thirty days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.
- (f) If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one-fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall not become effective for the Contracting Parties that have presented an objection thereto.
- (g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Contracting Parties the recommendation shall not become effective.

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Proposed text for the amended convention establishing the international commission for the conservation of Atlantic tunas on the decision-making processes and procedures identified in Recommendation [12-10]**

*(Proposal by the United States)*

Article III, paragraph 3 is replaced with the following:

- 3. As a general rule, decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus. For these purposes, consensus means the absence of any formal objection at the time the decision is taken.
- 3 (Bis) If the Chairperson considers that all efforts to reach a decision by consensus have been exhausted, and except as otherwise provided in this Convention:
  - (a) decisions of the Commission on matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the [members of the Commission] casting affirmative or negative votes; and
  - (b) decisions on matters of substance shall be taken by a [three fourths] majority of the [members of the Commission] casting affirmative or negative votes.
- 3 (Ter) When the issue arises as to whether a question is one of substance or not, that question shall be treated as one of substance.
- 3 (Quat.) Two-thirds of the [members of the Commission] shall constitute a quorum for voting.

Article VIII, sub-paragraph 1(b) is amended as follows:

- 1. (b) The recommendations referred to above shall be made:
  - (i) at the initiative of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has not been established or with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the [members of the Commission] if an appropriate Panel has been established;
  - (ii) on a proposal that has been approved by an appropriate Panel if such a Panel has been established;
  - (iii) on a proposal that has been approved by the appropriate Panels if the recommendation in question relates to more than one geographic area, species or group of species.



Article VIII, paragraph 2 is amended as follows:

2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all [members of the Commission] six months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the [members of the Commission], unless otherwise agreed by the Commission at the time a recommendation is adopted and except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article.

Article VIII, paragraph 3 shall be amended as follows:

3. (a) If any [member of the Commission] in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) above, or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(ii) or (iii) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the six month period provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for an additional thirty days.
- (b) Thereupon any other [member of the Commission] may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional thirty day period, or within fifteen days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another [Contracting Party] within such additional thirty days, whichever date shall be the later.
- (c) The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those [members of the Commission] that have presented an objection.
- (d) However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one-fourth of the [members of the Commission], in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the [member or members of the Commission] having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.
- (e) In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the [member or members of the Commission] concerned shall have an additional period of thirty days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any [member of the Commission] having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.
- (f) If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one-fourth but less than the majority of the [members of the Commission], in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall become effective for the [members of the Commission] that have not presented an objection thereto.
- (g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the [members of the Commission] the recommendation shall not become effective.
- (h) A [member of the Commission] presenting an objection in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) or (b) above shall provide to the Commission in writing, at the time of presenting its objection, the reason for its objection, which shall be based only on one of the following grounds:
- (i) The recommendation is inconsistent with this Convention or another ICCAT recommendation still in effect, or other relevant provisions of international law including those reflected in UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement; or
- (ii) The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against the objecting [member of the Commission].
- (i) The [member of the Commission] registering the objection shall also adopt and implement alternative measures that are equivalent in effect to the recommendation to which it has objected and that have the same date of application.
- (j) The Chairperson shall promptly circulate to all members of the Commission details of any objection and explanation received in accordance with this article.

**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Peaceful settlement of disputes**

*(Proposal of Canada, Brazil, European Union, Norway, United States)*

1. Members of the Commission shall cooperate in order to prevent disputes and shall consult among themselves in order to settle disputes by amicable means.
2. In any case where a dispute is not resolved through the means set out in paragraph 1, the provisions relating to the settlement of disputes set out in Part VIII of the 1995 Agreement shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to any dispute between the members of the Commission, whether or not they are also Parties to the 1995 Agreement. *[Source: SPRFMO, WCPFC]*
3. Paragraph 2 shall not affect the status of any member of the Commission in relation to the 1995 Agreement or the 1982 Convention. *[Source: SPRFMO]*

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Draft proposal for an article and annex on settlement of disputes**

*(Proposed by Turkey)*

1. In the event of a dispute between two or more of the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, the Parties concerned shall consult each other with a view to seeking solutions by negotiation, mediation, inquiry or any other peaceful means of their own choice.
2. If the parties concerned cannot reach agreement in accordance with paragraph 1 they may jointly refer the matter to a committee composed of one representative appointed by each of the parties to the dispute, and in addition the Chairperson of the Commission. The findings by such committee, while not binding in character, shall constitute the basis for renewed consideration by the Contracting Parties concerned in relation to the matter out of which the disagreement arose.
3. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention not resolved under paragraphs 1 and 2 may, with the consent in every case of all parties to the dispute, be referred to arbitration for settlement. The results of the arbitration procedure shall be binding upon the parties.
4. In cases where the dispute is referred to arbitration, the arbitral tribunal shall be constituted as provided in the Annex to this Convention. The Annex forms an integral part of this Convention.

**ANNEX RELATING TO ARBITRATION**

1. The arbitral tribunal referred to in paragraph 4 of Article shall be composed of three arbitrators who shall be appointed as follows:
  - (a) The Contracting Party commencing proceedings shall communicate the name of an arbitrator to the other Contracting Party which, in turn, within a period of forty days following such notification, shall communicate the name of the second arbitrator. In disputes between more than two Contracting Parties, parties to the dispute with the same interest shall appoint one arbitrator jointly by agreement. The Contracting Parties shall, within a period of sixty days following the appointment of the second arbitrator, appoint the third arbitrator, who shall not be a national of either Contracting Party and shall not be of the same nationality as either of the first two arbitrators. The third arbitrator shall preside over the tribunal;
  - (b) If the second arbitrator has not been appointed within the prescribed period, or if the Contracting Parties have not reached agreement within the prescribed period on the appointment of the third arbitrator, that arbitrator shall be appointed, at the request of either Contracting Party, by the Director General of the Organization within two months from the date of receipt of the request.

2. The arbitral tribunal shall decide where its headquarters will be located and shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
3. The arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with the provisions of this Convention and international law.
4. The award of the arbitral tribunal shall be made by a majority of its members, who may not abstain from voting.
5. Any Contracting Party which is not a party to the dispute may intervene in the proceedings with the consent of the arbitral tribunal.
6. The award of the arbitral tribunal shall be final and binding on Contracting Parties to the dispute and on any Contracting Party which intervenes in the proceedings and shall be complied with without delay. The arbitral tribunal shall interpret the award at the request of one of the Contracting Parties to the dispute or of any intervening Contracting Party.
7. Unless the arbitral tribunal determines otherwise because of the particular circumstances of the case, the expenses of the tribunal, including the remuneration of its members, shall be borne by the Contracting Parties to the dispute in equal shares.

#### **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.3**

#### **Proposal for consideration at the 23 regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**

*(Proposed by Canada, European Union, Japan and United Kingdom-Overseas Terr.)*

An ecosystem approach to fisheries management requires that management decisions consider the impact of the fishery not only on the target species, but also on non-target species, seafloor habitats, and the ecosystems of which these species are a part. This approach requires that management decisions take into account changes in the ecosystem which may affect the species being fished. This includes the effects of weather and climate, and the interactions of target fish stocks with predators, competitors, and prey species.

Article 119 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) obliges member states to implement certain aspects of the ecosystem based approach when establishing measures to conserve marine living resources in the high seas. Article 5 of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement also details certain features of the ecosystem approach, including the need to preserve marine biodiversity and to maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems.

The UN General Assembly has called upon States, directly and through regional fisheries management organizations, to apply, in accordance with international law, an ecosystem approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, and in adopting and implementing conservation and management measures in relation to by-catch, pollution, overfishing, and protecting certain habitats [A/RES/67/79 at paragraph 8].

While the ecosystem approach is not explicitly referenced in the ICCAT Convention, there is nothing in the Convention which prevents the Commission from applying this approach. Indeed, ICCAT has implemented certain aspects of an ecosystem approach, for example, in relation to species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries - see Recommendation [10-09] on sea turtles and Recommendation [10-06] on sharks. The establishment of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems of the SCRS is another example of the Commission's efforts to better implement this approach. Canada believes the Commission must continue to build on these efforts. In order to support the Commission's actions in this regard, Canada proposes the following draft recommendation.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF  
AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

*NOTING* that provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement reflect certain elements of an ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of marine living resources;

*RECALLING* that certain aspects of the ICCAT Convention reflect components of an ecosystem approach, particularly with regard to the research activities of ICCAT;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT has taken decisions, such as Rec. [10-06] and Rec. [10-09] that take ecosystem considerations into account;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the ongoing work of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems which provides valuable information and advice concerning ecosystem related issues and questions facing the Commission;

*DESIRING* to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species and in so doing safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which the resources occur;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. When making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission shall apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management,
2. In implementing an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, the Commission shall, *inter alia*:
  - a) consider the interdependence of stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks;
  - b) consider the impacts of fishing, other relevant human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area; and
  - c) minimize negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem.

**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Proposal for consideration at the 23 regular meeting of the International Commission for the  
Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**

*(Proposed by Canada, European Union, Japan and United Kingdom-Overseas Terr.)*

One of the main attributes of the precautionary approach to fisheries management and conservation is the necessity for caution to be exercised in the face of scientific uncertainty. Not using the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or fail to take action is another key element of this approach. The precautionary approach has been incorporated into international instruments, and a body of relevant standards, practices and procedures exist at the national, regional and international level to implement this approach.

Portions of the ICCAT Convention reflect certain aspects of the precautionary approach, such as the reliance on scientific information as set out in Article VIII of the Convention which authorizes the Commission to make recommendations, on the basis of scientific advice, for the maintenance of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch. Article 4.1 charges the Commission with undertaking research on the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area.

The Commission has applied certain aspects of a precautionary approach, as reflected in ICCAT Resolution [11-17] on the use of best available scientific advice and Recommendation [11-13] on the principles of decision-making. Canada sees merit in the Commission continuing to do so. In order to support the Commission's efforts in this regard, and taking into consideration the benefits to the Commission of setting out more distinctly certain elements of a precautionary approach, Canada proposes the following draft recommendation.

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE USE OF A PRECAUTIONARY  
APPROACH IN IMPLEMENTING ICCAT CONSERVATION  
AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

*NOTING* that the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement has set out elements of a precautionary approach to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks in order to protect the living marine resources and preserve the marine environment;

*FURTHER NOTING* the general principles and Article 6.5 of the 1995 FAO International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which urges States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations to apply a precautionary approach to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment;

*RECALLING* that the ICCAT Convention does not prevent the Commission from applying a precautionary approach when making management and conservation decisions;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT has taken decisions, such as ICCAT Resolutions 09-12, 11-14, and 11-17 as well as Recommendations 11-09, 11-13, 11-15 and 12-05 that apply elements of a precautionary approach;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. When making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission shall apply a precautionary approach, in accordance with relevant international standards.
2. In applying a precautionary approach, the Commission shall *inter alia*:
  - a) use the best available scientific advice;
  - b) exercise caution when scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate;
  - c) determine, on the basis of the best scientific information available, stock specific reference points, in particular limit reference points, and the action to be taken if exceeded; and
  - d) not use the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or not to take conservation and management action in relation to the species under its mandate.
3. In applying a precautionary approach, the Commission shall take measures to ensure that when limit reference points are approached, they will not be exceeded. In the event that they are exceeded, the Commission shall without delay take action to restore the stocks to levels above the identified reference points.

**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Text of possible new Convention article  
on general principles**

*(Submitted by Brazil, Ghana, Norway and United States)*

Draft text for possible inclusion in a new Convention Article on general principles.

The Commission and its Members, in conducting work under the Convention, shall act to:

- a. apply the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant internationally agreed standards and recommended practices and procedures;
- b. use the best scientific evidence available;
- c. protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- d. consider the impacts of fishing, other relevant human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks within the Convention area;

- e. promote transparency in decision making processes and other activities; and
- f. give full recognition to the circumstances and requirements of developing Members of the Commission, in accordance with international law, to implement their obligations under this Convention and to develop their fisheries.

**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Proposal for amendment of the *ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]**

*(Proposed by Korea and Turkey)*

It is proposed that paragraph 19 of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25] be amended as follows:

“19. The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair, equitable and transparent manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants. The allocation of fishing possibilities shall take into account the criteria listed under Title III of this reference. For that purpose, Panels shall endeavor to develop and use indicators that quantify each of the allocation criteria on a stock by stock basis.”

**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.3**

**Ghana’s proposal to revise Article II of the ICCAT Convention**

Article II of the ICCAT Convention provides as follows:

“Nothing in this Convention shall be considered as affecting the rights, claims or views of any Contracting Party in regard to the limits of territorial waters or the extent of jurisdiction over fisheries under international law”.

It is Ghana’s views that Article II is outmoded as it reflected the state of international law at the time the Convention was drafted. Since then, international law has evolved. Significant developments which will need to be reflected in Article II include the exclusive economic zone and the associated rights and obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995).

To bring the ICCAT Convention up-to-date, Ghana therefore proposes the following revision to Article II of the ICCAT Convention.

Article II

“Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This Convention shall be interpreted and applied in the context of and in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement”.

It is Ghana’s view that the priority areas identified under “Convention scope” in Res. 12-10 is much broader than the consideration of shark conservation and management and therefore capable of accommodating its proposal.

#### **4.4 REPORT OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES (Barcelona, Spain - May 22 to 24, 2014)**

##### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the Ninth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures.

##### **2. Election of the Chair**

The PWG Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri chaired the meeting.

##### **3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

Turkey requested discussion of artificial reproduction of bluefin tuna by Turkish aquaculture operators under “Other matters.” This was accepted by the Delegations.

The United States requested to discuss the removal of measures from the Compendium as detailed in a U.S. letter to the Secretariat (Circular #2796 / 2014) and comments by Japan (Circular #2822 / 2014). They also requested discussion on the document “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Monitoring and Avoiding Cetacean Interactions in ICCAT Fisheries”. The Delegations accepted discussions of both of these issues under “Other matters.”

The meeting agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4.**

The Executive Secretary introduced the following CPCs that attended the meeting: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, European Union, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Turkey, Tunisia, the United States, and Uruguay.

The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei and Suriname as Cooperating non-Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities attending the meeting.

The following non-governmental organizations were admitted as observers: ISSF and Pew Environment Group, and the World Wildlife Fund.

The list of participants is attached at **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4.**

##### **4. Nomination of rapporteur**

Ms. Emma Htun (United States) was appointed rapporteur.

##### **5. Review of operational details of ROP-TROP to cover the 2015 time/area closure**

The Executive Secretary briefly summarized the technical difficulties that led to the cancellation of the ROP this year and reminded CPCs to provide their fishing plans as soon as possible to avoid a repeat of last year’s issues. The contract for the provision of the ROP services by Cofrepeche is due to expire at the end of October 2014, before the Annual Meeting.

The CPCs then took note of the ROP-TROP Programme Manual provided by the Consortium. There was general discussion of the useful nature of the Manual, but some CPCs noted that its scope was broader than necessary for the Regional Observer Program in [Rec. 11-01]. There was general agreement that CPCs required more time to review the ROP-TROP Manual before it could be finalized and would provide any comments to the Executive Secretary. One CPC requested that the Manual be translated into English and uploaded onto the ICCAT server.

Regarding the formal disposition of the ROP-TROP, there was agreement among CPCs that the issue of whether the program should be terminated or continued must be decided by the Commission. The two CPCs directly involved with the ROP-TROP stated that they preferred the use of national scientific observers in place of the ROP, and would seek to amend the [Rec. 11-01] at the Annual Meeting to terminate the ROP. Given the procedural, legal, and financial situation surrounding the implementation of the ROP-TROP, two CPCs suggested the way forward for 2015, would be to implement the ROP-TROP in 2015 and consider changes for 2016 and onward at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The European Union and Ghana consider that the implementation of the ROP-TROP in 2015 should take into account the financial contributions already paid by the ship owners for the previous expected implementation of the ROP-TROP.

In any case, the Secretariat informed the Working Group that it would circulate the request for the ROP-TROP 2015 season as early as possible in order to determine contractual needs.

## **6. Progress on the development of the eBCD system**

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group, Mr. Neil Ansell (EU) presented an overview of progress on the development of the eBCD system, including technical, policy, and contractual issues. These issues are detailed in the report of the eBCD Technical Working Group in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**. During the Barcelona intersessionals, the TWG discussed 12 policy issues referred to IMM from the March 2014 PWG Meeting in Madrid to facilitate discussion on the development of the eBCD system.

The TWG also discussed a means by which to maintain the services of the Consortium after their contract expires at the end of May 2014. There was consensus that the contract should be extended until the end of June 2015. The CPCs generally agreed with the TWG that in developing the contact extension, the tasks to be completed by the Consortium must be clearly prioritized and distinguished between those that had not yet been completed under the original contract for no additional cost, and those that would be new under the contract extension. The CPCs also recommended that the Secretariat pay an additional 157, 715.16 Euros charged by the Consortium for tasks completed outside the purview of the original contract.

The Executive Secretary informed the Working Group of the possibility of getting further funding for the eBCD system under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and questioned whether there was any objection to this possibility. The Working Group encouraged further discussions with GEF.

In an effort to clarify and amend certain aspects of the bluefin tuna catch documentation program and facilitate the application of the eBCD system, the United States introduced the document "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Amend Aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program to Facilitate the Application of the eBCD System" to amend [Rec. 11-20]. Following discussion, a revised version of this document is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**.

Although no consensus was reached, it was agreed that this document would be forwarded to the Commission to provide a basis for further discussion. It was noted that, depending on how certain issues were resolved, there could be a need for additional adjustments to the eBCD system.

The observer from Pew Environment Group presented a statement concerning the proposed exemption of internal sales from the eBCD, and the importance of ensuring that the eBCD tracks the significant majority of Atlantic bluefin catch and trade internationally and domestically, which is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**.

## **7. Consideration of possible amendments to statistical and catch document programs**

Japan referred to the draft recommendation on possible amendments to the statistical documentation program for bigeye tuna, which was submitted to the 2013 Annual Meeting, and stated that it did not want to discuss the draft at this time for several reasons.

First, Japan noted that a number of CPCs generally wished to avoid duplication of other trade documentation schemes. Several CPCs expanded on this point, emphasizing the need for harmonized documentation schemes.



Second, Japan and other CPCs cited the current FAO process initiated at COFI to develop global standards for catch documentation schemes. CPCs noted that it would be important to take these discussions into account in the development of any additional ICCAT schemes.

### **8. Review of at-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs, including high seas boarding**

The United States introduced the document “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme”, which is a proposal for a joint high seas inspection and boarding regime co-sponsored by Canada, the European Union, and the United States and is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.4**. The proposers noted that the proposal drew from other instruments, including the schemes that are being implemented in other RFMOs and the provisions of Annex VIII of Rec. 13-07. The draft, which would replace the current ICCAT scheme in [Rec. 75-02], was also meant to provide a starting point for discussion on how the scheme could provide opportunity for all members, regardless of their capacity to deploy patrol vessels, to participate in the scheme.

There was no consensus on the proposal. While some CPCs noted that ICCAT already had a joint international inspection scheme [Rec. 75-02], others stated that such a joint inspection was voluntary and that they could not accept any regime that infringed upon the sovereignty of a CPC that was not voluntary in nature or based on the establishment of a ICCAT inspection vessel not flagged to any particular CPC to ensure reciprocity.

The Chair reminded CPCs of the mandatory nature of the inspection scheme in the eastern Atlantic bluefin fishery. One CPC mentioned that this scheme was in conformity with the Convention. One CPC noted that if members involved in that fishery agreed to that scheme, that did not mean that the scheme should be extended to all CPCs.

The proponents expressed their willingness to work with CPCs to address their concerns and their desire to continue discussions of this issue.

### **9. Review of [Rec. 03-14] on VMS and consideration of necessary amendments**

The United States introduced a proposal for setting the current VMS transmission rate co-sponsored by the European Union, Norway, Turkey, and Senegal. The proposal introduced a “step-down” approach which increased the transmission rate to 4 hours through December 31, 2015, then to 2 hours starting January 1, 2016. Noting that current technological advances made costs negligible, and that current SCRS advice calls for a 1 hour transmission rate, other CPCs offered their support for the proposal. Upon invitation by the Chair, the SCRS Chair emphasized the importance of detailed VMS information to help characterize fishing effort.

Citing continuing cost implications as well as a need to harmonize with other tuna RFMOs that utilize a 4-hour transmission rate, other CPCs supported a 4-hour transmission rate.

The sponsors of the original proposal introduced an amended version joined by Canada and Ghana. This version called for a 4-hour transmission rate. The proposal also encourages CPCs to adopt more stringent measures domestically and calls for the Commission to review the proposal no later than 2017 to determine any revisions, including further increases to the rate. There was general support for the concepts contained in the revised version. Following further discussion, a revised version by the title “Draft Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area” with one pending issue has been submitted and is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**. The Working Group referred the document to the Commission for consideration and possible adoption at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Côte d'Ivoire requested revision of [Rec. 03-14] to reflect the legitimate right of coastal states to be informed about the presence of foreign vessels in their EEZ. It stated the intention to submit a draft proposal to PWG for consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

## **10. Consideration of rules for submitting vessel lists**

The Chair called up for discussion the document “Clarification of rules for submitting vessel lists” and its addendum, which is a list of issues regarding vessel lists on which the Secretariat requested clarification and guidance from CPCs. The list had been discussed at the 2013 Annual Meeting and the COC, but some issues had been referred to IMM.

CPCs noted that though this Working Group could provide guidance on these issues to the Secretariat and make recommendations for the Commission to take up at the Annual Meeting, the IMM Working Group’s recommendations would have to be approved by the Commission before action could be taken.

This list of all the Secretariat’s questions is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4**. The following is the discussion provided by the CPCs, separated by sections and specific questions.

### ***Section 1. Vessels 20m+, Rec. 11-12***

#### *Question 1 re: inclusion of vessels past 30 days*

CPCs noted that the Secretariat does not have the mandate to deny vessel registrations, nor should it be put in the position to act as a gatekeeper. They advised in this situation that the Secretariat should still include the vessel on the list, but note the late submission so the CPC is aware of the 30-day rule and inform the Compliance Committee to take any necessary appropriate action.

Additionally, CPCs generally noted that this issue should be treated with flexibility, and that a recommendation to the Commission may be necessary.

#### *Question 2 re: confidential information*

Most CPCs were of the view that the Secretariat should not list those vessels for which CPCs provided incomplete information – i.e. missing one or more components of the list of 9 elements in [Rec. 13-13] – noting that CPCs shall submit all the required information but may request the Secretariat not to publicize certain information due to domestic confidentiality requirements.

The United States disagreed with this view, interpreting Paragraph 4 of [Rec. 13-13] to allow a CPC to withhold confidential information because such information is not to be maintained in the ICCAT Record – in such a case, the Secretariat would still list the vessel, but would note the confidentiality issue and refer the issue to the Compliance Committee to determine if there is a compliance concern.

#### *Clarification re: carrier vessels*

The current understanding is correct.

### ***Section 2: BET/YFT vessels – TROP, Rec. 11-01***

The CPCs noted that this issue will be referred to Panel 1.

### ***Section 3: E-BFT Catching Vessels, Rec. 12-03/[13-07]***

There was no comment by CPCs on Section 3.

### ***Section 4: E-BFT Other vessels, Rec. 12-03/[13-07]***

#### *Questions 1 and 2*

There were no diverging views from the clarifications the Secretariat had previously received from Panel 2 / COC.

*Question 3 re: other vessels*

Many CPCs were of the opinion that self-registration in the eBCD system was sufficient. Notwithstanding, it was agreed that by-catch vessels may be included in the BFT “Other vessels” list pending full implementation of the eBCD system.

*Question 4*

There were no diverging views from the clarifications the Secretariat had previously received from Panel 2 / COC.

***Section 5: Transshipment, Rec. 12-06****Question re: carrier vessels*

It was generally agreed that the initial lists should be provided by 1 January but that changes could be submitted at any time. Additional vessels included on the list should not engage in transshipment activity until they appear on the ICCAT Record.

CPCs advised that retroactive reporting could be allowed for carrier vessels, provided that no transshipment takes place until the vessel is on the ICCAT Record.

*Question re: longline vessels*

CPCs advised that retroactivity could not be allowed for longline vessels.

***Section 6: List of Mediterranean Swordfish Vessels, Rec. 11-03***

CPCs generally agreed with the interpretation of the Secretariat. They reasoned that the submission of an annual list was desirable to prevent inactive fishing vessels from remaining on the ICCAT Record.

***Section 7: List of Northern Albacore Vessels, Rec. 98-08***

CPCs generally agreed with the interpretation of the Secretariat. They reasoned that the submission of an annual list was desirable to prevent inactive fishing vessels from remaining on the ICCAT Record.

Some CPCs noted that as the list is tied to a measure dealing with limiting capacity that had later been superseded, there is an underlying issue of whether the Secretariat even had to maintain the vessel list anymore, which may need to be discussed by the Commission.

*Question “Clarification of rules for submitting vessel lists” (Addendum 1 to Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4)*

Due to concerns by some CPCs that this question was more appropriate for the Compliance Committee, this question was deferred to the Annual Meeting.

**11. Consideration of capacity building for developing countries**

There were two documents discussed under this agenda item. The first document was titled “Request from the Secretariat for Clarifications of Provisions Contained in ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures”, which is a request for clarification from the Secretariat on port inspections. This document, which contains the entirety of the Secretariat’s questions, is appended as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.4**. The second document, which was introduced by the United States, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* (Rec. 12-07)”, is a proposal on facilitating capacity building to implement port inspection measures in developing countries and is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.4**.

***Request from the Secretariat for Clarifications of Provisions Contained in ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures***

*Question 1 re: authorised ports*

There were varying views of CPCs as to whether it was the duty of the flag CPC to prohibit their vessels from entering non-authorised ports. Some CPCs opined that it was duty of the flag CPC. Others said that the baseline obligation would be for the flag CPC to publicize the list of authorised ports to their vessels, but that they would not be obliged to mandate that their vessels not enter unauthorized ports. Some CPCs wished to note that as [Rec. 12-07] applies only to foreign fishing vessels, only those CPCs who wished to grant port access to foreign fishing vessels must send their lists to the Secretariat.

*Question 2 re: “foreign fishing vessels”*

CPCs generally advised that carrier vessels are included but container vessels are exempt, in line with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. On the exemption of container vessels, Japan noted in particular that it accepted the Recommendation specifically due to the understanding of this exemption and will not accept any other interpretation of the measure.

*Question 3 re: reports without infringements*

Several CPCs considered that the Secretariat should publish on the secure section of the ICCAT website all inspection reports provided by the CPCs, regardless of whether there are infringements. Others were of the view that they should be filed at the Secretariat for consultation on request.

***Support Implementation of Minimum Standards***

The document introduced by the United States is a proposal which would set a specific fund for “Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance” to provide technical assistance, informed by periodic reports to the Secretariat from developing CPCs on their implementation and challenges related to [Rec. 12-07].

Several CPCs fully supported the proposal, noting that it reflects the needs of developing States for substantive support to improving their port inspection schemes but have expressed the need for broader coverage. It was also noted that port inspection deficiencies concern both developing CPCs and developed CPCs. Others declared the proposal a step in the right direction and provided a good basis for discussion, but noted that part of the discussion of this proposal must take place at the STACFAD as it involves budgeting including the use of the Working Capital Fund. Questions on the scope of the capacity-building activities contemplated in the proposal were also raised.

Referring to the creation of a specific fund, the European Union expressed concern on the potential administrative burden an additional fund will have for the ICCAT Secretariat, pointing out at other alternatives and effective means for capacity building implemented in other tuna RFMOs.

It was agreed that the Secretariat could continue to monitor developments in the IOTC electronic port measure scheme.

There was no consensus on the proposal, but general support. The United States will work with interested Delegations to further revise the proposal for presentation at the next Annual Meeting in November.

**12. Review of Rec. 11-16 on access agreements**

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on the document of the PWG “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements”, which was submitted to the Plenary at the 2013 Annual Meeting. While there was general consensus at the Annual Meeting, one CPC still had reservations.

The CPC in question withdrew all reservations and gave support for its adoption. The draft recommendation will go to the Commission in November and is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.4**.

### 13. Other matters

#### *Removal of measures from the active Compendium*

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on two documents: a U.S. letter on the removal of measures from the Compendium and Japan's comments. The measures in question are those that the Secretariat had circulated to CPCs to suggest removal from the active Compendium due to redundancy or having been superseded by other Recommendations.

CPCs agreed to discuss the measures that fell under the purview of the IMM Working Group and provide the following recommendation to the Commission:

- The following measures should be removed from the active Compendium: [Rec. 11-21], [Rec. 00-22], [Res. 02-25], and [Res. 01-20].
- The following measures should be retained in the active Compendium: [Rec. 10-11] and [Rec. 06-16].

CPCs committed to reviewing electronically the remaining measures flagged by the Secretariat and to provide comments on their removal or retention by June 30, 2014. The Secretariat will then compile all the views of the CPCs and submit the compilation to the Commission at the Annual Meeting for its consideration and action.

#### *Turkey*

Turkey raised for discussion the issue of a pilot Turkish aquaculture project on artificial bluefin tuna reproduction. CPCs suggested that the issue be first raised at Panel 2 and PWG in the context of procedures required for identification, treatment, and trading of such products.

#### *Monitoring and avoiding cetacean interactions*

The United States introduced the document "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Monitoring and Avoiding Cetacean Interactions in ICCAT Fisheries", which builds on existing ICCAT measures for other bycatch species, and noted that the proposal included monitoring aspects relevant to the IMM Working Group's purview.

Some CPCs offered support and noted that the proposal spoke more generally to conservation issues and so should be raised in Panel 4. Norway recalled that management of marine mammals is already under the competence of other international organizations such as the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission. Japan requested the United States to provide a clear scientific basis for this proposal.

The proposal was deferred to Panel 4, and the document is attached for reference as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.4**.

### 14. Adoption of report and adjournment

The report was adopted and the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Nomination of rapporteur
5. Review of operational details of ROP-TROP to cover the 2015 time/area closure
6. Progress on the development of the eBCD system
  - Consideration of outstanding policy and technical issues
  - Decision on the contract extension with the consortium
7. Consideration of possible amendments to statistical and catch document programmes
8. Review of at-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs, including high seas boarding and inspection, and consideration of necessary measures
9. Review of Rec. 03-14 on VMS and consideration of necessary amendments
10. Consideration of rules for submitting vessel lists for inclusion on the ICCAT Record
11. Consideration of capacity building for developing countries and any other necessary actions for the implementation of [Rec. 12-07]
12. Review of Recommendation 11-16 on access agreements and proposal of amendments if appropriate
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of Report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4

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**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4****eBCD Technical Working Group: Technical issues**

The technical issues discussed by the WG at its 2014 January meeting were based on:

- those listed as ‘open’ issues in the report of the eBCD Technical Working Group meeting held in Madrid in January 2013;
- new issues received from CPCs (either directly to TRAGSA or WG since IMM 2013); and
- issues raised by WG members throughout the meeting.

Related issues have been grouped where applicable.

*Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2* includes a summary of the discussions and conclusions of the Group.

The eBCD Technical Working Group identified policy issues which should be referred to the Commission. These policy issues are listed in *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*.

**1. Interface with other domestic Electronic Reporting Systems**

Although this matter was previously considered a 'low/medium priority' by the WG subject to completed and fully functional eBCD system, a common approach to the issue was agreed at the September 2013 WG meeting, and TRAGSA had been requested at that time to analyze the resource implications of developing their web service proposal and submit it to the WG as soon as possible and before the 2013 ICCAT annual meeting.

It was reminded that TRAGSA may be requested by CPCs to develop their own requirements subject to further discussions/agreement by WG/Commission on financial aspects.

**2. Sport and recreational fisheries**

Deferred to PWG – see the document “Policy issues referred to the Commission” (*Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 1).

**3. Domestic trade**

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 7.

**4. Tagging**

In order to cater for the current practice of the recording and treatment of tagged BFT both in the Western and Eastern fisheries, the WG requested TRAGSA to include the following functionalities in the eBCD system:

<b><i>W-BFT</i></b>	<b><i>E-BFT</i></b>
Remove optional function for entering information on each tagged fish (i.e. System should require the entry of information on each tagged fish for WBFT).	Retain as optional function for entering information on each tagged fish.
Remove checkbox ‘send to validation’ in situations where tag information is entered individually for each fish.	Retain checkbox ‘send to validation’, which would be optional if tagged fish information is completed and required if no tagged fish information is entered.
Retain ability to upload .xml file containing tagging information. If numbers of tags do not match the number of bluefin tuna, require validation.	Retain ability to upload .xml file containing tagging information. If numbers of tags do not match the number of bluefin tuna, require validation.
	Add a new free text field ‘Tag number range’.

Notwithstanding this temporary request, the overall issue was deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 8.

### 5. Treatment of dead fish [in purse seine fisheries]

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 2.

### 6. Joint Fisheries Operations

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 3.

### 7. By-catch

In order to cater for the current practice of recording and generation of an eBCD for by-catch (with respect to the eastern fishery) and the recording and generation of an eBCD for catch made by an authorized but unlisted vessel (with respect to the western fishery), the WG requested TRAGSA to include the following functionalities in the eBCD system:

<i>Operator self-registration and generation of eBCD for non-listed vessels West</i>	<i>CPC self-registration of non-listed vessels and CPC administrator/operator generation of eBCDs East</i>
In case of user self-registration, system generates an e-mail alert to his/her CPC authorities (administrator) once a new user inputs required registration information.	Operator (fisherman) informs CPC authorities of by-catch and/or registration request for non-authorized vessel.
CPC Administrator approves (or not) the self-registration request.	CPC Administrator enters new un-authorized vessel(s) into eBCD system.
System generates an e-mail alert to the applicant informing them that the information provided has been accepted (or not). If accepted, new username and password is generated and automatically transmitted to applicant.	System generates an e-mail alert to operator informing him/her that application is accepted together with account information (username and password).
New user (operator/fisherman or trader) can then log into the eBCD system and input catch or catch and trade information for bluefin tuna. Data for a non-listed vessel is entered through a free text field that provides for the entry of vessel name and national ID number. (Note need for development of a new user profile that allows one user to enter information related to both catch and first trade.)	Operator logs into system and enters catch/system generates BCD etc. AND/OR CPC Administrator remains in system and enters catch/system generates BCD etc. (if this option automated e-mail from previous step not needed).
CPC administrator is not required to approve unlisted vessel information entered in free text field. (Note: Not all western harvesters attended the January 2014 meeting. Depending on the requirements of those not in attendance, the ability to approve unlisted vessel information entered in the free text field may be requested. If requested, system should alert the CPC administrator when unlisted vessel information is entered and request approval/acceptance of entry. Once approved, system should generate an e-mail alert to user indicating that trade can continue.)	

Notwithstanding this temporary request, the overall issue was deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 4.

**8. Carry-over in farms**

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 12.

**9. Inclusion of Pacific BFT and access by non-member CPCs**

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 11.

**10. Trade of <3/1 ton fish**

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 5.

**11. Grouping, splitting and numbering*****Grouping***

In order to reflect the requirements of paragraph of [Rec. 11-20], it was agreed that:

- A 'grouped eBCD' can only be created by the farm user in the system.
- Upon entry and selection of the 'grouping function' by the farm user the system will create a new 'grouped eBCD' labeled with the prefix '-G'. All originating eBCDs will then be closed and linked to this eBCD-G.
- Information in sections 1-4 will be automatically summed by the system and displayed in eBCD-Gs (i.e. total catches, total live traded).
- For each eBCD-G the system will display (both on screen and in the printed version) the originating eBCD numbers (i.e. the non-grouped BCDs).

***Splitting/numbering/trade key***

Within the trade, transshipment, farming and harvesting sections, as provided for under Rec. [11-20], when a consignment is divided, eBCD supplementary numbers or branches are applied with the prefix.

The current eBCD system generates the trade key only in the trade section. One WG member, however, made the request to generate the trade key in all sections.

TRAGSA reminded the WG that if the key is generated in the catch section, access will be given to all related eBCD (splits) from that catch. As such this issue is also linked to the point 16 and remains open.

This aspect the trade key functionality was referred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 7.

**12. Document annexing**

The possibility to annex information to the live fish trade and trade sections of the BCD as well as under 'transportation description' is provided for in [Rec. 11-20].

This feature shall be incorporated into the eBCD and facilitate uploading and viewing of trade related documents (invoice, bill of lading etc.). The format of these documents shall only be .pdf.

An annex field shall be included under the notes field in the catch description section and other sections as per the paper BCD.

The possibility to view these documents will only be made available to validator user accounts.

It was not agreed whether an administrator user profile has read/write access and given the link with point 16, this items remains pending.

### **13. JFO 'multi-flag/trade' functionality**

The system shall facilitate the entry of JFOs comprising vessels of more than one flag and or trade companies in accordance with the relevant provisions of Rec. [11-20] and [13-07].

### **14. Multi-live trade**

The possibility to enter further live trades prior to caging (farming) shall be developed.

### **15. System capacity**

In general, WG members agreed that the system capacity (speed in particular) must be significantly improved and additional servers made available in accordance with the system requirements and expected user traffic.

TRAGSA stated that this issue will be addressed but noted that only following an extensive use/testing of the system by all users, will the adequacy of the current capacity be properly tested.

One CPC requested an offline functionality to reduce satellite communication time at sea. Although it was noted that the original specification of the system required an online system, it was agreed that this would need to further discussed and agreed if such functionality was to be developed.

### **16. Data extraction tool and general security/confidentiality requirements**

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 10.

### **17. Importer/Buyer field in Trade Section**

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 6.

### **18. User functionality**

As previously discussed and although largely addressed, further attention shall be given to improve user functionality. In particular, the list of fishing gears in the pull-down menus in the catch section shall be amended only to reflect what applies to a particular fishery, for example Mediterranean or trap as a gear choice shall not appear as options if W-BFT is selected, and so on.

In particular, TRAGSA demonstrated that the BCD user listing [where 'open' and 'pending' BCDs are displayed] will be improved to enhance usability.

TRAGSA informed the WG that further work will be undertaken in this regard.

Following the request of the one WG member, a profile of a view function for importing CPC was to be developed to facilitate the reading and printing of eBCDs (i.e. a user without the digital security installed such as those used for 'validators'). However, TRAGSA explained that 'administrator' profile does not need to install the digital security while 'validator' does. Upon this explanation by TRAGSA, the WG member has withdrawn its request.

Another CPC member requested an additional administrator profile with only 'read' access (in addition to the 'read/write' access profile).



## 19. Requirement for additional/corrections to ‘alert’ functions

Alerts have been developed in the system directed to users and validating authorities, they concern errors in data entry as well as the entry of potentially non-compliant information.

A number of corrections and additions were noted by the WG, including:

- A new alert when the 5% limit of minimum size (8 to 30 kg) is exceeded (Rec. 12-03, Para.31) (in addition to the alert for fish entered under 30kgs which is already reflected in the system).
- Currently an error alert is generated when catches beyond an individual quota (IQ) for vessels operating in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishery is entered; however these quantities can still be validated with the message “*You are validating even with error alert. Do you continue a validation?*” This shall be removed with no possibility to validate quantities in excess of IQs.
- When validation date is later than the actual validating date, the “*Validation date cannot be earlier than the date of this section*” is displayed - this shall be corrected.
- Since the ‘send to validation’ label is only included at the end of Section 2, it was considered necessary to include a reminder at the end of Section 3, stating ‘please remember to send to validation’.

## 20. Conversion factors and biological parameters

As previously agreed by the WG, biological parameters relating to BFT, including growth rates, length weight relationships and conversion factors shall be integrated into the system and system alerts generated if and when applicable.

At the time of the WG meeting, parameters including conversion factors were not available. The WG requested the Secretariat to provide TRAGSA the current conversion/growth factors adopted by SCRS/Commission for integration alongside new parameters when they become available.

In addition and as required in the original system requirements, an analytical data function (i.e. a series of queries) shall be developed allowing data to be selected and exported for further analysis.

TRAGSA reminded the WG, that this function has not yet been developed.

## 21. Editing functionality

Previous WG discussions considered what actions a validator was entitled to do in the context of the BCD programme.

It was decided and confirmed that validators only have user rights for validation and no administrative rights to edit eBCD unless separately designated to do so by their CPC authorities (i.e. listed both as a validator and administrator user).

Following a ‘rejected’ validation and the returning of the eBCD to the previous user, an additional functionality (editing) is required to allow these users the possibility to amend/correct information.

## 22. Regional Observer Programme

In light of the decisions of the WG and the Commission in 2013 it was confirmed that the development of the check box and date in the farming and harvesting sections indicate the presence of the regional observer as well as whether they have signed or not in accordance with the provisions of para 87 and Annex 7 of Rec. [13-07].

Given that access to the eBCD system requires a user profile which is communicated by an e-mail, a list of current [deployed] e-mail addresses of regional observers shall be maintained. It was noted again that no provision to do so is currently provided for in Annex 7 of Rec. [13-07].

The level of access to the eBCD system was discussed and, specifically, which eBCDs each deployed regional observers will have access to (e.g. all eBCDs relating to the farm on which they are deployed, or only those related to the operations they are observing). It was agreed that the access to information for the regional observer shall be discussed under the general confidentiality and security discussions under point 16.

On account of the last two points, deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 9.

### **23. Farm user view of trade section**

One CPC member reported that farm users cannot view the trade section following validation.

TRAGSA recalled that this was due to the fact that the farm and the trader have different user profiles. Hence, if the farm user is also listed/registered as a trader they will be able to view the trade section.

The issue of when the buyer information needs to be completed was discussed in relation to this point; however, this is still pending the decision of the Commission (see point 17).

### **24. Format of eBCD printed version**

It was previously agreed that where possible and without prejudice to any amendment/repealing of [Rec. 11-20], the printed version of the eBCD shall be the same format/structure as the current paper BCD programme.

The WG discussed a number of technical examples to ensure that this is maintained, in particular:

- The validation seal field in the printed version of the eBCD currently contains the message '*this is an electronic BCD*' regardless of whether it has been validated or not.

It was agreed that a message should be included in the validation field seal indicating whether the BCD has been validated or not (i.e. 'validated' or 'not validated'). Furthermore if the consignment to which it relates is exempt of validation due to tagging, it should be indicated (i.e. 'Government validation is exempted in the context of Rec. 11-20').

An eBCD which has not yet been validated shall include in the validation seal field 'pending validation'.

### **25. Translation of eBCD system**

In the technical specifications the system was requested to be developed in the three official ICCAT languages and specific to each user.

In order to cater for all commercial activities undertaken under the eBCD programme, the WG noted that additional flexibility was needed to allow each user to select languages while logged into the system and when printing eBCDs (i.e. each eBCD can be printed in any of the 3 languages regardless of the language of the user).

It was noted that field entries will not be translated (i.e. a farm name will not be translated).

### **26. Registry of trade agents**

Following the request of one WG member, the profile of trade agents has been created based on the same read/write profile as importers/exporters.

Current functionality allows companies to be grouped for one or more trade agents. TRAGSA demonstrated this feature and as well as the functionality for this profile to be modified if needed.

## 27. Role of CPC administrator

Importing CPC administrators shall be able to amend the ‘final’ importers information if there is a change following the time of export/validation.

## 28. Other general improvement issues

The following issues were reported by one CPC and discussed/resolved:

- If an eBCD with error alert is edited and saved, sometimes the ‘send to validation’ box is not displayed and an e-mail alert is not sent to the validator; however, the validator is still able to view the eBCD. TRAGSA stated this potential error would be investigated and corrected.
- Sometimes an error alert is not displayed when a validation date is entered prior to the validation date of the previous section (there is a case of prior to more than one month). TRAGSA explained this could be a result of the flexibility built into the system to accommodate the ‘time zone issue’ discussed in July 2012; nonetheless, they would investigate and correct if needed.
- Despite previous decisions on the read/write access relating to those fields under the responsibility of the regional observer, an administrator was reported to be able to sign and enter data information in the farming and harvesting sections. It was agreed that this functionality should be removed from a CPC administrator profile and only granted to the ICCAT Secretariat administrator profile.

## 29. Transshipments

One member of the WG suggested that the ‘transshipment’ option could be deleted given the prohibition by ICCAT on at sea transshipment of bluefin tuna, while others stated that it should be retained since transshipment in port was allowed. To ensure there was no confusion by users of the system on what transshipment activities were allowed, it was, therefore, suggested that the reference to transshipment be amended in the system to say ‘transshipment in port’.

It was noted that [Rec. 11-20] only refers to transshipment information and does not specify where it occurs, hence it was suggested that the position (Lat/Long) data field could be deleted. It was noted that the position field was a requirement of [Rec. 11-20] and, therefore, any deletion would need to be agreed by the Commission or reflected in any amendment of [Rec. 11-20].

The following additional issues related to transshipment in port were reported by one CPC and relayed to TRAGSA:

- A number of ‘ports’ relate to incorrect ‘port states’ (e.g. Cape Town – Japan).

The list of designated ports received under the provisions of [Rec. 13-07] will be checked with the support of the Secretariat to see if there are mistakes in CPCs submissions or within the system. Alternatively, it may be that CPCs have designated ports in another CPC territory.

- Following a discussion on the system’s ability to track product presentation during transshipments, it was decided that the system shall not generate alerts in the case of changes in product types between transshipments (i.e. fillets in the first transshipment and round in the second) but rather will include a check on plausible situations, hence would disallow entry of changes in product type that are not possible.
- Alerts shall be generated if the quantities traded are above those transshipped.

### **30. General issues associated with traders and registrations**

The following issues were reported by one CPC and discussed:

- Similar to the last issue discussed in point 29, if different product types are selected between transshipment and trade (i.e. frozen in the transshipment and fresh trade), no error alert shall be generated upon validation. However, the system needs to differentiate between likely changes in product types and those which are impossible (i.e. the system shall allow a trade of 'frozen' products after they have been transshipped as 'fresh', but not a trade of 'whole' product if they have been transshipped as 'gutted and gilled') as explained in paragraph 29, bullet 2 above.
- It was demonstrated that several trades of one catch now have different branch numbers and reflect the splitting numbering agreed under point 11.
- The pull-down list of point of exportation in the Exporter/Seller file is composed of country names only.

It was recalled that the current provisions of Rec. [11-20] only require this information on importation and not exportation.

It was agreed to replace the drop down menu in the export field with a free text field to facilitate the entry of town/city/province.

- A number of cases of farm trades incorrectly saved on logout/login previously reported to TRAGSA were corrected and demonstrated.

### **31. Re-export certificate**

The following issues were raised by one CPC and discussed/agreed:

- An annex field shall be included in the BFTRC as provided for under section 3 and 8 of the BCD.
- Further development is needed to ensure that the list of BCDs relating to imported products are correctly referenced and displayed in the BFTRC (currently catered under a 'batch' system).

In particular, an error alert shall be created if the quantities in the BFTRC exceed those of all originating BCDs.

The WG noted that some further discussion was needed on the final development in particular on the current 'batch' concept in order to facilitate the adequate recording and displaying of imported BCD numbers in the eBFTRC.

- A free text field is required when 'other' product presentation is selected.

### **32. Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members**

It was agreed that TRAGSA will develop the following:

#### ***By-catch/directed fisheries***

As referred to in point 18 above, further refinement should be made when displaying information in the system relevant only to the W-BFT fisheries:

- Type of catch ('by-catch' and 'directed' fishery) shall be deleted.
- A new profile "Western trader" shall be created. This new profile will be able to record new catches, register new vessels, and input trade data.

- One CPC WG member considers that the registry of new vessels shall be done directly in the system (user self-registration) while others prefer flexibility to send an annual list of vessels.
- The request of new user account must be approved by the CPC Authorities. TRAGSA and the ICCAT Secretariat recalled that during the transitional phase, each CPC will be required to send the list of traders, operators and vessels to TRAGSA for uploading into the system as required by para 2 of Rec. [13-17]. TRAGSA will upload this user information, although it was recalled that, at a certain point, any changes or new vessels, operators, and traders will need to be entered into the system by self-registration.\*

\*[Chair's comment: It should be noted that the deadline for the sending of this information as also requested in ICCAT Circular No. 0189 of 15/01/2014 was recently extended to 28 February 2015 during the March 2014 PWG meeting, as reflected in the report of that meeting page 5.]

### ***Catch description/gear choices***

As referred to in point 18 above, further refinement should be made when displaying information in the system relevant only to either the W- or E-BFT fisheries. Those recalled as reported by W-BFT in previous meetings include:

- The Catch Description for W-BFT in the eBCD system contains a field for the ICCAT Transfer Authorization which shall be deleted.
- RR (Rod and Reel) shall be added and FARM deleted.

### ***Error and alert messages***

For W-BFT WG members, the current error alerts are considered to be too limited and do not provide sufficient justification, which makes it impossible to determine where to make corrections (e.g. when saving eBCDs, the system sometime only provides an alert indicating that 'there was an error during saving' with no reason why).

It was agreed that errors messages in the W-BFT fishery need to be clarified and improved without risk to the information which has already been entered into the system.

### ***Re-export certificate for W-BFT, including validation and process for handling re-exports of tagged fish held in cold storage after March 2015***

Aspects of this issue were discussed under point 31, it was noted by W-BFT WG members that the 'batch' functionality, can be retained for W-BFT consignments; however, further information should be available for users on what this field represents and how it shall be completed.

It was suggested that the requirement to validate re-export certificates for tagged fish whose product form has not been altered should be reconsidered.

The WG also discussed how to handle the possible case of re-exports of tagged fish exported prior to the implementation of the eBCD system and held in cold storage.

These last two issues were deferred to PWG –see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 8.

### **33. Non-traded BFT**

Deferred to PWG – see *Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*, item 13.

### **34. Trade before validation**

TRAGSA/ICCAT Secretariat raised the case where, in one WG member's trap fishery, the trade takes place before validation of the catch and transshipment.

No system development was considered necessary in the system as the WG member concerned stated this will not occur in the future.

### **35. Trades companies of other country**

TRAGSA/ICCAT Secretariat raised the case where BCDs have been received from companies registered in non-BFT catching CPCs.

This issue is linked to the security/confidentiality and access by non-ICCAT members referred to PWG (see point 16 above).

### **36. Parallel transfers from a live trade**

TRAGSA/ICCAT Secretariat raised the cases where BCDs have been received indicating two live trades (so called 'parallel transfer operations').

The WG member, to whom this relates, explained this was due to insufficient category of the receiving towing vessel/cage and when one catch was divided/transferred to two towing vessels at the time of the first transfer operation.

It was agreed that functionality shall be developed to accommodate these operations, although without prejudice to any future decision of the Commission, it was agreed that each towing vessel shall have its own ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and, hence, be considered as two transfer operations in the system.

*Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4*

#### **Summary report of the eBCD Working Group meeting** (Madrid, 21-24 January 2014)

See **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**.

*Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4*

#### **eBCD Technical Working Group: Policy issues referred to the Commission** (21-24 January 2014)

The policy issues were discussed by the Working Group at its January 2014 meeting and referred to the Commission (*Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2*).

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**

#### **Draft recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and amend aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program to facilitate the application of the eBCD system**

(submitted by the United States)

*RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program [Rec. 11-20];*

*ALSO RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) Programme [Rec. 10-11] and Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System [Rec.13-17];*

*RECOGNIZING the need to clarify the scope of application and certain limited provisions of Recommendation 11-20 to ensure appropriate development and implementation of the eBCD system;*

*CONSIDERING the discussions of the eBCD Technical Working Group, Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, and Permanent Working Group on these matters; and*

*DESIRING to enhance the effectiveness of the bluefin tuna catch documentation program overall, including through electronic application;*

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS  
RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Catch data for commercially harvested Atlantic bluefin tuna must be recorded in the eBCD system. The recording of information on internal sales of bluefin tuna in the eBCD (i.e. sales occurring within one Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (CPC) or, in the case of the European Union, within one of its Member States) is not required. Such transactions need not be recorded in the eBCD system. However, the trade between EU Member States and of farmed products within a CPC as specified in paragraph 2(a) of Recommendation 11-20 are subject to the requirements of Rec 11-20, and must be recorded in the eBCD system.
2. Recreationally harvested bluefin tunas for which sale is prohibited are not subject to the requirements of Recommendation 11-20 and need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
3. Pacific bluefin tuna traded by ICCAT CPCs must be recorded in the eBCD system consistent with Recommendation 11-20; the following data elements are required:

**Annex 1: ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document**

***Section 1: Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Number***

***Section 2: Catch information***

- Name of catching vessel/trap
- Flag/CPC
- Area
- Total weight (kg)

***Section 8: Trade information***

- *Product description*
  - (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)
  - Total weight (NET\*)
- *Exporter/seller information*
  - Company name
  - Point of export/departure
  - State of destination
- *Transportation description*
- *Government validation*
- *Importer/buyer*
  - Company name, license number
  - Point of import or destination

## **Annex 2: ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate**

### ***Section 1. Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate Number***

#### ***Section 2: Re-export section***

- Re-export country/entity/fishing entity
- Point of re-export

#### ***Section 3: Description of imported bluefin tuna***

- Net weight (kg)
- BCD (or eBCD) number and date(s) of importation

#### ***Section 4: Description of bluefin tuna for re-export***

- Net weight (kg)
- Corresponding BCD (or eBCD) number
- State of destination

#### ***Section 6: Government validation***

4. The provisions in Recommendation 11-20 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the following criteria for domestic commercial tagging programs are met by the flag CPC for the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna:
  - a. All bluefin tuna available for sale are individually tagged;
  - b. Minimum information relating to the tag includes:
    - Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap
    - Date of capture or landing
    - The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment
    - The gear utilized to catch the fish
    - Date of harvest from the farm (if applicable)
    - Identifying information on the farming facility (if applicable)
    - The type of product and weight of the individually tagged bluefin tuna
    - Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable)
    - The point of export (where applicable)
  - c. Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.
5. Government validation requirements set forth in paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20 may be waived when a tagged bluefin tuna imported by a CPC as fresh product is re-exported by that CPC in the same form (i.e. both product type and weight) in which it was received.
6. [Taking into account paragraph 13(d) of Recommendation 11-20 and as a derogation to Recommendation 13-17, validated paper BCDs may be used in the case of landings of quantities of fish less than 1 metric ton or 3 fish in light of the specific characteristics and needs of artisanal fleets. Notwithstanding, such paper BCDs shall be converted to eBCDs within a period of seven working days or prior to export, whichever is first.]
7. Where a paper BCD was issued prior to 1 March 2015 and as a derogation to Recommendation 13-17, CPCs may continue to use paper BCD program documents for the export or re-export of bluefin tuna covered by that BCD and held in cold storage or in a farm. Farm CPCs shall notify ICCAT by 1 March 2015 of the number and total weight of the bluefin tuna remaining in their farm that will continue to be tracked by paper BCD program documents. The Secretariat shall make this information available to all CPCs without delay. The use of a paper BCD to support the trade of bluefin tuna carried over in farms shall not be used by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment.



8. Non-CPCs that use BCD program documents when trading bluefin tuna with ICCAT CPCs shall have access to the eBCD system. At least initially, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CPC of paper BCD program documents and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into system. Creation of an eBCD record based on the paper BCD program document shall be completed without undue delay. If access to the eBCD system is not possible for any reason, non-CPCs may continue to use paper BCDs until such time as the eBCD system becomes accessible to them. In such cases, the Secretariat shall notify ICCAT CPCs of any non-CPC that will need to use paper BCDs and the reason for this situation without delay. The use of a paper BCD in such a case shall not be used by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment.
9. Once the eBCD system is fully implemented, the annual reporting requirement on the implementation of the BCD program specified in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be replaced by reports generated from the eBCD system. The format and content of any additional reports will be determined by the Commission taking into account appropriate confidentiality rules and considerations. At a minimum, reports shall include catch and trade data by the CPCs that are appropriately aggregated for public distribution. CPCs shall continue to report on their implementation of the eBCD program in their annual reports.

#### **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**

#### **Statement from the Observer PEW to the 9th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measure (IMM)**

After four years of development, the Commission is now on the verge of implementing a state-of-the-art electronic documentation system. Without comprehensive implementation of the eBCD, however, illegal fishing will continue to undermine catch limits set by ICCAT and compromise the recovery of Atlantic bluefin.

Pew appreciates the effort members have undertaken at this meeting to ensure a more comprehensive eBCD system. We welcome the US proposal to electronically track the trade between EU Member States and of farmed products within a CPC. Coupled with electronic tracking of catch and international trade, this will greatly improve tracking of important subsets of bluefin trade.

However, the proposal to exempt internal sales of Atlantic bluefin from tracking would result in an unacceptably large gap in traceability of bluefin products and would leave open opportunities for illegal fishing and fraud. Additionally, this exemption could undermine enforcement, as the lack of accompanying documentation for domestically-traded products would make distinguishing between legally and illegally-caught bluefin extremely difficult.

To ensure adequate traceability, domestic transactions must be tracked and validated. To this end, in place of an exemption of internal sales from all tracking, we encourage the inclusion of a threshold approach for electronic tracking of internal sales, which would exempt small-scale domestic buyers and sellers from having to use the electronic system, but where the threshold would be set to ensure that a significant majority of all bluefin catch and trade is tracked through the eBCD.

This is not the time to water down the effectiveness of the eBCD, or delay implementation further. It is time to finalize the development of robust electronic system that improves traceability and deters illegal activity, thus assuring buyers that all bluefin tracked through the eBCD has been caught legally.

**Working document**

**Draft recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme**

*(Proposed by Canada, the European Union and the United States)*

*RECALLING* Recommendation 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Annex 8 of Recommendation 13-07 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna fishery;

*FURTHER RECALLING* Resolution 94-09 on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, Recommendation 97-11 on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings, and Recommendation 98-11 Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from Non-Contracting Parties Identifies [*sic*] as Having Committed a Serious Infringement;

*RECALLING ALSO* the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Doc. 02-31);

*DESIRING* to collaborate in the adoption of a system of joint international enforcement as provided in paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention;

*INTENDING to* strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote compliance with the ICCAT Convention and the Recommendations of the Commission;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS THAT:

A Scheme of Joint International Inspection be established as follows:

**Section I: Definitions**

For the purpose of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection:

1. "Fishing activity" means fishing and any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing, including storage, processing, transporting, transferring fish to or from cages, and transshipment of fish or fish products;
2. "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used for, intended to be used for, or equipped for use for the purpose of commercial exploitation of fishery resources covered by the ICCAT Convention, including catching vessels, support vessels, fish processing vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport of fishery resources, vessels equipped for the transportation of fishery products and auxiliary vessels, but does not include container vessels;
3. "Inspection vessel" means any vessel authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to the ICCAT register of inspection vessels under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;
4. "Inspector" means an official authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to conduct boarding and inspections in the ICCAT Convention area under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;
5. "Scheme" means the Joint International Inspection Scheme established by this Recommendation.

**Section II: Purpose and area of application**

- 6. Boarding and inspection conducted pursuant to this Scheme is intended to monitor compliance with the ICCAT Convention and related Recommendations in force.
- 7. This Scheme applies in the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction.
- 8. The ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection [1975-02] and Annex 8 of [13-07] are hereby revoked and replaced by this Scheme.

**Section III: General provisions**

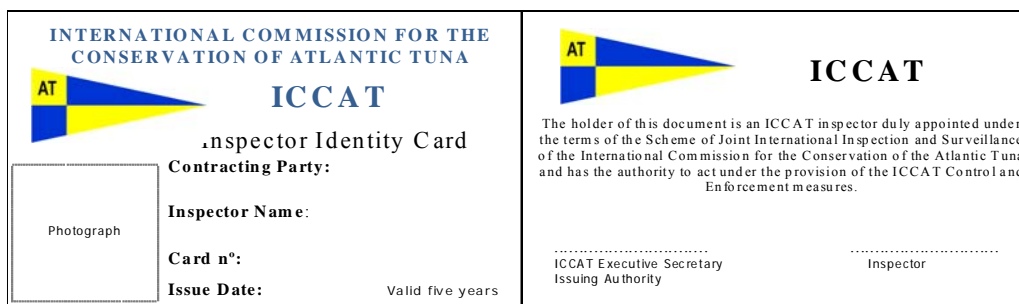
*Duties of the Contracting Parties*

- 9. Each Contracting Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters, its inspection vessels, and inspectors it has assigned to the Scheme, fulfil their respective duties and requirements under the Scheme.
- 10. Within 30 days of entry into force of this Scheme, each Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary of a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications, inspection reports and immediate notification of infringements pursuant to this Scheme. It shall notify any changes to this information to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the effective date of the change.
- 11. Boarding and inspections shall be carried out by inspectors and inspection vessels assigned to the Scheme by a Contracting Party.

*Notification requirements*

- 12. A Contracting Party that intends to conduct boarding and inspection under the Scheme, including by deploying inspectors on board the inspection vessel of another Contracting Party pursuant to an agreement under paragraph 13, shall:
  - a) so notify the Executive Secretary, no later than 30 days in advance of the inspection vessel or inspector’s deployment, providing the following particulars:
    - (i) its national authority responsible for at-sea inspection, as well as the name and contact details (including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address) for a point of contact within that authority;
    - (ii) the names of the individual inspectors designated by the national authority referred to in subparagraph i, where required by a Recommendation;
    - (iii) an example of the credentials issued to inspectors by the national authority referred to in subparagraph i except where a Recommendation requires the following ICCAT-approved credential:

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*



and

- (iv) for each inspection vessel designated by a national authority referred to in subparagraph i, its name, description, image, registration number, port of registry and, if different from the port of registry, the name of the port as marked on the hull, international radio call sign and particulars of any other communication capabilities.
- b) notify the Executive Secretary of any changes to the information it has provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) as soon as possible and, in all cases, before a new inspection vessel, inspector or national authority participates in the Scheme;
- c) ensure that each inspection vessel it authorizes to participate in the Scheme is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service, and displays the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in Annex [X];
- d) ensure that the inspectors and crew of any inspection vessel authorized and assigned to participate in the Scheme are competent to conduct inspection at-sea consistent with generally accepted international standards and are conversant with and have access to the ICCAT Recommendations in force; and
- e) ensure that any inspector it authorizes to participate in the Scheme remain under its operational control, is fully familiar with the fishing activities being inspected and has been issued the credentials notified pursuant to this paragraph.

#### ***Exchange of Inspectors<sup>1</sup>***

13. Contracting Parties are encouraged to enter into standing or *ad hoc* arrangements to allow for an inspector, authorized by a Contracting Party, to be deployed on inspection vessel of another Contracting Party to facilitate communication and coordination for the purpose of implementing the Scheme.
- a) Such arrangements should establish a process for the timely identification of the authorized inspection vessels involved and include provisions for the cooperative deployment of personnel and the use of vessels, aircraft or other items of equipment for fisheries surveillance and law enforcement purposes.
  - b) In addition to the notification requirements of paragraph 12, Contracting Parties shall notify the Executive Secretary of any arrangement reached under this paragraph.
  - c) Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels should, subject to having an agreement as outlined in this paragraph, embark authorized inspectors from another Contracting Party if available. Foreign inspectors may participate in all inspections conducted by the inspection vessel under this Scheme as agreed upon by the two Contracting Parties prior to deployment.

#### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

14. The Executive Secretary shall,
- a) establish, maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website accessible to all Contracting Parties, Cooperating non Contracting Parties, Fishing Entities or Entities:
    - i) a register including the information notified by the Contracting Parties under subparagraph 12.a; and
    - ii) information on the arrangements referred to in paragraph 13.
  - b) issue the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted at Annex [X] to Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels pursuant to the Scheme;
  - c) maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a standardized multi-language questionnaire developed by Contracting Parties for use in contacting fishing vessels and conducting boarding and inspection activities pursuant to the Scheme.

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<sup>1</sup> This section is intended, in part, to address some of the concerns raised at the IMM in 2013 regarding reciprocity in boarding and inspections. It is important to ensure that all Contracting Parties have an opportunity to participate in the Scheme. We look forward to working with other Members on refining the language in this section so that this objective is achieved.

## **Section IV: Inspections**

### ***Transparency and equitable treatment***

15. Inspection shall be conducted in a transparent, non-discriminatory manner taking into account, *inter alia*, vessel fishing patterns and compliance records, the presence of observers, the frequency and results of prior inspections, and the full range of measures available to monitor compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

### ***Priorities for inspections***

16. The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a fishing vessel:

- a) entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party that is eligible for inclusion in the ICCAT Record of Fishing Vessels, but is not included;
- b) where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the fishing vessel is, or has been, engaged in IUU fishing or in any activity in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- c) included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization; or
- d) pursuant to a request by a Contracting Party or a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question.

### ***Optimal use of inspection resources***

17. Contracting Parties shall direct their inspection vessels to seek to establish regular contact with other inspection vessels operating in the same area for the purpose of sharing information on sightings, inspections and other operational elements relevant to their activities under the Scheme.

### ***[Non-Contracting Party Fishing Vessels and Vessels of Undetermined Flag<sup>2</sup>***

18. An inspecting Contracting Party that sights a fishing vessel of a non-Contracting Party, or of indeterminate flag, engaged in fishing activities in the Convention area shall report the sighting immediately to the Executive Secretary.

19. A vessel reported pursuant to paragraph 18 is presumed to be undermining the effectiveness of the ICCAT Convention. The inspection vessel shall, where practicable, so advise the Master of the sighted vessel indicating that this information will be reported to the ICCAT Commission.

20. Where practicable, the inspection vessel shall request permission from the Master to board and inspect the fishing vessel. A report of the encounter and of any ensuing inspection shall be transmitted to the Executive Secretary.]

### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

21. The Executive Secretary shall,

- a) upon receipt, immediately distribute to the Contracting Parties the reports received pursuant to paragraphs 18 and 20; and
- b) compile, maintain, and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a list of vessels reported pursuant to paragraph 18 and encounters and inspections reported pursuant to paragraph 20.

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<sup>2</sup> It is important to address the issue of non-Contracting Party vessels and vessels of indeterminate flag in this Scheme in a manner that is consistent with what has already been agreed to by ICCAT (see Recommendation 97-11 and 98-11) as well as within other RFMOs. This text is bracketed only to reflect that further refinement of the wording is necessary to achieve that objective. We look forward to hearing the views of other Members.

## **Section V: Boarding and inspection procedures**

### *Conduct of inspections*

22. An inspection vessel that intends to undertake boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party pursuant to the Scheme shall:
  - a) seek to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, using the appropriate International Code of Signals or other internationally accepted means of alerting the vessel;
  - b) identify itself as an inspection vessel by communicating its name, registration number, international radio call sign and frequency;
  - c) advise the vessel of its intention to board and inspect the vessel pursuant to the Scheme;
  - d) initiate notice through its authorities to the point of contact of the fishing vessel; and
  - e) display the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in Annex [X] in a clearly visible fashion.
23. The inspection vessel and the inspectors shall make best efforts to communicate with the Master of the fishing vessel in a language that the Master can understand using the standardized multi-language questionnaire referred to in paragraph 14.c.
24. The number of inspectors assigned to an inspection party by the inspecting Contracting Party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to conduct an effective inspection safely and securely.
25. Boarding and inspection shall be conducted:
  - a) in accordance with generally accepted international standards, regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the fishing vessel and its crew; and
  - b) to the extent possible, in a manner that avoids:
    - i) undue interference with the lawful activity of the fishing vessel;
    - ii) actions that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
    - iii) harassment of the fishing vessel, its officers or crew.
26. In conducting an inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspectors shall:
  - a) upon boarding, present their credentials to the Master;
  - b) avoid interfering with the Master's ability to communicate with the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel;
  - c) inspect and record such images of the fishing vessel's license, gear, equipment, facilities, fish and fish products on board, and logbooks, records and documents as may be necessary to verify compliance with, or establish any suspected infringements of, the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - d) collect, and clearly document in the inspection report, any evidence of an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - e) record the inspection and any suspected infringement in the fishing vessel's logbook or, where the vessel's logbook is electronic, provide a written record of the inspection and any suspected infringement;
  - f) provide the Master with a copy of the inspection report;
  - g) complete the inspection within four [4] hours unless evidence of a serious infringement is found, or where a longer time period is required to monitor ongoing fishing operations and obtain related documentation issued by the Master; and

- h) except where they have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed a serious infringement and other action is authorized pursuant to paragraph 41, promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection.
27. Where the inspectors have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, they shall seek to so advise, without delay, any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel that may be present in the vicinity.

***Use of force***

28. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.
29. The inspectors shall promptly report any incident involving the use of force to their national authorities responsible for at-sea inspection, who shall advise the contact point of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel, and to the Executive Secretary.

***Duties of the Master of the fishing vessel***

30. Each Contracting Party shall require that the Master of every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag:
- a) when signalled to do so by an inspection vessel displaying the ICCAT flag or pennant, using the International Code of Signals, accepts and, to the extent compatible with good seamanship, facilitates boarding by the inspectors, unless the vessel is directly engaged in fishing activities, in which case the Master shall manoeuvre to safely facilitate boarding as soon as possible;
  - b) provides a standardized boarding ladder that meets the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) and ensures safety measures are in place to prevent and respond as required to an accident during boarding;
  - c) cooperates with and assists in the inspection;
  - d) facilitates the inspection of such equipment, catch, gear and documents as the inspectors may consider necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - e) ensures that the crew avoids interfering with, or obstructing the inspectors in the performance of their duties;
  - f) makes available the use of the vessel's communication equipment and operator, to the extent required by the inspectors;
  - g) facilitates communication by the inspectors with the crew and the flag Contracting Party of the inspection vessel;
  - h) provides the inspectors with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation;
  - i) takes such action as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of any seal affixed by an inspector and of any evidence remaining on board;
  - j) where the inspectors have made an entry in the logbooks, provides the inspectors with a copy of each page where such entry appears and, at the request of the inspector, signs each page to confirm that it is a true copy;
  - k) refrains from resuming fishing activity until the inspectors have completed the inspection and, in the case of a serious infringement, secured the evidence; and
  - l) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the inspectors.

***Refusal of boarding and inspection***

31. Where the Master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow boarding and inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately so advise the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary.
32. Upon receiving notification under paragraph 31, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:
  - a) except where generally accepted international regulations, procedures or practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the inspection, direct the Master to accept the inspection forthwith; and
  - b) where the Master does not comply with such direction:
    - i) order the Master to justify the refusal;
    - ii) where appropriate, take action in accordance with subparagraphs 40.a. and b; and
    - iii) promptly notify the Executive Secretary and the inspecting Contracting Party of the action it has taken.

**Section VI: Inspection report and follow-up**

***Inspection reports***

33. Each Contracting Party shall require that its inspectors:
  - a) upon completion of an inspection, complete an inspection report in the form set out in Annex [XX];
  - b) sign the inspection report in the presence of the Master, who shall be given the opportunity to add or have added to the report any observations;
  - c) request the Master to sign the report only as an acknowledgement of receipt; and
  - d) before disembarking, provide a copy of the report to the Master, duly noting any refusal by the Master to acknowledge receipt.

***Transmission and dissemination of inspection reports***

34. Upon completion of the inspection, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit the inspection report, if possible within [30] days, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.
35. Notwithstanding paragraph 34, where inspectors have noted an infringement in the inspection report, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit, within [10] days, a copy of the inspection report and all supporting documents, images or audio recordings, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

36. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the inspection report to the secure part of the ICCAT website.

**Section VII: Procedures relating to serious infringements**

***Serious infringements***

37. Each of the following constitutes a serious infringement:
  - a) fishing without a valid license, permit or authorization;



- b) significant failure to maintain accurate records of catch or catch-related data in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, or significant misreporting of catch or catch-related data;
- c) fishing in a closed area;
- d) fishing during a closed season;
- e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- f) significantly exceeding applicable catch limits or quotas;
- g) using prohibited fishing gear;
- h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel or its gear, or failing to mark fishing gear;
- i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an inspection or investigation of an infringement, including the breaking or tampering of marks or seals, or accessing sealed areas;
- j) committing multiple infringements which, taken together, constitute a serious disregard of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- k) assaulting, resisting, intimidating, harassing, interfering with, obstructing or unduly delaying inspectors or observers in the performance of their duties;
- l) tampering with, disabling, or interfering with the vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the fishing vessel where VMS is required by ICCAT Recommendations;
- m) operating a fishing vessel without VMS in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- n) presenting falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector so as to prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- o) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- p) failure to submit to an inspection;
- q) transshipping at sea in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- r) operating a fishing vessel without an observer in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations; and
- s) such other violations identified as a serious infringement in future ICCAT Recommendations.

#### ***Duties of the Inspectors***

38. Each Contracting Party shall require that, where its inspectors have noted a serious infringement in the inspection report, they:
- a) immediately notify their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection of all relevant particulars;
  - b) take all such measures as may be required to ensure the security and continuity of the evidence, including, as appropriate, marking or sealing the vessel's hold or gear for further investigation; and
  - c) where feasible, advise any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel they know to be in the vicinity of the serious infringement and of the action they have taken.

***Duties of the inspecting Contracting Party***

39. Where notified by its inspectors of a serious infringement, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately transmit written notification of the serious infringement and a description of the supporting evidence to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

***Duties of the Flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel***

40. Upon receiving notification pursuant to paragraph 39, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:

- a) acknowledge receipt of the notification without delay;
- b) require that the fishing vessel concerned:
  - i) ceases all fishing activity until it is satisfied that the infringement will not continue or be repeated and has so notified the Master;
  - ii) where appropriate to the conduct of a full and thorough investigation, to proceed immediately to a port or other location it designates for investigation under its authority; and
  - iii) report to the Executive Secretary the measures it has taken pursuant to its laws in relation to the infringement.

41. The flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel may authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take such enforcement action as it may specify with respect to the vessel. It may also authorize an inspector from another Contracting Party to board or remain on board the vessel as it proceeds to port and to participate in the port inspection.

***Failure of the flag Contracting Party to respond***

42. Where the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel fails to take action as required pursuant to paragraph 40, the inspectors shall immediately so advise their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection and record the failure in the inspection report.

43. The inspecting Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary of the flag Contracting Party's failure to respond.

44. The flag Contracting Party shall, without delay, provide to the Executive Secretary a written explanation of its failure to respond.

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

45. The Executive Secretary shall,

- a) upon receipt, post any notifications received pursuant to paragraphs 39 or 42, and any explanation received pursuant to paragraph 44, to the secure part of the ICCAT website;
- b) transmit, upon receipt, the justification received pursuant to paragraph 44 to the inspecting Contracting Party; and
- c) maintain a record of actions reported by the flag Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 40, post such record to the secure part of the ICCAT website, and refer the information to the Commission for its consideration.

**Section VIII: Follow-up enforcement action*****Cooperation***

46. Contracting Parties shall cooperate to facilitate judicial or other proceedings initiated as follow-up to a report submitted by an inspector pursuant to the Scheme.

***National treatment***

47. Each Contracting Party shall:

- a) without prejudice to their national legislation, treat interference by its fishing vessels, their Masters or crew with an inspector or an inspection vessel of another Contracting Party in the same manner as interference with its own inspectors within areas under its national jurisdiction; and
- b) accord treatment to reports of inspections conducted by inspectors of another Contracting Party consistent with that accorded to reports of their own inspectors.

***Duties of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel***

48. A Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:

- a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity or, authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take enforcement action as appropriate under the circumstances;
- b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;
- c) if the evidence so warrants, take judicial or administrative action, as appropriate; and
- d) ensure that any sanctions applied are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, deterring further infringements and, to the extent possible, depriving the offenders of the benefits accruing from the infringement, including, *inter alia*:
  - i) fines;
  - ii) seizure of the fishing vessel, illegal fishing gear and/or catches;
  - iii) suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish; and
  - iv) reduction or cancellation of any fishing allocations.
- e) notify the Executive Secretary of the measures taken pursuant to this paragraph as soon as possible.

**Section IX: Annual compliance report*****Reports by the Contracting Parties***

49. Each Contracting Party shall for the period ending on September 30 of that year, include in its annual report to the Commission, a summary of:

- a) the boarding and inspection activities it has conducted pursuant to the Scheme;
- b) the action it has taken in response to reported infringements by its fishing vessels, including any enforcement procedures and the sanctions it may have applied; and
- c) an explanation regarding every reported infringement concerning which it has taken no action.

***Report of the Executive Secretary***

50. The Executive Secretary shall submit to the ICCAT Commission before each annual meeting a report setting out a description of:
- a) the boarding and inspection activities and follow-up actions taken, as reported by each Contracting Party, for the period ending September 30;
  - b) the instances where boarding and inspection was refused by a fishing vessel of a Contracting Party, and any follow-up action taken by that Contracting Party in respect of such fishing vessel; and
  - c) the cases where force was used including the reported circumstances thereof.

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**

**Draft recommendation amending the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention area***

*(Proposed by Canada, the European Union, Ghana, Norway, Senegal, Turkey and the United States)*

*NOTING* the SCRS, in its 2011 report, indicated that the six hour time interval between VMS reports does not have enough resolution to be used for more useful scientific purposes and, therefore, recommended that VMS signals should be reported at no more than two hour interval;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)  
RECOMMENDS THAT:

Paragraph 3 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System for the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14] shall be replaced with the following:

3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1b) is collected and transmitted at least every four (4) hours. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel is not authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port; the fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.

New paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 shall be added to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System for the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14] as follows:

7. CPCs are encouraged to adopt other measures more stringent than those provided in this Recommendation.
8. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than 2017 and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness, including by increasing the transmission frequency, taking into account SCRS advice, the different nature of various fisheries, cost implications, and other relevant considerations.
9. To inform this review, the SCRS is requested to provide advice on the VMS data that would most assist the SCRS in carrying out its work, including frequency of transmission for the different ICCAT fisheries.

**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4****Clarification of rules for submitting vessel lists***ICCAT Secretariat*

There are now several ICCAT Recommendations which require the submission of vessels lists for inclusion in the ICCAT Record of Vessels. The rules pertaining to the submissions seem to differ, which complicates the management of the data base. In addition, the Secretariat has received requests for clarification during the year, and doubts have arisen as to the correct submission of each list. Below are a summary of the current requirements with requests for clarification or guidance where applicable. Some of these issues were discussed during the PA2/COC intersessional meeting in March 2014, and the findings of that group have been included in this updated document.

**1. Vessels of 20 metres or greater (general positive list, all species, 20m+), Rec. 11-12**

Each CPC shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the list of its fishing vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater (referred as “LSFVs”) that are authorized to operate in the Convention area. The initial list and any subsequent changes shall be submitted electronically in a format provided by the Secretariat [CP01-VessLsts]. This list **shall include** the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- IMO number (if any)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT)
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Gear used
- Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping. However, in no case shall the authorization period include dates more than 30 days prior to the date of submission of the list to the Secretariat.

**Note:** This list is not annual, and hence there is no deadline, other than the 30 day rule as noted in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Rec. 11-12.

*Request for guidance:*

1. *What action should the Secretariat take when a CPC requests inclusion of vessels with authorization periods prior to those stipulated, where the rule is known by the CPC but problems, e.g. with data systems or oversight are alleged.*

2. *Some CPCs do not submit all the information required on the grounds that it is not available or is confidential. Where this is ‘non-optional’ information, what action should the Secretariat take? Clarification on which elements can be excluded on the grounds of confidentiality is requested. Is confidentiality limited to information on vessel lists, or can this be extended to any submission requirement?*

*Request for clarification:*

*Rec. 11-12 refers to vessels which may “retain on board, tranship or land tuna and tuna like species” The **current understanding** of the Secretariat is that Carrier vessels mentioned in Rec. 12-06 are not required to be entered on the 20m+ list, nor does the 30 day retroactivity rule apply to carrier vessels.*

**2. Bigeye/yellowfin vessels (vessels which fish BET/YFT or are used in support of BET/YFT fishing operations of 20 m or greater) – TROP, Rec. 11-01**

CPCs shall by 1 July each year notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

The same format as 1 [CP01-VessLsts] should be used, but dates should be inserted in both the 20m+ and the TROP columns on form B of CP01.

**Note:** This list is annual and should be received by 1 July. The retroactive listing of vessels shall not be allowed according to Rec. 11-01, but updates may be sent during the year in accordance with paragraph 6 of Rec. 11-01. It is therefore inferred that start dates for authorization must be the same or later than the date of notification of the vessel.

*Clarification request: If deadline is 1 July, and the list is to be submitted annually, for what period should be vessels be reported? If no retroactive submissions are permitted, should this period be 1 July – 30 June each year? If changes are allowed at any time, what is the purpose of annual submission?*

**3. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing vessels (E-BFT catching vessels), Rec. 12-03 / [13-07]**

“Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 21 to 25, when applicable, and otherwise by 1 March, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.a)” [Rec. 12-03] / [13-07]

The form CP01-VessLsts should be used and the applicable columns under the E-BFT catching vessels section completed. Note if the vessel is 20m or greater, it should **also** be reported for inclusion in that Record, which can be done by completing the dates in the 20m or greater column at the time of reporting for the E-BFT list, or in a separate submission, as preferred.

Deadlines for receipt:

- Large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels fishing in the area West of 10°W and North of 42°N: 1 July.
- Large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels fishing in areas other than West of 10°W and North of 42°N: 1 December.
- Purse seine vessels: 24 April.
- Baitboats and trollers: 1 June.
- Trawlers and Recreational /sport fishing vessels: 16 May.
- All other gears: 1 March.

Any changes to the original list must be justified.

**4. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna other vessels (E-BFT- Other vessels), Rec. 12-03 / [13-07]**

The list of other vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.b) shall be submitted one month before the start of their period of authorization (Rec. 12-03) / [13-07].

The form CP01-VessLsts should be used and the applicable columns under the E-BFT Other vessels section completed. Note if the vessel is 20m or greater, it should also be reported for inclusion in that Record, which can be done by completing the dates in the 20m or greater column at the time of reporting for the E-BFT list, or in a separate submission, as preferred.

Any changes to the original must be justified.

*Requests for clarification:*

1. Where vessels have been in BFT lists in previous years, can start date of authorisation remain as original, or should be changed to current year?

**Current understanding:** The lists are annual and start date should change each year. Vessels which have expired (i.e. previous year vessels) should be removed from the list.

**From PA2/COC report 2014:** The group agreed with the current understanding as expressed in the document mentioned above that lists are annual, the start date should change each year, and vessels whose authorizations have expired should be removed from the list.

2. For BFT\_other lists Rec. 12-03/ [13-07] currently reads: *The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.b) shall be submitted one month before the start of their period of authorisation.*

Not all BFT\_other vessels of a given CPC, however, have the same authorisation periods and hence a “list” cannot be submitted, but inclusions in the Record. Guidance is sought on the following:

- a) Can multiple submissions be accepted?
- b) Must these lists be annual?
- c) When a vessel is already on the Record, but an extension to the authorisation period is reported, does the one month in advance rule apply, or is notification before expiry sufficient?

**Current understanding:** As the Secretariat is unsure how to deal with this issue, in 2013 multiple submissions have been accepted, but on the general assumption that authorisations should be for yearly periods. For new vessels, or vessels which have already expired, the one month in advance rule should apply, but for vessels which are still authorised, extensions to authorisation periods are accepted any time before the expiry of the current authorisation.

**From PA2/COC report 2014:** The group agreed with the current understanding noting that the extensions of authorization periods should be accepted at any time before the expiration of the current authorization and for new vessels, the one month advance rule should apply except for the replacements of authorized vessels.

3. *Rec. 12-03 / [13-07] does not define "other" vessels beyond catching vessels being excluded. Catching vessels are defined as b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources. Some CPCs have included vessels which may take bluefin tuna as by-catch in the BFT-other vessel list, as these the primary use of these vessels is not the commercial capture of bluefin tuna. This results in these vessels being assigned an ICCAT number, which is then used on the BCDs. Can BFT-other vessels catch bluefin and report BCDs?*

**Current understanding:** *The Secretariat has included the lists of BFT-other vessels as reported by CPCs with by-catch vessels included. While Rec. 12-03 / [13-07] stipulates that a vessel cannot be on both BFT catching and BFT other lists, there is no provision to indicate that BFT-other vessels cannot take bluefin as by-catch. Confirmation that by-catch vessels may/should be included on BFT-other vessel list is sought.*

4. *End of authorization Dates of Vessels BFT\_Catching/BFT\_other list:*

*When a vessel is reported as having finished its quota or finished operating in a given year, which of the following actions should be taken:*

- a) No action, the vessel remains in the Record for remainder of the current year with the original dates reported*
- b) The dates of the vessel authorization should be amended to reflect the end date, but the vessel continues to appear on the web site for the remainder of the current year*
- c) The vessel should be removed from the Record of authorized vessels (on the assumption it is no longer authorized)*

**Current understanding:** *The Secretariat is currently operating under the instructions of the CPCs and modifying dates (option b) when requested. Confirmation that this is in accordance with para 58 of 12-03 is sought.*

**From PA2/COC report 2014:** The group agreed that it should be up to each CPC to request modification of authorization dates and that they are allowed to do so.

## 5. Vessels involved in transshipment, Rec. 12-06

Two different lists are required since the entry into force of Rec. 12-06.

### 5.1 Carrier vessels

“In order for its carrier vessels to be included on the ICCAT Record List of Carrier Vessels, a flag CPC or flag non-Contracting Party (NCP) shall submit each calendar year, electronically, and in the format specified by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, a list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments from LSPLVs in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number (if any)
- IMO number (if any)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign
- Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Time period authorized for transshipping.”

According to the Recommendation, the list should be sent once a year, but no deadline is stipulated. There is no indication of whether or not retroactive reporting of vessels may be admitted.

*Clarification request: Is retroactive reporting allowed, i.e. can start date be more than 30 days prior to notification?*

**NOTE regarding carriers:** At the PA2/COC meeting, it was agreed that those Non-Contracting Parties which had reported vessels for inclusion in the ICCAT Record could also include those carriers on the E-BFT other list, but that this would be limited to NCP carriers and not extended to other vessel types.



## 5.2 LSPLVs authorized to transship at sea

“Each flag CPC that authorizes its LSPLVs to transship at sea shall submit each calendar year electronically and in the format specified by the Executive Secretary, the list of its LSPLVs that are authorized to transship at sea.

This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number
- Time period authorized for transshipping at sea
- Flag(s), name(s) and register number(s) of the carrier vessel(s) authorized for use by the LSPLVs.”

The form developed for reporting is CP46-VessTran. No deadline is specified for receipt of information. It is understood that this should be reported before transshipment takes place.

*Clarification request: Is retroactive reporting allowed, i.e. can start date be more than 30 days prior to notification?*

## 6. List of vessels authorised to catch Mediterranean swordfish, Rec. 11-03

1. At the latest on the 31 August 2012, and on the 15 January for the following years, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the lists of all fishing vessels authorized to catch swordfish for the current year in the Mediterranean Sea. CPCs shall provide these lists according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
2. Procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 11-12]* shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

*Clarification request: If procedures from Rec. 11-12 apply, the Secretariat understands that the earliest authorization period for vessels reported by 15 January deadline is 16 December of previous year, but that changes can be made, as they arise to the list during the year (within 30 days of authorization). If changes are allowed at any time, what is the purpose of annual submission?*

## 7. List of northern albacore vessels, Rec. 98-08

Rec. 98-08, paragraph 2 stipulates that “Contracting Parties, and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities shall submit, by 1 June 1999, a list of the vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, participating in a directed fishery for northern albacore in the years referred to in paragraph 1 and, by 1 June and every year thereafter, the list of vessels which will participate in a directed fishery for this stock.”

No specific information is required by the Recommendation, but for coherency the Secretariat has included this in the ICCAT Record of Vessel format, although the information is not published. Despite a clear deadline being set, the Secretariat often receives changes to this list in the intersessional period.

*Request for clarification: Should changes to the list sent on 1 June be processed, or should CPCs send only one list per year? If changes are allowed at any time, what is the purpose of annual submission?*

### *Addendum 1 to Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4*

#### **Changes from to BFT catching to BFT other lists**

Can vessels which were initially reported for BFT-Catching change their authorisation to BFT-Other Vessels lists without applying the one month in advance of authorisation rule?

The following interpretation has been put forward:

- 1) The one month prior rule for BFT-Other vessels does not apply to vessels which were previously reported for BFT-Catching list within the relevant deadlines, but;

- 2) The waiver of the one month prior rule would only apply if the BFT catching vessel has not actually carried out or participated in any fishing operations for BFT. Vessels which caught BFT or participated in any fishing operation for BFT wishing to change lists would be subject to the one month in advance rule.
- 3) The waiver of the one month prior rule would apply only if the vessel was reported for BFT-Catching list, but not to vessels previously reported for other lists (MED-SWO, carrier, 20m+, N. ALB; TROP).
- 4) The change from BFT-catching list to BFT-other list is not retroactive; i.e. the change must be requested before the vessel commences any activity.

#### Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.4

##### **Request from the Secretariat for clarifications of provisions contained in ICCAT conservation and management measures**

At the intersessional meetings of Panel II / COC and PWG meetings held in Madrid, March 2014, it was agreed that the issues below be referred to the IMM Working Group for consideration.

##### **A. PORT INSPECTION: *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 12-07]**

1. Rec. 12-07: It has been noted that few CPCs have sent their lists of authorised ports, but the Secretariat has received information regarding vessels entering ports outside their CPC which are not on the list. The Recommendation is silent on the obligations of flag CPCs of the vessels in relation to this measure. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendations, can CPCs allow their vessels to enter ports which are not on the ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports?
2. CPCs shall apply Recommendation [12-07] in respect of foreign fishing vessels *carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed or transhipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels"*. Does this include carrier vessels and container vessels, or only catching vessels?
3. Para 20 of Rec. 12-07 states that "*The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.*" What should the Secretariat do with the reports received if no infringement is reported?
4. Para 26 c) of Rec. 12-07 provides that "*Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation*". To date, one Cooperating Party has requested assistance with training, and has indicated that they could pay for such training, but the Secretariat has no guidance to offer. What is the role of the Secretariat in the implementation of this provision?

**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.4****Draft recommendation by ICCAT to support effective implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT scheme for minimum standards for inspection in port (Rec. 12-07)****(Proposal by the United States)*

*RECALLING* the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;

*FURTHER RECALLING* *Recommendation by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)*;

*HIGHLIGHTING*, in particular, that Recommendation 12-07 requires Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs), either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, to provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, among other things, (1) develop their capacity to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection; (2) facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programs of relevant organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of such a system, and (3) assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of Recommendation 12-07;

*RECOGNIZING* that the Commission, through Resolution 03-21 and Recommendations 11-26 and 13-19, has established several funds to facilitate attendance at meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, enhance the scientific capacity of developing state scientists, and improve data collection and quality assurance;

*ALSO RECOGNIZING* that a fund has been established under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Seas of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) to provide assistance to developing States Parties to the Agreement for a number of purposes, including to build capacity for activities in key areas such as monitoring, control and surveillance;

*NOTING* that several Contracting Parties, on their own initiative, have been carrying out capacity building activities to assist developing coastal States in improving their management of ICCAT fisheries, including tools and approaches for collecting and assessing data, conducting monitoring, control, and surveillance activities, and enhancing domestic legal frameworks;

*DESIRING* to take further concrete steps in ICCAT to support the implementation of CPC capacity building responsibilities with regard to Recommendation 12-07 to ensure the program is as effective as possible in promoting compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA [(ICCAT)]  
RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A special Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCSF) be established to support and strengthen the development and implementation of effective systems of port inspection by developing CPCs that meet or exceed the minimum standards set out in *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)*.
2. Funds from the MCSF shall be used to provide technical assistance to port inspectors and other relevant enforcement personnel from developing CPCs. Such technical assistance can include, among other things, conducting or arranging for in country training activities and supporting the participation of relevant developing CPC personnel in training programs offered by other CPCs or organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of port inspection systems, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions, and the resolution of disputes pursuant to Recommendation 12-07.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, for participation in meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies where port inspection issues may be discussed, developing CPCs should seek funding support through the Meeting Participation Fund established per ICCAT Recommendation 11-26. Further, all potential eligible applicants for support through the MCSF should explore alternative avenues of funding available to developing CPCs, such as the UNSFA Part VII fund, prior to applying to the MCSF.
4. The MCSF shall be financed, at least initially, by ICCAT's Working Capital Fund. CPCs are encouraged to supplement the MCSF through voluntary contributions. The fund may also be supplemented from other sources as the Commission may identify. The Commission will identify a procedure for supplying funds to the MCSF in the future as needed.
5. The initial allocation to the MCSF will be determined based on an assessment of developing CPC needs. In that regard, developing CPCs interested in seeking assistance from the MCSF should provide a report to the Commission on their progress in implementing Recommendation 12-07 and identify specific areas where training or other assistance is needed.
6. The ICCAT Secretariat will administer the MCSF in accordance with the same financial controls as apply to regular budget appropriations.
7. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall:
  - a. establish a process for notifying CPCs annually of the level of available funds in the MCSF;
  - b. develop a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, circulate this information to the Commission for intersessional review and approval, and, once agreed, post it on the public portion of the ICCAT website;
  - c. develop and circulate to the Commission for intersessional review and approval, a process and procedures for evaluating requests for assistance from the MCSF to determine the level and type of assistance to provide taking into account available resources, Commission priorities, and the need to ensure fair and balanced access to the fund;
  - d. notify the Commission and the requesting developing CPC of the details of the assistance to be provided without delay; and
  - e. submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the MCSF, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the fund and a summary of all assistance provided.
8. CPCs with the ability to provide relevant technical assistance to developing CPCs are strongly encouraged to explore bilateral or other arrangements to provide such assistance. CPCs are also encouraged to consider ways they may be able to support any ICCAT-sponsored initiatives, such as by providing relevant experts to conduct trainings.
9. The Commission shall coordinate, where feasible and appropriate, its port inspection capacity building activities with such activities of other RFMOs, the FAO, and other relevant entities.
10. This recommendation will be evaluated and reviewed at the latest in 2017.

**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.4**

**Draft recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements**

*MINDFUL* of the data reporting requirements for all CPCs and the importance of complete statistical reporting to the work of SCRS and the Commission;

*MINDFUL* of the need to ensure transparency among CPCs in respect of conditions for accessing the waters of coastal States, in particular to facilitate joint efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

*RECALLING* the Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering [Rec. 02-21] that establishes reporting and other requirements for chartering arrangements;

*RECALLING* the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in Relation to their Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 03-12], which requires CPCs to ensure 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 available to the flag CPC;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) that allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters under their jurisdiction for species managed by ICCAT, and CPCs whose vessels fish in waters under the jurisdiction of another CPC or non-Contracting party (NCP) for species managed by ICCAT pursuant to an agreement, shall, individually or jointly, notify the Commission prior to beginning fishing activities of the existence of such agreements and provide to the Commission information concerning these agreements, including:
  - The CPCs, NCPs, or other entities involved in the agreement;
  - The time period or periods covered by the agreement;
  - The number of vessels and gear types authorized;
  - The stock or species authorized for harvest, including any applicable catch limits;
  - The CPC's quota or catch limit to which the catch will be applied;
  - Monitoring, control, and surveillance measures required by the flag CPC and coastal State involved with, for the coastal State, a particular specification of:
    - i) the National authority (contact coordinates) responsible for issuing fishing licences or permits,
    - ii) the National authority (contact coordinates) responsible for MCS activities.
  - Data reporting obligations stipulated in the agreement, including those between the parties involved, as well as those regarding information that must be provided to the Commission;
  - A copy of the written agreement.
2. For agreements in existence prior to the entry into force of this recommendation, the information specified in paragraph 1 shall be provided in advance of the 2014 Commission meeting.
3. When an access agreement is modified in a manner that changes any of the information specified in paragraph 1, these changes shall be promptly notified to the Commission.
4. Consistent with ICCAT data reporting requirements, flag CPCs involved in the agreements specified in paragraph 1 shall ensure that all target and incidental catches made pursuant to these agreements are reported to the SCRS.
5. Flag CPCs and coastal CPCs involved in the agreements specified in paragraph 1 shall provide a summary of the activities carried out pursuant to each agreement, including all catches made pursuant to these agreements, in their annual report to the Commission.
6. In cases where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters under their jurisdiction for species managed by ICCAT through a mechanism other than a CPC-to-CPC or CPC-to-NCP agreement, the coastal CPC shall be solely responsible for providing the information required by this Recommendation. Flag CPCs with vessels involved in such an agreement, however, shall endeavour to provide to the Commission relevant information regarding that agreement as indicated in paragraph 1.
7. The Secretariat shall develop a form for reporting the information specified in this Recommendation and annually compile CPC submissions into a report to be presented to the Commission for consideration at its annual meeting.

8. This recommendation does not apply to chartering arrangements covered by the Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering [Rec. 02-21].
9. All information provided pursuant to this Recommendation shall be consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
10. The Recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements [Rec. 11-16] is replaced by this Recommendation.

**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.4**

**Draft recommendation by ICCAT on monitoring and avoiding cetacean interactions in ICCAT fisheries**  
*(Document submitted by the United States)*

*RECOGNIZING* the potential for interactions between cetaceans and ICCAT fisheries;

*CONCERNED* about incidental mortality or serious injury to cetaceans that may occur in ICCAT fisheries;

*RECALLING* that under Recommendation 10-10, Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) with national observer programs shall require their observers to record and report on, *inter alia*, the bycatch of marine mammals;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that Recommendation 11-10 requires CPCs with logbooks and observer programs to collect bycatch data in their domestic scientific observer programs and logbook programs, and report these data to the Secretariat in the format specified by SCRS;

*NOTING* measures adopted by other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations aimed at monitoring and avoiding cetacean interactions, and committed to taking similar measures in ICCAT fisheries;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entity, or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall prohibit their flag vessels from using a purse seine net to intentionally encircle a cetacean in the Convention area.
2. CPCs shall require that, in the event that a cetacean is unintentionally encircled in the purse seine net, the master of the vessel shall take reasonable steps to ensure its safe release, while taking into consideration the safety of the crew. This shall include stopping the net roll and not recommencing fishing operations until the animal has been released and is no longer at risk of recapture.
3. CPCs, or the Secretariat in the case of regional observer programs, shall require observers to collect information necessary to determine whether and what species of cetaceans were killed or seriously injured in the sets or other gear deployments, and in the case of purse seine fisheries, whether a purse seine net was intentionally used to encircle a cetacean in the Convention area.
4. Where appropriate, based on the information collected under paragraph 3, an authorized representative of the CPC implementing the domestic observer program or an authorized representative of the regional observer program may certify in a written statement whether and what species of cetaceans were killed or seriously injured in the sets or other gear deployments in which ICCAT species were caught and, in the case of purse seine fisheries, whether such cetaceans were intentionally encircled during the fishing trip. Such certifications should be made available to the vessel owner or operator, if requested.
5. The Commission requests that the SCRS develop best practice guidelines for the safe release and handling of cetaceans, taking into account the guidelines already developed in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, and that these guidelines be submitted to the 2016 Commission meeting for endorsement.
6. CPCs shall report on the implementation of this Recommendation in their Annual Reports, including any instances of non-compliance with paragraph 1 by their flag vessels and actions taken to address such non-compliance.

**4.5 REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM) (Barcelona, Spain, 26-28 May 2014)**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the Standing Working Group (SWGSM), Dr. Martin Tsamenyi (Ghana), opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

At the invitation of the SWGSM Chairman, the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stefaan Depypere (EU), took the floor to remind the SWGSM of the basic objective of this meeting. He referred to the general discussion on ocean governance (especially The Ocean Summit in San Francisco) and the criticism that is made of this RFMO. He emphasized that this criticism is not justified and that ICCAT functions well but it is for us to prove this. He noted that good science-based decision taking is part of our good practice and this is why this Working Group matters so much. He emphasized that reaching a good mutual understanding between scientists and managers is critical and that this is our challenge for the next three days and for the future. He encouraged the SWGSM to take on an open and proactive stance in their conversations. Finally, he stated that this is not a negotiation but a meeting to exchange views and explanations.

The Executive Secretary introduced the following CPCs to the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, United States Uruguay. In addition, Chinese Taipei attended as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting: Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, International Sustainable Seafood Foundation, Pew Environment Group, and WWF. The list of participants is appended as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5**.

**2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

It was proposed that item 5.3 (Possible Suggestions for Improvement) be combined with agenda item 12. The agenda was adopted without further changes and is appended as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5**.

**3. Nomination of the rapporteur**

Dr. Alyson Fleming (US) served as rapporteur for the meeting.

**4. Review of the objectives and expected meeting outcomes**

The Chair reviewed the charge to the Working Group, as established in Rec. [13-18] and reiterated that the intention of the SWGSM is to improve the dialogue between scientists and managers to foster mutual understanding between these two groups and facilitate more streamlined science-based decision making.

It was agreed that ICCAT would benefit by giving SCRS clearer guidance and information on how the Commission needs could best be served while, at the same time, ensuring SCRS independence in its work in order to provide the best and most rigorous scientific advice possible. There was significant support for efforts to continue to strengthen a spirit of inclusivity, trust, and transparency in the SCRS process and in enhancing the communications between the SCRS and the Commission. Several CPCs identified expectations for the Working Group, many of which are further discussed in subsequent sections.

**5. Overview of the ICCAT framework for decision-making, including inter alia, the Convention, Rec. [11-13], and other relevant international instruments**

***5.1 Current template and content of scientific advice and management recommendations and information on the current use by managers, when establishing management measures, of information provided by the SCRS***

Dr. Fabio Hazin provided a presentation on this sub-agenda item. He noted that Rec. [11-13] established basic principles to guide the development of management measures, in accordance to stock status, and that Rec. [11-14] requires the SCRS annual report to provide statements characterizing the robustness of methods applied to the assessment of stock status as well as the main contents and format of the information to be provided to the Commission.

**6. Overview of the basic components of precautionary management strategies, including precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches**

***6.1 Management objectives and timelines associated with rebuilding and the management of stocks under the purview of ICCAT***

Ms. Kim Blankenkoper presented on this sub-item of the agenda. She presented a document that categorized the stocks into three major categories: 1) stocks under rebuilding programs, 2) stocks under management plans, including rebuilt stocks, and 3) assessed stocks but no (or no specific) ICCAT management measures in place. She indicated that ICCAT has not always been entirely consistent in what elements are included in recommendations to maintain or rebuild stocks.

The complexity of the science-to-management process was highlighted, and it was noted that management decisions are not always based on scientific advice on stock status alone but are influenced by other factors such as socio-economics. It was suggested that stock management decisions should take a comprehensive view. For instance, management decisions should not only consider TAC levels but also decisions to ensure effective implementation, such as strong monitoring, control, and surveillance requirements. The need for robust data from all fisheries was also stressed to improve the basis for taking management decisions. A concern was raised by some parties that basing management on MSY could be problematic as MSY may change including if the selectivity of the gear changes. Some suggested that, due to potential changes in the MSY level, flexibility on the part of management is critical to ensure the sustainability of the resources. Some parties stressed that MSY should be set as a limit that should not be exceeded. In this regard, particular concern was expressed at the fact that most stock assessments are always done with data that are already at least two years old.

It was suggested that a template of basic or core elements to be included in future management plans could be developed in order to create more cohesiveness and consistency in those recommendations and to clarify the important questions managers need to ask themselves. The importance of retaining some flexibility in the development of those recommendations, however, was stressed.

***6.2 Basic concept of Harvest Control Rules, Limit, Threshold and Target Reference points as well as whether the current stock assessment methods in ICCAT can provide enough basis for considering such reference points***

Mr. Masanori Miyahara presented on this sub-item of the agenda. He noted that under UNFSA, HCRs are defined as: 1) setting LRP (e.g.  $F_{MSY}$  as a minimum standard), 2) setting pre-agreed conservation and management actions, and 3) taking the pre-agreed action when the stock status reaches the LRP. He noted some confusion around the interpretation of LRP especially regarding  $B_{msy}$ , i.e. a B-based LRP below which a rebuilding programs should be established and B-based LRP below which severe management actions including suspension of fishing are needed.

Dr. Yukio Takeuchi showed the sensitivity of  $SSB_{msy}$  for eastern Atlantic BFT through different recruitment scenarios used in the 2012 stock assessment and also explained the recent move of the IATTC scientific advisory committee in advocating an LRP associated with the point at which the risk of recruitment collapse is high.



### ***6.3 Possible reference points associated with different management objectives; Limit, threshold, and target reference point; probability levels associated with different reference points***

Mr. Antonio Cervantes presented on this sub-item of the agenda. He explained that any fisheries management framework needs to be supported by clear management objectives to be expressed by the policy makers through a specific decision-making process. In this context the different scenarios derived from the use of MSY either as a limit or as a target reference point as well as the probability levels that should be associated to them were explained.

### ***6.4 Harvest Control Rules/management procedures that support management action e.g. TACs, effort or capacity limits and other aspects, including data collection and analyses***

Dr. Victor Restrepo presented on this sub-item of the agenda. He explained Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) as one of many elements in a harvest strategy, including data collection, setting targets and limits and associated probabilities, and estimating stock status relative to the reference points. He noted that a comprehensive management strategy should consider the type of data collected and used in the assessment, and perhaps even evaluation of the benefit of collecting additional or new data.

Questions were posed regarding the current capacity for correctly estimating MSY-based reference points, especially in data-poor stocks scenarios. It was noted that alternatives or proxies are available and that HCRs allow for considerable flexibility and exploration of the most appropriate reference points. While it was noted that MSY may change over time, these changes in MSY can be detected and measured and, therefore, the reference points can be adjusted accordingly. Rec. [11-13] was highlighted as an excellent foundation that can now be elaborated on by the SWGSM. It was emphasized that managers should provide further guidance on terms that are undefined in Rec. [11-13] such as acceptable time lines and probability levels. Without prejudice to future management decisions, one CPC suggested that the SCRS could run some scenarios that looked at different probability levels of maintaining the stock in the green zone or recovering depleted stocks as called for in Rec. [11-13], such as 70%, 80%, and 90%, as examples to help illustrate the application of HCRs to inform future discussions.

## **7. Dealing with uncertainty and variability**

### ***7.1 Different sources of variability and uncertainties and their subsequent impact on (i) stock status relative to reference points, and (ii) the interpretation of the Kobe Strategy Matrices and general discussion, including input from managers on acceptable probability levels and from scientists on associated risk, for maintaining priority stocks at, or rebuilding them to, target levels***

Dr. Gerald Scott presented on this sub-item of the agenda. Noting the underlying management objective in Rec. [11-13] is to maintain or attain the “green zone” of the Kobe chart with “high probability” in a “short time”, Dr. Scott indicated that choices about what is “high probability” and “short time” were areas of decision for the Commission while quantifying and characterizing the uncertainty in stock status and future prospects of the stock is a function of the Scientific Committee.

A number of points were raised during discussion. It was reiterated that Rec. [11-13] is an important underpinning for advancing the Precautionary Approach in fishery management decisions for ICCAT. As gaps in data used in stock assessments for determining status exist and significantly contribute to uncertainty, it was noted that one method to reduce uncertainty was to implement programs for near real-time data collection, especially for stocks undergoing rebuilding.

It has, however, been acknowledged that the uncertainties are inherent to the fisheries management process. Therefore, the dialogue between scientists and fishery managers will be better able to take into account these uncertainties in decision making. A number of CPCs also noted the importance of involving stakeholders in future dialogue on the setting of management objectives and including socio-economic and ecosystem considerations.

## **8. Framework for the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs)**

### ***8.1 Consideration of biological, ecological, social, economic and/or other information***

Ms. Faith Scattolon presented on this sub-item of the agenda. She presented an overview of Canada's Precautionary Approach Framework, with a focus on the sources of information which managers should consider when developing Harvest Control Rules. Under the framework, HCRs and associated management actions are developed for each zone (i.e. critical, cautious, and healthy) as part of the overall harvest rate strategy. These rules and actions vary in relation to pre-determined target and limit reference points, and are designed to achieve the desired outcome by affecting the removal rate. To demonstrate the complexity of including socio-economic considerations in the development of HCRs, an overview of the Canadian management framework for its domestic Atlantic halibut fishery was presented.

### ***8.2 Possible process for assessing HCRs, particularly in the context of the development of Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)***

Dr. Laurence Kell presented on this sub-item of the agenda. He presented the development of Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) as a possible process for assessing HCRs. Considering that decisions need to be made in the face of incomplete information, Dr. Kell noted that a precautionary approach requires HCRs to avoid undesirable outcomes. He explained MSE as a simulation modeling tool to evaluate the impact of the main sources of uncertainty on management goals. He outlined the MSE process steps: identify objectives, select hypotheses, build models, identify alternative management strategies, run the simulations using HCRs, and agree on the management strategies that best accomplish goals.

The discussion that followed 8.1 and 8.2 reiterated the benefits of increased dialogue between scientists and managers and a need to consider the current working model of ICCAT and whether improvements could be made regarding interaction and communication within and between the SCRS and the Commission. There was significant interest in the MSE process and capabilities and how the application of MSE within ICCAT would occur on a practical level. It was announced that an interactive, hands-on exploration of MSE by both scientists and managers within ICCAT was planned for the near-future. It was noted that capacity building by each party would serve to create better understanding on the part of scientists to understand what options/parameters managers would want considered in the models and on the part of managers to understand how the scientists were utilizing the models. During the discussion, it was suggested that MSE could be a useful tool for managers when including social and economic considerations in the development of HCRs.

## **9. Overview of relevant work by SCRS**

Dr. Santiago, the SCRS Chair, presented on this item of the agenda. He presented ongoing work by the SCRS addressing development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluations. Dr. Santiago noted that Rec. [11-13] establishes the guiding principles for adoption of management measures, based on scientific stock status evaluations and likewise considers uncertainties in those evaluations. These guiding principles provide a basis for the design of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and the SCRS has recommended development of a generic Harvest Control Rule framework upon which stock-specific robustness testing will be conducted. Work on North Atlantic swordfish, northern Albacore and bluefin tuna is underway and work on skipjack will be initiated during 2014. Dr. Santiago reiterated that progressing this work requires feedback from the Commission, through the type of dialogue initiated by the Working Group, on the concepts of 'high probability' and 'short period' as described in Rec. [11-13].

## **10. Overview of relevant work by the SCRS Strategic Plan and annual work programme**

In response to Rec. [13-18], establishing the Terms of Reference for the Working Group, Dr. Santiago provided information on a draft Strategic Plan on Science for the functioning and orientation of the SCRS from 2015-2020. This draft Plan identifies possible further improvements in ICCAT science and research needs and priorities, and will be further refined at this year's SCRS meeting before being provided to the Commission for consideration in November 2014. The intent of presenting this information was to elicit suggestions for improvement and to gain feedback on how well the draft Plan meets the needs of the Commission.

Summaries of the presentations given under items 5 to 10 are included in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**.

### **11. Suggestions for further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes and the identification of research needs and priorities**

CPCs expressed appreciation for the work of the SCRS and the draft Strategic Plan and provided some suggestions for improving its clarity before it is presented for formal consideration by the Commission. It was noted that understanding the budgetary and workload implications of this draft as well as a better linkage to the conservation objectives of ICCAT would be quite useful in prioritizing the elements identified in the document.

In addition, some noted that for certain areas of research proposed in the draft Strategic Plan it is important to gain feedback from managers and stakeholders. Such feedback could relate to important elements of the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management as well as socio-economic objectives for consideration in incorporating such objectives into Harvest Control Rules. It is understood that there should be a broader participation of stakeholders on these issues. One party noted that CPCs should play a primary role for engaging stakeholders on these matters.

It was noted that management strategy evaluation can be a useful tool in evaluating potential Harvest Control Rules. The Chair of the SCRS reported that the SCRS is refining methods related to MSE processes. It is important that a strong dialogue take place between scientists and managers on the use of MSE in evaluating Harvest Control Rules.

### **12. Identification of matters for presentation to and consideration by the Commission, including any recommendations as well as proposed next steps for SWGSM**

There was broad agreement that the first meeting of the Working Group was very successful and the SWGSM made the following recommendations:

- 1) There should be another meeting of the Working Group in 2015. On the issue of the possible subject matters to be discussed at the next meeting, many delegations were of the view that it would be useful to proceed with practical examples that could help advance the dialogue for individual stocks. However, it was also suggested that dialogue of a general nature continue on issues such as acceptable levels of risk, targets, limits and time horizons based on Rec. [11-13].
- 2) To further improve participation, it was recommended that in future meetings of the SWGSM the Commission consider providing funds for two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) for those CPCs needing assistance. It was also suggested that the next meeting should have a balance in the numbers of participating scientists and managers in order to meet the objectives of Rec. [13-18].

Many participants suggested that skipjack, which will be assessed in 2014, will provide a good example to examine Harvest Control Rules. North Atlantic albacore and North Atlantic swordfish, stocks for which the SCRS has already advanced HCR development and testing, were also considered as good candidates. Many delegations also proposed that Atlantic bluefin tuna be considered as a priority species and the working group recommended that it be discussed at the next meeting. The management of the eastern bluefin tuna stock has required substantial quota reductions. The development of an HCR for eastern bluefin tuna may be useful so that future TAC adjustments can be made in a reliable and defensible fashion. In order to eliminate data gaps that affect the timeliness of stock assessments, it would be important to also consider improvements in fishery and recruitment monitoring, including real-time reporting.

Finally, there was broad support for including social and economic factors in the evaluation of Harvest Control Rules, and for the involvement of the fishing industry and other stakeholders in the dialogue, which need to be taken into account within the context of the management objectives defined in Rec. [11-13]. The Working Group also noted the need for improved data collection and need to reconcile their use within a compliance setting.

### **13. Other matters**

The EU referred to the large tagging program for tropical tunas for which a feasibility study was currently under finalization. It informed that it was most likely in a position to finance up to 80% of the 15 million euros required for that program for a period of 5 years. It called upon other parties to look into possibilities to cover the remaining 20% of funding needs.

#### **14. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

During the adoption of the report, the Group agreed to adapt the different items to the presentations and discussions that had taken place in the course of the meeting and, for purposes of consistency, to incorporate those changes into the agenda.

The report was adopted and the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

#### **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5**

##### **Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Review of the objectives of SWGSM and expected meeting outcomes
5. Overview of the ICCAT framework for decision-making, including, inter alia, the Convention, Recommendation [11-13], and other relevant international instruments
  - 5.1 Current template and content of scientific advice and management recommendations and information on the current use by managers, when establishing management measures, of information provided by the SCRS
6. Overview of the basic components of precautionary management strategies, including precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches:
  - 6.1 Management objectives and timelines associated with rebuilding and the management of stocks under the purview of ICCAT
  - 6.2 Basic concept of Harvest Control Rules, Limit, Threshold and Target Reference points as well as whether the current stock assessment methods in ICCAT can provide enough basis for considering such reference points
  - 6.3 Possible reference points associated with different management objectives; Limit, threshold, and target reference points; Probability levels associated with different reference points
  - 6.4 Harvest Control Rules/management procedures that support management action e.g. TACs, effort or capacity limits and other aspects, including data collection and analyses
7. Dealing with uncertainty and variability
  - 7.1 Different sources of variability and uncertainties and their subsequent impacts on: (i) Stock status relative to reference points, and (ii) the interpretation of the Kobe Strategy Matrices and discussion, including input from managers on acceptable probability levels and from scientists on associated risk, for maintaining priority stocks at, or rebuilding them to, target levels
8. Framework for the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs)
  - 8.1 Consideration of biological, ecological, social, economic and/or other information
  - 8.2 Possible process for assessing HCRs, particularly in the context of the development of Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE)
9. Overview of relevant work by the SCRS

10. Overview of relevant work by the SCRS Strategic Plan and annual work programme
11. Suggestions for further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes and the identification of research needs and priorities
12. Identification of matters for presentation to and consideration by the Commission, including any recommendations as well as proposed next steps for SWGSM
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of Report and adjournment

## Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5

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**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**

**Summaries of the presentation given under items 5 to 10**

**5. Overview of the ICCAT framework for decision-making, including, inter alia, the Convention, Recommendation [11-13], and other relevant international instruments**

**5.1 Current template and content of scientific advice and management recommendations and information on the current use by managers when establishing management measures of information provided by the SCRS (Fabio Hazin)**

Article VIII was cited as a central part of the Convention related to the management of ICCAT species. Dr. Hazin explained that the current language of the Convention sets Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) as a target rather than a limit, and that management in this way can lead to fluctuations of stock biomass above and below MSY over time. He suggested that Article VIII could be rephrased to “*the level of exploitation that will not exceed the one compatible with Maximum Sustainable Yield*”. He noted that Recommendation 11-13 established basic principles to guide the development of management measures, including for stocks that are overfished and/or overfishing is occurring and that Recommendation 11-14 requires the SCRS annual report to provide statements characterizing the robustness of methods applied to stock status and for the development of scientific advice as well as a Kobe plot and strategy matrix. Prior to this, guidance provided to the Commission by the SCRS was sometimes difficult for managers to understand and interpret. Now, the Kobe plot and strategy matrix have become a well-accepted basis for management decisions. Still, they may not be able to characterize all uncertainties fully, in particular unquantified uncertainties, and they should be viewed taking this into account.

## **6. Overview of the basic components of precautionary management strategies, including precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches**

### ***6.1 Management objectives and timelines associated with rebuilding and the management of stocks under the purview of ICCAT (Kim Blankenbeker)***

Ms. Blankenbeker presented a document summarizing past and present management decisions taken by the Commission for various stocks as well as information on assessed stocks that do not yet have direct management measures in place. She explained that the information included in the document was intended to allow for easy comparison of management approaches taken to date and assessment of their efficacy, where such information was available, as well as to see where action has not been taken together with the condition of those stocks. The summary document organized the stocks into three major categories: 1) stocks under rebuilding programs, 2) stocks under management plans, including rebuilt stocks, and 3) assessed stocks but no (or no specific) ICCAT management measures in place. It set out, by species, the basic elements found in the recommendations. These included: rebuilding time horizon (where applicable), management objective, minimum probability for reaching the management objective, and TAC level. Also included was information on the current status of the stocks as per the latest scientific assessment and the probability of reaching objective under current TAC, where this information was available.

Ms. Blankenbeker offered a few observations that she gleaned from compiling the summary document. In particular, she indicated that ICCAT has not always been entirely consistent in what elements are included in recommendations to maintain or rebuild stocks, which can limit the ability of the organization to assess progress. She noted that the SWG might wish to consider whether and how to improve coherency both across and within its recommendations. She noted that part of that discussion would include assessing the appropriateness of the minimum probability levels for reaching or maintaining management objectives that already exist in various recommendations, particularly in light of Rec. [11-13]. She also noted that some of the assessed stocks that are overfished and/or subject to overfishing do not have basic management measures in place and that the issues under consideration by the SWG may be relevant to these stocks as well. Notwithstanding the important substantive stock management questions, such as appropriate risk levels or rebuilding timelines, Ms. Blankenbeker suggested that the SWGSM could consider whether it would be useful to develop minimum elements that management recommendations should contain, perhaps along the lines of those identified in the summary paper.

### ***6.2 Basic concept of HCRs, Limit, Threshold and Target Reference Points as well as whether the current stock assessment methods in ICCAT can provide enough basis for considering such reference points (Masanori Miyahara and Yukio Takeuchi)***

Sharing the basic concept of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) among CPCs is the main purpose of this presentation.

Under the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), HCRs are defined as: 1) setting LRP (e.g. F<sub>MSY</sub> as a minimum standard), 2) setting pre-agreed conservation and management actions, and 3) taking the pre-agreed actions when the stock status reaches the LRP. Subject to the UNFSA, the CPC has to consider the most appropriate LRP and pre-agreed actions for ICCAT fish species. The purpose of the ICCAT Convention is to maintain the fish stock at MSY level. Discussion should take place on whether F<sub>MSY</sub> (or B<sub>MSY</sub>) should be LRP or Target Reference Point as stipulated in the ICCAT Convention.

ICCAT has already introduced HCRs to a certain degree for northern Atlantic swordfish (Rec. 13-02) and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna (Rec. 13-07), and already has good guidance for stock recovery (Rec. 11-13). Rec. [13-07] directs suspension of all fisheries (pre-agreed action) for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna when serious threat of the stock (not-quantified LRP) is detected. So, under the HCRs, very severe conservation and management actions, such as suspension of fishing, may be automatically introduced without any consideration of the socio-economic situation, which the Commission currently considers when introducing management measures.

Before starting the discussion about introduction of Harvest Control Rules to fish species subject to ICCAT, all CPCs must clearly understand the difference between the current practices of the Commission and actions to be taken under HCRs.

### **6.3 Possible reference points associated with different management objectives; limit, threshold, and target reference points; probability levels associated with different reference points (Antonio Cervantes)**

Any fisheries management framework needs to be supported by clear management objectives expressed by the policy makers through a specific decision-making process.

At international levels, several texts (the Geneva Convention, UNCLOS, UNFSA, and WSSD) have paved the way to MSY approaches through the objective of maintaining or restoring populations of harvested species at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield. Later on, other texts opened avenues for additional and complementary approaches to fisheries management (Precautionary and Ecosystem-based Approaches).

MSY Objectives and Approaches and the two complementary Precautionary and Ecosystem Approaches have been included to different extents and in different forms in fisheries policies and management frameworks of both RFMOs and coastal States.

Two types of indicators are commonly expressed in the fisheries management framework which are to be used under the MSY and the precautionary approaches, namely, fishing mortality rates (F) and the levels of biomass (B).

The assessment process, both of the current status of fish stocks and fisheries or of impacts of possible new or updated management measures, requires the definition of specific benchmark values – the Reference Points – for each of these indicators associated either to the MSY and Precautionary Approaches or to the Ecosystem Approach.

The Reference Points may refer either to a specific objective that the policy makers and managers wish to achieve or to specific circumstances they want to avoid. In implementing the MSY Approach, policy makers have adopted specific, well-known Reference Points based on either the fishing mortality indicator or a biomass indicator, like  $F_{MSY}$  or its proxies and  $B_{MSY}$ .

One difficulty remains with the status of the selected Reference Points, particularly those used to implement the main goal agreed at international levels: to maintain or restore populations of harvested species at levels which can produce the MSY. Where  $F_{PA}$ ,  $B_{PA}$  or  $B_{TRIGGER}$  are clearly considered to be Limit Reference Points (LRPs), the status of  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  is far less clear when differentiating between LRPs and Target Reference Points (TRPs).

It is interesting to note that  $B_{MSY}$  can be considered to be a TRP during the rebuilding phase (rebuilding plans) and a LRP (management plans).

If a metric of a specific indicator is taken as a threshold to fix an LRP, it means that this indicator is expected to exceed this metric with a very low probability (e.g. less than 5 %). For instance, if  $F_{PA}$  and  $B_{PA}$  are taken as LRPs, management measures should be discussed by fisheries policy makers and managers in the light of a probability of less than 5% for F to be over  $F_{PA}$  or for B to be below  $B_{PA}$ .

In the same vein, if a metric of a specific indicator is taken as a threshold to fix a TRP, it means that this indicator is expected to exceed this metric with a probability of around 50%. For instance, if  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  were taken as TRPs, management measures should be discussed by fisheries policy makers and managers in the light of a probability of around 50 % for F to be over  $F_{MSY}$  or for B to be below  $B_{MSY}$ .

Through the adoption of the Rec. [11-13], ICCAT explicitly decided to consider both  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  as LRPs, given that that management measures should be designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing and rebuilding fish stocks in as short a period as possible and of maintaining stocks in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot. The green quadrant is defined as the area of the Kobe plot where  $F < F_{MSY}$  and  $B > B_{MSY}$ . When establishing the Kobe plot, it seems that both  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  were taken as boundaries to fix the area where the most likely value of F and B should be observed.

As highlighted above, the Recommendation continues to have two limits, i.e. the timeline and the status of the RPs. In other words, what do policy makers consider to be “as short a period as possible” and “a high probability”?

Indeed, in most of the timelines and probabilities expressed in the different ICCAT recommendations designing conservation measures on tuna and tuna-like species it is not so clear that both  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  are taken as TRPs.

The most usual approach would be to take  $B_{MSY}$  as a TRP. In doing so, however, it would appear to be highly useful to fix a threshold,  $B_{LIM}$  and/or  $B_{PA}$ , associated to the Precautionary Approach and to a probability  $p[B_{2020} \geq B_{MSY}] \geq 50\%$ .

Both approaches would imply thinking about the link between TRPs and LRPs, and more particularly about how they should be fixed and about the level of probabilities to be taken into account when discussing acceptable risks (e.g. by establishing a table categorizing risks to be used in the decision-making process) either for not reaching the TRPs or for breaching the LRPs.

#### **6.4 Harvest Control Rules/management procedures that support management action e.g. TACs, effort or capacity limits (Victor Restrepo)**

A harvest strategy (management procedure) specifies the management actions necessary to achieve defined resource objectives in a given fishery, resulting in a formal and proactive management approach that is transparent to all stakeholders.

A Harvest Control Rule (HCR) is part of an overall harvest strategy. The HCR is an agreed rule that describes how fishing is intended to be controlled by management in relation to the state of some indicator of stock status. In the ICCAT context, Rec. [11-13] is a framework for a HCR that intends to maintain or rebuild stocks to the "green" quadrant of the Kobe plot.

A "typical" HCR describes how fishing effort should be managed such that the target reference point is achieved on average, while the limit reference point is avoided with high probability (Anonymous, 2013). This will depend on the stock abundance: at high abundance (at or above the target), the HCR may set fishing effort or TAC to the level corresponding to MSY; at low abundance (approaching the limit), the HCR may set fishing effort or TAC at a low level such that the stock can rebuild to high abundance in a given time period.

The above example of a HCR includes important elements of the harvest strategy which would need to be decided explicitly by managers, such as: the limit and target reference points, the probability with which the target should be achieved, the probability with which the limit should be avoided, the acceptable time to rebuild a stock from the limit to the target, etc.

The example HCR above also includes other implicit factors, such as the ability to estimate stock abundance, reference points and probability levels, and the ability to implement certain management controls. It is important to consider these factors because the HCR should be tailored to a specific situation. The types of management actions contemplated (TACs, effort limits, capacity limits, closed seasons, closed areas, etc.) may depend on each specific fishery.

Finally, the HCR exemplified above is based on a stock assessment. But, there are species for which stock assessments are not available, as well as those for which the assessment may lack robustness. In these situations, HCRs can be built based on empirical indicators (e.g. catch rates, size distributions, catch trends, etc. See Dowling *et al.*, 2008).

#### **6.5 Other aspects, including data collection and analyses (Victor Restrepo)**

A comprehensive management strategy should consider the type of data collected and used in the assessment, and perhaps even evaluation of the benefit of collecting additional or new data.

The types and quality of data available have substantial impacts on the entire management strategy. Importantly, the available data determines the types of stock assessment methods that can be applied and their reliability. In turn, the assessment methods used and the information content of the data determine the types of reference points that can be estimated, as well as the evaluation of probability levels associated with stock status relative to those reference points.

The Precautionary Approach calls for more conservative actions in situations of higher uncertainty. When a precautionary management strategy is implemented, there can be cost-effective benefits to reducing uncertainty because management actions will not necessarily need to be as conservative. Thus, higher catches could be achieved for a similar level of risk (Powers and Restrepo, 1993).

In terms of new data, the focus should be on how to improve the estimates of the key quantities that strongly affect the performance of the management strategy. For stocks with analytical stock assessments, this will usually involve research on quantities that significantly affect the estimates of key management variables such as MSY and associated reference points.

## 7. Dealing with uncertainty and variability

### 7.1 *Different sources of variability and uncertainties and their subsequent impacts on (i) stock status relative to reference point and (ii) the interpretation of the Kobe Strategy Matrices (Gerald Scott)*

There are a number of sources of variability leading to uncertainties in stock status evaluations and projections of possible futures for the stock which include:

- How well we observe/measure/estimate stock dynamics
  - Measurement uncertainty is the error in the observed quantities such as the catch or biological parameters;
  - Model uncertainty is the misspecification of model structure.
- Natural variability in processes, environmental impacts, etc.
  - Process uncertainty is the underlying stochasticity in the population dynamics such as the variability in recruitment.
- Estimation uncertainty can result from any, or a combination of the above uncertainties and is the inaccuracy and imprecision in abundance or fishing mortality rate;
- Implementation uncertainty results from variability in the resulting implementation of a management policy, i.e. inability to exactly achieve a target harvest strategy, including:
  - Responses of the fishery to changes in how it is pursued
  - Effectiveness of management measures
  - Definition of objectives
  - Decisions by management

At Kobe I, tRFMOs recommended (and ICCAT has adopted) standardization of presentation of stock assessments and to base management decisions upon the scientific advice, including the application of the precautionary approach. It was agreed that stock assessment results across all five tRFMOs should be presented in the “four quadrant, red-yellow-green” format now referred to as the Kobe Plot. This graphical aid has been widely embraced in ICCAT and across the other tRFMOs as a practical, user-friendly method for presenting stock status information. Quantified uncertainties in stock status relative to two reference points (biomass which can produce Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and fishing mortality rate that would result in MSY) are displayed in a number of ways, including scattered across the Kobe plot and, in the case of ICCAT, a pie chart displaying the proportion of assessment outcomes that reside in each of the Kobe quadrants.

Subsequently, at Kobe II, it was agreed (and ICCAT and some other tRFMOs adopted) that the next logical step in implementing precautionary fishery management is a “strategy matrix” for managers that lays out options for meeting management targets, including if necessary, ending overfishing or rebuilding overfished stocks. The Strategy Matrix was envisioned to be a harmonized format for RFMO science bodies to convey advice. Based on targets specified by the Commission for each fishery, the matrix would present the specific management

measures that would achieve the intended management target with a certain probability by a certain time. Probabilities and timeframes to be evaluated would be determined by the Commission. In the case of fisheries managed under TACs, the outputs would be the various TACs that would achieve a given result. In the case of fisheries managed by effort limitations, the outputs would be expressed as, for example, fishing effort levels or time/area closures, as specified by the Commission. ICCAT makes frequent use of the Strategy Matrix as a decision support tool for fisheries management.

Further advancing the precautionary approach within ICCAT requires significant feedback (dialogue) between scientists and policy makers. What is needed from the tRFMO policy makers are definitions of the management objectives, timeframes, and tolerable risk-of-failure levels (degree of precaution) in achieving objectives. This has been established to some degree in ICCAT Recommendation [11-13] that provides a decision framework for implementation of the precautionary approach. What is needed from tRFMO scientists is continued work toward full characterization of uncertainty in stock status evaluations and future forecasts to improve advice on the odds of achieving management objectives. While there are a number of methods employed to characterize and quantify these uncertainties, there remains a range of unquantified uncertainties that can be reasonably captured in Management Strategy Evaluations to move this process forward.

## **8. Framework for the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs)**

### ***8.1 Consideration of biological, ecological, social, economic and/or other information (Faith Scattolon)***

#### *Background*

It is widely understood that the implementation of the precautionary approach is not solely focused on biological and ecological constraints. Indeed, the United National Fisheries Agreement notes (Article 6 3(c)) that in implementing the precautionary approach, States shall take into account various factors, including socio-economic considerations.

Socio-economic factors can include (but are not limited to) issues related to access and allocation, the need for relatively consistent total allowable catches (TACs) over an extended period (i.e. to avoid any drastic change in catch from year to year), wealth distribution, employment, balancing stock growth while minimizing negative socio-economic impacts, and fishing objectives for other species (bycatch, predator-prey interaction and competition between stocks).

Unfortunately, the incorporation of socio-economic factors into the development of Harvest Control Rules has often been rather *ad hoc*, and applied without clear, consistent methodologies (e.g. poorly defined socio-economic objectives). As such, various jurisdictions are seeking transparent and objectives ways to incorporate socio-economics factors into the management of fisheries.

#### *Canada's domestic policy*

Under Canada's Precautionary Approach Framework, pre-agreed harvest control rules and associated management actions are developed for each zone (i.e. critical, cautious, and healthy) as part of the overall harvest rate strategy. These rules and actions vary in relation to pre-determined reference points, and are designed to achieve the desired outcome by affecting the removal rate.

Socio-economic considerations play a role in the development of harvest control rules for stocks in both the cautious and healthy zones. Within the cautious zone, socio-economic and conservation considerations should be balanced in a manner that reflects location in the zone and stock trajectory. In the healthy zone, socio-economic considerations prevail, with conservation measures consistent with sustainable use apply. Within the critical zone, conservation considerations prevail.

Rebuilding Plan Guidelines have been developed to assist in the development of Canada's precautionary approach. These guidelines acknowledge that rebuilding plan objectives should take into account socio-economic impacts and requirements, including the potential impacts on current and future business opportunities for harvesters, the impacts on ongoing opportunities for the recreational sector, and the importance of continued access for Aboriginal communities to support both economic opportunities and food, social and ceremonial fisheries.

## **8.2 Possible process for assessing HCRs, particularly in the context of the development of Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) (Laurence Kell)**

### *8.2.1 Precautionary Approach*

When managing fisheries decisions have to be made with incomplete knowledge, which is often the case, the Precautionary Approach (PA) requires that:

- Undesirable outcomes be anticipated, measures be taken to reduce their risk of occurring and corrective measures be applied immediately which are effective within an acceptable time frame;
- Limit and threshold Reference Points be used as part of a Harvest Control Rule; and
- Consideration be given to major uncertainties, e.g. status of the stocks relative to reference points, biology and environmental events.

However, HCRs will not necessarily be precautionary if they are not formally evaluated to determine how well they actually achieve their goals given uncertainty. Therefore, at the Third Joint Tuna RFMO Meeting (Kobe III), it was recognised that Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) needs to be widely implemented in the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (tRFMOs) in order to implement a Precautionary Approach for tuna fisheries management.

### *8.2.2 Management Strategy Evaluation*

Management Strategy Evaluation involves the use of simulation modelling to evaluate the impact of the main sources of uncertainty. Benefits of the approach are:

- It allows a fuller consideration of uncertainty as required by the Precautionary Approach;
- It provides stability if management objectives and how to evaluate how well alternative management strategies which meet them are agreed through a dialogue between scientists and stakeholders; and
- It can be used to guide the scientific process by identifying where the reduction of scientific uncertainty improves management and so help to ensure that expenditure is prioritised to provide the best research, monitoring and enforcement.

### *8.2.3 Process*

Conducting an MSE requires various steps:

1. Identification of management objectives and mapping these to performance measures to quantify how well they are achieved;
2. Selection of hypotheses about system dynamics;
3. Conditioning of OMs on data and knowledge and possible rejecting and weighting of the different hypotheses;
4. Identifying candidate management strategies and coding these up as MPs, i.e. the combination of predefined data, together with an algorithm to which such data are input to set control measures;
5. Projecting the OMs forward using the MPs as feedback control procedures; and
6. Agreeing the MPs that best meet management objectives.

### *8.2.4 Examples*

Currently there are various initiatives being conducted by the SCRS related to MSE, i.e. the development of a Generic MSE that can be applied to the albacore and swordfish stocks in the North and South Atlantic and the Mediterranean as well as the work under the GBYP.



## Generic MSE

A framework that can be used for highly migratory tuna stocks is being developed. This uses an Operating Model conditioned on a range of assumptions about biological processes. The OM can be based either on an existing age based stock assessment, e.g. Multifan-CL for North Atlantic albacore, or life history characteristics for data poor stocks. The Management Procedure is based on a biomass dynamic stock assessment model, which is currently being used to provide management advice in the form of the Kobe II Strategy Matrix (K2SM) for northern and southern Atlantic stocks of albacore and swordfish, and potentially for the Mediterranean stocks as well.

## Mediterranean bluefin tuna

An initial MSE is being developed and is intended to identify the impact of the main sources of quantified and unquantified uncertainties on management. In this work the relative value-of-information for model-based and empirical Management Procedures will be compared. This is done by conditioning an Operating Model on alternative hypotheses about population and fishery dynamics. Data, fisheries and fisheries independent are then sampled from the Operating Model to evaluate different Harvest Control Rules as part of a Management Procedure. This allows scenarios and data sets to be simulated that reflect uncertainty about our knowledge of biology, ecology and our ability to observe and control the fisheries. Different Management Strategies will be evaluated with respect to their ability to meet multiple management objectives. This is done by considering the trade-offs between the objectives for different choices (e.g. to invest in fisheries independent surveys, tagging studies to estimate natural mortality) and the robustness of the MPs, e.g. to environmental variability. This allows the relative benefits of improving knowledge on population and fishery dynamics to be evaluated.

## 9. Overview of relevant work by SCRS (Josu Santiago)

*Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13] establishes the guiding principles for adoption of management measures, based on scientific stock status evaluations and likewise considers uncertainties in those evaluations. These guiding principles provide a basis for the design of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and the SCRS has recommended a generic HCR framework upon which stock-specific robustness testing can and will be conducted. Indeed, the SCRS has initiated work on conducting Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) for several species in support of identifying HCRs that are robust to a large range of scientific uncertainties and consistent with the above principles.

The evaluation of Limit Reference Points (LRP) and HCR through the use of MSE has been recognized by the SCRS and the scientific committees of other tuna RFMOs as the most effective means to advance their fishery management process. The SCRS plans to continue this effort by:

- continuing to refine the methods within the MSE process,
- introducing MSE in more assessments when and where appropriate, and
- fostering lines of communication that keep managers informed of their benefits and weaknesses.

These objectives are core elements of the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan (agenda item 10). Relevant work that has been conducted in recent years by the SCRS in relation to LRP, HCR and their evaluation through MSE has been mainly focused on North Atlantic albacore and swordfish and Atlantic bluefin tuna.

The SCRS defined in 2013 an interim LRP of  $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$  for North Atlantic swordfish and North Atlantic albacore following Recommendations 11-02 and 11-04. The robustness of this LRP will be evaluated before the next assessment of both stocks. The main objective will be to prepare the next assessments for these stocks (not yet scheduled), by reducing uncertainty around datasets and parameters, and in addition by developing robust management procedures that cope with the remaining uncertainty.

According to *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 13-05] as a matter of priority, the SCRS shall continue the development of a Limit Reference Point (LRP) and Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) for this stock with input from the Commission. Future decisions on the management of this stock should be in accordance with the LRP and HCRs.

According to *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 13-02], when assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission in 2016, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of  $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$  or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.

Regarding other stocks, the SCRS developed in 2013 a workplan to conduct the 2014 and 2015 bluefin tuna assessments and to evaluate a management procedure using an operating model. To implement the operating model two contracts for providing external support for a number of years have been awarded. A core steering group will soon be established to oversee this work.

## **10. Overview of relevant work by the SCRS Strategic Plan and annual work programme (Josu Santiago)**

The purpose of the SCRS Strategic Plan is to provide the overall framework and goals for development and coordination of science and science-related activities needed to support provision of sound scientific advice as the centrepiece for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

During the meeting of the Working Group for the Development of the SCRS Strategic Plan (Madrid, Spain, 14-16 April 2014) the SCRS culminated a process that started in 2012 as a logical consequence of the *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science* [Res. 11-17]. In order to give answer to the necessity for providing appropriate and best scientific advice on current and future requests, the development of a strategic research plan appears the best way to provide timely, appropriate and best responses in a structured manner. An agreed research plan will also allow effectively adapting and adjusting the SCRS activities to funding sources, anticipating changes and necessities as well as preparing for them. Planning also should contribute towards a more efficient functioning and a better utilization of the always limited existing assets, resources and capabilities of the SCRS and the Secretariat.

The proposed 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan is the result of coordinated and integrated work conducted by the officers of the SCRS, the ICCAT Secretariat and the scientists of the CPCs. ([http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2014\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_report.pdf](http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Meetings/Docs/2014_Strategic_Plan_report.pdf))

The Plan contemplates the period 2015-2020 and includes the following components:

- Mission: Outline the purpose of the SCRS, in line with the Rules of Procedure defined in the ICCAT Convention, its values and the necessities of the Commission.
- Vision: A statement describing where the SCRS desires to be in 2020; the target around which the SCRS pursues to focus the attention and energies.
- Values: The guiding principles of the SCRS.
- Goals, objectives, strategies and measurable targets classified in five Thematic Areas: Data Collection, Dialog and Communication, Participation and Capacity Building, Research Priorities and Stock Assessment and Advice.

The main goals that have been identified for the 2015-2020 period includes:

- Data Collection
  - Improve fishery data collection and reporting
  - Institute biological sampling programs
  - Develop programs for collection/compilation of additional data
- Dialog and Communication
  - Improve the dialog with the Commission
  - Promote open dialog with the COM and interested parties
  - Improve dialog within the SCRS
  - Improve dialog with the scientific community

- Improve dialog with society
  - Improve the mechanisms of communication of the SCRS
- Participation and Capacity Building
- Preserve and promote the independence and excellence of the SCRS and WGs
  - Improve science capabilities of the SCRS objectives
  - Enhance and improve participation in the SCRS, and in particular enhancing the active involvement of developing economies in SCRS activities
- Research Priorities
- Quantify the major uncertainties affecting stock assessment and management advice
  - Acquire the necessary biological knowledge in tuna-like species, as well as in critical by-catch species commensurate to the needs for the assessment of the different stocks under the Convention
  - Improve the standardization of the fishery dependent information
  - Apply approaches which provide information to improve stock assessment and monitor the effect of management regulations
  - Seek the adequacy between models used and quality of data and knowledge
  - Evaluate management measures and strategies in achieving the objectives of the Commission
  - Cover research needs so as to be able to include Ecosystem Considerations in the provision of scientific advice
- Stock Assessment and Advice
- Provide objective, reliable and robust scientific advice to the Commission in support of the Convention objectives
  - Evaluate precautionary management references and robust Harvest Control Rules through Management Strategy Evaluations
  - Advance Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Advice
  - Broaden the scientific advice to include economic and social aspects of various management measures

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**4.6 SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF FISHERIES MANAGERS AND SCIENTISTS IN SUPPORT OF THE WBFT STOCK ASSESSMENT (Prince Edward Island, Canada, 10-12 July 2014)**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honorable Gail Shea, welcomed the participants to Prince Edward Island, noting the importance of bluefin tuna to fishing communities and the need for continued investments in data collection that will help to address the existing uncertainties in the science. She closed by noting the joint commitment to ensuring sustainability of this fishery and wishing the delegates a productive meeting (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6**).

**2. Election of Chair**

Ms. Sylvie Lapointe of Canada and Dr. Josu Santiago, the SCRS Chair, were elected as co-Chairs of the Working Group.

**3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

The co-Chairs stressed the importance of the ongoing scientist-manager dialogue, as it will help the SCRS tailor their work to most effectively support the needs of the Commission.

The agenda was slightly modified and adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6**).

The Executive Secretary introduced the following CPCs: Canada, EU, Japan, Mexico, and the United States. In addition, the following observers were present: American Bluefin Tuna Association; Blue Water Fishermen's Association; Ecology Action Centre; The Ocean Foundation; Pew Environment Group; and the David Suzuki Foundation. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.6**.

**4. Nomination of rapporteur**

The United States offered Ms. Rachel O'Malley as a rapporteur.

**5. Review of the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment and 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Commission**

Dr. Santiago highlighted some activities related to the recommendations from the 1st meeting of WBFT Scientists and Managers, as well as a timeline for the current work plans of the SCRS. A stock assessment update will be conducted for eastern and western stocks in September 2014 and there will also be a pilot assessment for the eastern Atlantic stock incorporating new information including catch-at-size data from the Mediterranean purse seine fishery. At this time, a full assessment making use of new methodologies for both stocks is still planned for 2015, and work towards the development of a full management strategy evaluation will continue. However, the work plans will be reviewed and potentially revised when the SCRS meets this fall. Dr. Santiago expressed concern that key electronic tagging data are not yet available and must be provided as soon as possible. He also noted that full funding of the Grande Bluefin Tuna Year Program (GBYP) is critical.

Canada, Japan, Mexico and the United States provided updates on relevant research activities that are underway.

## 6. Review of research plans developed by CPCs

Dr. Craig Brown presented the U.S. proposals for improving the scientific information for stock assessment of bluefin tuna (**Appendices 4 and 5**), which included developing a pilot study for an age-0 index of abundance for bluefin tuna and expanding the existing larval survey; enhancing the current collection of biological material; and the development of a genomic based approach (i.e., applying a close-kin analysis to estimate spawning stock abundance).

Dr. Gary Melvin presented Canada's proposal for the development and implementation of a fishery independent index of abundance for Gulf of St. Lawrence bluefin tuna using an acoustic trolling survey (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.6**).

Dr. Michael Stokesbury presented Canada's proposal for a bluefin tuna mark and recapture study in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.6**).

Dr. Tomoyuki Itoh presented Japan's proposal for a research plan identifying areas for new or improved indices of abundance in the central North Atlantic (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.6**).

Dr. Alex Hanke (Canada) offered a presentation on the potential application of a non equilibrium surplus production model for the assessment of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.6**).

Dr. Gary Melvin gave a presentation on considerations to improve the indices used by managers (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.6**).

Dr. Tomoyuki Itoh presented a working document on the coverage of fishery data for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.6**).

Some approaches recently applied to study southern bluefin tuna show promise for studying the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock. It was recognized that different initiatives could be designed to complement one another, for example by providing opportunities for collection of biological material. A coordinated approach to biological sampling might be an effective way to identify and fill data gaps. Current indices may be improved by greater efforts to take into account the effects of changing fishing patterns or practices, environmental conditions and management regulations that may affect CPUE.

It was generally agreed that sampling programs and surveys should cover as broad a geographic area as possible, although these efforts may be limited by logistical concerns and available budgets. Sampling in smaller areas or during short periods of time may reflect local abundance rather than overall trends in stock abundance. Any new indices would not yield information usable to the assessment for many years, and so should be considered as long-term investments rather than short-term solutions. There was interest in exploring the extent of possible spawning areas outside the Gulf of Mexico through new survey work.

The CPCs agreed that any new initiatives should be designed to provide information that will have a meaningful benefit for future stock assessments, including by helping to inform work related to the question of recruitment. Financial commitments to future projects should be considered in the context of potential benefits to the stock assessment process as well as practical concerns and associated costs (e.g., taking advantage of existing funding and research platforms). Some projects can be explored through pilot studies with the potential for expansion once the variables and limitations are better understood. Collaboration among the western Atlantic bluefin tuna harvesters as well as with researchers in other regions was encouraged.

In conclusion, the parties agreed that:

- 1) In the intersessional period, national scientists of the CPCs fishing for western bluefin tuna will work jointly to explore areas for collaboration, identify costs and develop their prioritization for the novel research proposals discussed at this meeting. The results of this work and the novel proposals will be presented to the SCRS in September 2014 for review and evaluation. At the same time, it was acknowledged that CPCs will proceed with work already underway (e.g., the expansion of existing surveys) and new projects for which funding has been secured.

- 2) The CPCs will collaborate in analyzing non-aggregated catch and effort data with the goal of improving the current stock abundance indices and developing a single index of abundance incorporating the data from various CPCs. Access to the data will be shared in a manner that does not violate data confidentiality concerns.
- 3) The CPCs will continue efforts to improve the quality and quantity of data collection and reporting, consistent with the recommendations of the SCRS. In particular, CPCs are encouraged to provide information about changes in fishing patterns and other variables that may influence the catch rate so that these factors can be incorporated into the standardization models.

## **7. Consideration of possible ways to improve the management of the stock**

Japan suggested that maximizing the survival of juvenile western Atlantic bluefin tuna should be considered as an alternative management strategy. The United States noted that the SCRS already provided advice in 2012 on the question of size-based management measures and that further restricting catch of certain size classes would result in loss of valuable data used in the assessment. The Working Group reached agreement on the next steps relating to this agenda item (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.6**).

The Pew Charitable Trusts, Ecology Action Center, David Suzuki Foundation and The Ocean Foundation presented a statement (**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 4.6**).

## **8. Other matters**

Participants all agreed on the importance of continuing this dialogue, either in a 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the WBFT Working Group or as part of the newly established Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers. This will be discussed within Panel 2 at the 2014 Commission Meeting. A discussion is needed to establish a mechanism for referring the recommendations of this Working Group, and the Standing Working Group of scientists and managers, to the SCRS, taking into account the heavy workload of the SCRS.

## **9. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The report was adopted and the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the WBFT Stock Assessment was adjourned.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6**

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Nomination of rapporteur
5. Review of the results of 1st WG of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock and 23rd Regular meeting of the Commission
6. Review of research plans submitted by CPCs to obtain reliable stock abundance indices for BFT of western origin
7. Consideration of possible ways to improve the management of the stock
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report and adjournment

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**Opening statement by the honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada**

Thank you all for travelling from various corners of the globe for this important meeting.

Welcome to Canada and my home province of Prince Edward Island. It is my great pleasure to be here as the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Last year, I returned to this portfolio and I'm so pleased to be working hard, once again, on behalf of Canadian fish harvesters.

I am very proud to say that Canada has one of the best managed tuna fisheries in the world — one that is based on scientific advice, effective management, and strict enforcement.

The Canadian Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery operates today the same way it has for decades — with small inshore vessels from many small fishing communities. A good example of this is in Tignish, where I grew up. While the fish harvesters in Tignish may only be able to catch one bluefin tuna each year, it is certainly something they all look forward to. The fishery is equally important to other tuna harvesters in the other Atlantic Canadian provinces of Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.

This iconic species supports important fisheries on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, with its 49 members, is certainly an important organization. In order for the Commission to succeed in sustainably managing the highly migratory fish stocks under its purview, meetings such as this one are essential.

Clearly, we all have a vested interest in the future of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock as well as the health of the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock.

Probably like many of you, I have heard concerns from the Canadian industry. They are disappointed that sacrifices in the form of quota reductions and huge financial investments in scientific research have not allowed us to move forward in recent years.

I understand there was a very productive meeting in Montreal last year, which highlighted many of the uncertainties in the western bluefin tuna stock assessment and emphasized the need for new or improved data to get us past the high versus low recruitment issue.

Like many of you, we are eager to develop new approaches that will allow us to move beyond the current circumstances in which we have inconclusive scientific evidence that, practically speaking, makes it very difficult for managers to make decisions related to the stock.

Moving forward, the focus should be on developing tools for providing scientific advice that is clearer, more practical, and that ensures the health of the stock so that it can continue to provide important economic benefits to coastal communities. To do this properly, meetings such as this one — which bring together scientists and managers — are necessary and extremely helpful.

Confidence in science requires sound data and I'm proud to say that Canada has taken an active role in this regard. We continue to invest significant resources to resolve uncertainties in Atlantic Bluefin Tuna stock assessment. Indeed, the purpose of this meeting is to examine proposals to either improve existing stock status indicators or to develop entirely new indicators. It is encouraging to see proposals from Canada, the United States, and Japan in this regard.

While it will take some time for the results of any new indices to be statistically reliable, I am hopeful that these new stock indicators will form the foundation of sound science-based management decisions for the future. This will ensure the long-term sustainability of this important fishery for generations to come.

Of course, I also encourage all Parties to explore ways to reduce uncertainties in the short-term, including closely monitoring all fisheries to ensure accurate catch reporting. I also encourage you to consider alternative approaches to assessing stock trends.

I am optimistic that this meeting will set us on a path for improved data collection going forward.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I want to stress that we are committed to ensuring the sustainability of this high-value fishery by increasing our scientific knowledge and working with our partners.

I wish you all much success this week and hopefully you will find some time to enjoy this beautiful island!

#### Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.6

### Developing new early life history-based fishery independent indices for western Atlantic bluefin tuna

*(document submitted by the United States<sup>1</sup>)*

#### Summary

Fishery independent indices based upon larval surveys have been used to estimate spawning biomass of bluefin tuna in the western North Atlantic since the late 1970s. Using recent advances in habitat modeling and sampling gears we propose to improve the existing indices by:

- 1) Modifying the existing sampling grid to incorporate a model-assisted sampling scheme based upon habitat models.
- 2) Expanding depth-stratified sampling to define the vertical distribution of bluefin larvae. The efficiency of current sampling gears can then be estimated.
- 3) Incorporating annual age and mortality estimates for larvae collected in different regions within the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition we propose the development of several new indices:

- 1) An index of larval prey, feeding success and growth to be used in next-generation stock assessments as an environmental driver of recruitment.
- 2) Development of a bluefin egg sampling effort as part of the standard spring plankton survey, which will lead to a more direct index of SSB.
- 3) Exploratory sampling efforts in the Caribbean and western North Atlantic to determine the significance and geographic extent of alternative spawning grounds. The inclusion of alternative spawning grounds in the development of indices may better reflect abundance trends.

#### KEYWORDS

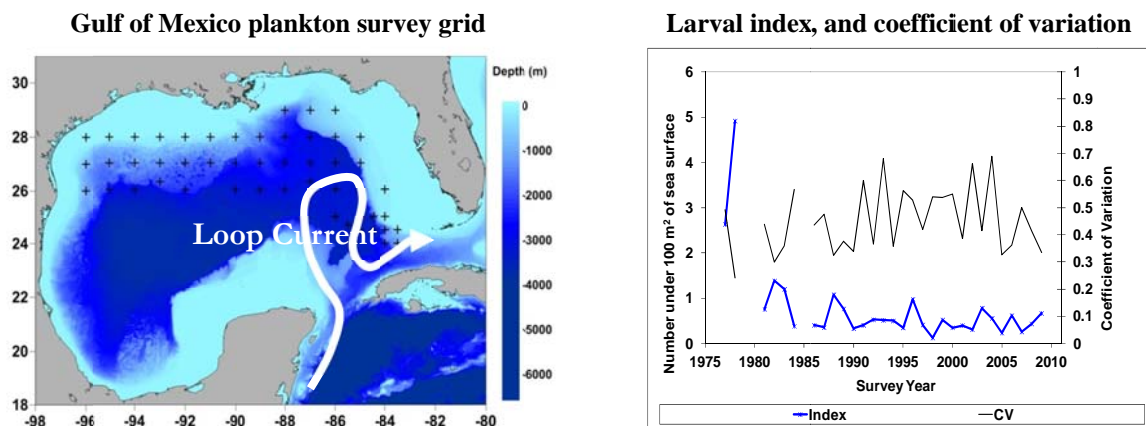
Bluefin tuna, Recruitment, Stock assessment

#### Introduction and research to date

Atlantic bluefin tuna are distributed throughout the north Atlantic and are exploited with a variety of fishing gears throughout their range. The western Atlantic bluefin stock is estimated to have declined precipitously during the 1970s and early 1980s, but has been relatively stable since the implementation of quotas in 1982. There are various uncertainties in the stock assessments; one avenue for reducing these uncertainties could be improvements in the various indices used in the models to reflect relative abundance trends. Most indices developed for stock assessment of bluefin tuna are fishery dependent, however, the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center has developed a fishery independent index for the western bluefin stock using larval abundances from annual ichthyoplankton surveys. These surveys have been carried out since the late 1970s, and since 1982 have been completed as part of the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment (SEAMAP) program (Scott *et al.*, 1993, Ingram *et al.* 2010). Larvae are collected from oblique bongo net tows to 200 m depth, and surface neuston net tows across a 1 x 1° grid within the U.S. EEZ in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Sampling is conducted from late April to the end of May, with sampling continuing into June in some years. Larval abundances are converted to equivalent abundances of larvae with a first daily otolith increment per 100m<sup>2</sup>, and standardized for spatiotemporal sampling variability. The resulting larval index, is used in stock assessment models to index the spawning stock biomass.

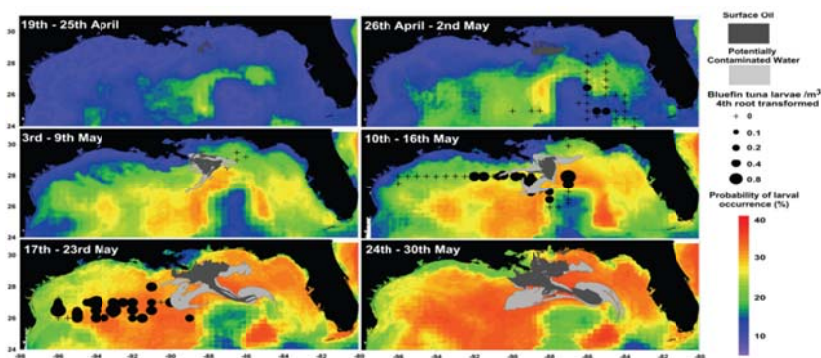
<sup>1</sup>John Lamkin, Barbara Muhling, Joanne Lyczkowski-Shultz, Walter Ingram, Estrella Malca, Glenn Zapfe, Trika Gerard, Andrew Millett, Sarah Privoznik.

The index shows that larval bluefin were initially abundant from 1977-1983, but catches decreased substantially from 1984 – present (**Figure 1**). Because fish larvae are typically over-dispersed due to spawning behavior and transport of the eggs and larvae by ocean processes, the resultant catch data are zero-inflated, and not normally distributed. This typically results in a dataset with many zero values, and a very few large values, leading to a high coefficient of variation around the index (Ingram *et al.* 2010).

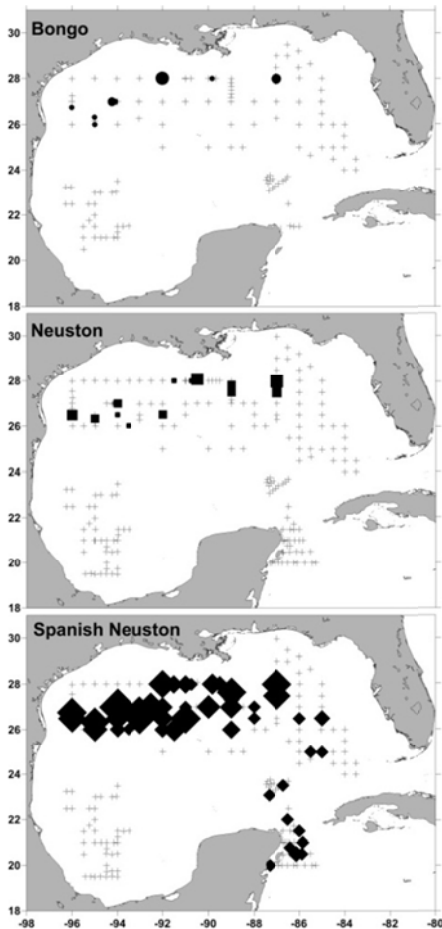


**Figure 1.** SEAMAP spring survey stations and the bluefin larval index and coefficient of variation.

To address this problem, work was begun in 2009 to develop a larval habitat model using historical catch data. The model used artificial neural networks to predict probabilities of larval abundance using in-situ environmental variables from CTD casts, and to therefore provide an additional means of standardizing the larval index (Muhling *et al.* 2010). Results showed that bluefin tuna larvae were most likely to be collected in warm (24 – 28°C), low chlorophyll waters, outside of the Loop Current. To increase the predictive utility of the habitat model, it was then reconfigured to predict larval occurrences using only remotely sensed environmental data: sea surface temperature, surface chlorophyll, surface height, and surface current velocities. This updated model delivered similar results to the in situ model, and was applied to a study of the potential impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill (**Figure 2**: Muhling *et al.* 2012). Similar techniques have since been used to compare environmental constraints on bluefin tuna spawning habitat in the Gulf of Mexico vs. the western Mediterranean Sea (Muhling *et al.* 2013). Habitat models successfully predicted interannual variability in larval bluefin distributions, and highlighted the importance of water temperature to spawning activity in both regions.



**Figure 2.** Predicted probabilities of occurrence for larval bluefin tuna in the northern Gulf of Mexico on a weekly basis during spring 2010. Probabilities were derived from a neural network model trained using archival larval collection data. Oil extents are derived from satellite products. Catches of larval bluefin tuna from spring 2010 (April 19th to May 23rd), are also shown.



**Figure 3.** Bluefin tuna abundance using three gears, 0.333 mm bongo nets, 0.9 mm neuston, and 0.505 S-10 net.

surveys. Information from these samples will also be useful to ongoing studies of larval transport and dispersal potential, by providing depth distribution information for the construction of Individual-Based Models (IBMs).

In addition, the current survey grid has a very coarse spatial resolution, which, when combined with the patchiness of larval distributions, can introduce high variability in the calculated larval indices. This grid may be partially modified to incorporate a model-assisted sampling scheme (Sarndal 1992), based on predictions from habitat models. Sufficient ship-time exists for the ~30 year time series of plankton sampling to be maintained, while allowing for some adaptive sampling in areas with high probability of larval occurrence.

## 2. Develop a dynamic age/growth mode and predictive recruitment model

Estimates of age at length are required for the standardization of raw larval abundances to an estimate of one day old larvae under 100m<sup>2</sup> of sea surface (Ingram *et al.*, 2010). The current estimate of age at length matrix was developed by Brothers *et al.*, (1983) from specimens collected off South Florida more than 30 years ago. This estimate was initially used because survey catches from 1984 onwards had become too small to support annual estimates of mortality, and as a result, it has been applied to all larval index mortality estimates ever since. The recent advances in sampling methods noted above have resulted in greatly increased larval catches, which could allow the development of annual growth and age estimates. Recent work in the western Mediterranean indicates that larval bluefin tuna growth may vary considerably on an interannual basis, which may have profound effects on recruitment variability (Garcia *et al.*, 2013). We propose to address gaps in our understanding of larval bluefin tuna growth by investigating environmental drivers of growth and mortality in the Gulf of Mexico, and developing annual age/growth curves for the eastern and western Gulf. These will be incorporated into the larval index, and will improve the accuracy of the index by accounting for interannual effects of the pelagic environment on larval growth.

One hurdle to developing the habitat model has been the low number of larvae collected each year, and the large number of zero catch stations. To address this, sampling protocols were changed to include a new plankton net (S-10) in 2010. This gear is a 1 x 2 m frame with a 0.505 mm mesh net towed in an undulating fashion from the surface to 10 meters depth for 10 minutes. This sampling method resulted in significantly higher catches of bluefin larvae, and a higher overall proportion of positive stations (Figure 3. Habtes *et al.* in press). In view of these results, it was decided to incorporate this sampling gear into the SEAMAP surveys, and to eventually develop a new larval index using the results from this gear.

In addition, depth-stratified sampling was initiated on the 2010 cruise, using a Multiple Opening and Closing Net Environmental Sensing System (MOCNESS). This gear samples in discrete 10 m depth increments from 50 meters to the surface, and has been deployed only sporadically to this point, due to time constraints. Initial results from this gear indicate that bluefin larvae are found primarily in the upper 20 meters of the water column.

While these efforts continue to improve the existing larval index, we propose additional efforts and the development of new indices:

### Improvements to the current index

#### 1. Expand existing sampling on annual surveys

Depth-stratified sampling has been limited to date, and as a result, the vertical distribution of bluefin tuna larvae is not well known. In order to better understand the effectiveness of our other depth-integrated sampling gears, depth-stratified sampling using the MOCNESS gear should be expanded in future years, and be made a standard component of annual

Growth rates will be examined using otoliths extracted from larvae collected across a wide variety of oceanographic features from both the eastern and western Gulf of Mexico, from multiple years. Understanding these drivers is essential for improving the larval index, and also for developing a predictive recruitment model. In addition, we will examine the relationship between growth and temperature throughout the larval stage by backtracking larvae using ocean models. This will reduce variation in growth estimates and inform models of daily growth rates driven by environmental parameters. Finally, results will inform and improve the larval index by adding regional and oceanographic feature-specific growth curves.

## Development of new indices

### 1. Larval prey, feeding success and growth index

To understand the influence of larval survival on recruitment variability, the processes that are governing larval survival must first be understood. To survive, a larva has to eat and avoid being eaten. In addition, suboptimal feeding can influence a larva's susceptibility to be consumed by a predator, by both extending the larval period via slower growth, and by reducing a larva's ability to evade predation (Houde, 1987).

Recruitment processes for bluefin tuna are not well known, but appear to be episodic, and not always closely correlated to spawning stock biomass. Apparent peaks in recruitment, as determined by abundances of 1-year old fish, may be separated by decades. Given the large departure of these peaks from long term means, it appears likely that recruitment success is determined in very early life, when larvae are subject to high and variable mortality. An improved understanding of these processes should in turn lead to improved stock assessments and more effective management (e.g. this would enable better evaluations of the likely success of stock rebuilding plans). The proposed index of larval prey, feeding success and growth will fill a long-standing gap in knowledge of larval bluefin diets, feeding and survival, and potential effects on ultimate recruitment success.

This work will combine studies of larval growth (using otoliths), larval feeding success (using gut contents) and larval prey fields (using zooplankton samples). Conditions conducive to higher feeding success, faster growth and presumed enhanced survival will be defined, initially by using existing samples from recent years (2010-present). Once favorable conditions are defined, in terms of available prey and ambient environment, an index of these can be developed. This index can be extended back to 1982, using preserved samples and specimens from the SEAMAP collection, and archived plankton samples. Results will add to knowledge of how biophysical conditions may influence larval ecology and recruitment potential, and may help to explain recruitment peaks, such as that observed in 2003. In addition, if conditions favoring high recruitment can be elucidated, we may be able to search for historical supporting evidence of any past "regime shifts", an assumption implicit in the hypothesis that the western bluefin stock-recruitment relationship has changed from High to Low Recruitment Potential. (Rosenberg *et al.*, 2013). The uncertainty regarding these two recruitment scenarios is a key issue in the stock assessment process.

### 2. Develop and index of daily egg production with continuous eggs sampling and genetic analysis of eggs

An alternative approach to assessing spawning stock biomass is through the use of a daily egg production model (DEPM). This technique provides a more direct estimate of spawning biomass than larval abundances, as it avoids the additional error associated with larval growth and mortality. The DEPM approach has been thoroughly developed on the U.S. West Coast for small pelagic fishes (Lasker, 1985). However, it has traditionally only been used on species whose eggs are easily identifiable visually, which limits its application. With current advances in genetic techniques, many previously indistinguishable fish species can now be identified from eggs. This includes species whose eggs are collected during the annual SEAMAP survey, such as bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna, blackfin tuna, billfish, swordfish, snappers, and groupers.

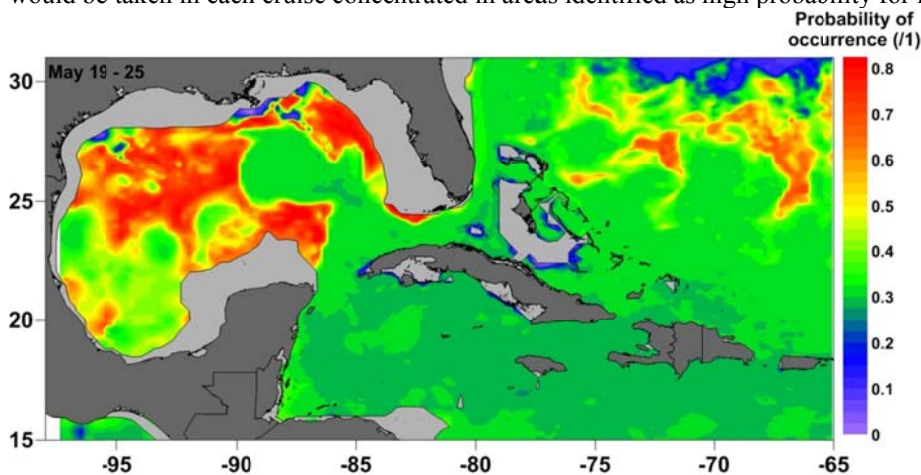
To develop this index, we will use the DEPM described by Parker, (1985):  $B = ((P \cdot A \cdot W) / (R \cdot F \cdot S))$ , where B = biomass estimate, P = daily egg production (# of eggs produced per area per day), A = total survey area, W = average weight of mature females, R = fraction of mature female fish by weight, F = batch fecundity and S = fraction of mature females spawning per day. Eggs are collected in the same plankton sampling gears that are currently used to collect larvae, and will be identified genetically. We expect that mixtures of eggs collected could contain genomes from many species. However, it is now possible via massively parallel DNA sequencing to identify individual collections of eggs to species, and to simultaneously yield a reasonable estimate of relative abundance. We have already designed genetic assays for many species in the Gulf of Mexico, and these genetic assays can be used to identify most fish. Species not currently in our database can be identified via searches of the Fish Barcode of Life (FISBOL) or GenBank sequence repositories or the primary literature.



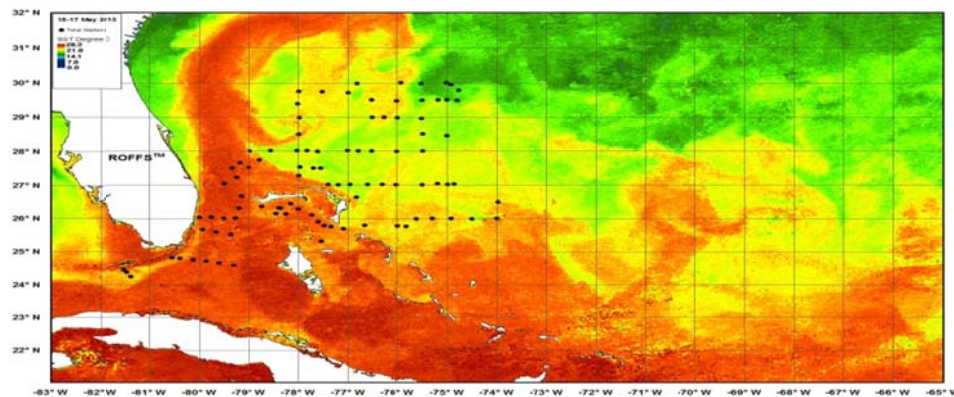
### 3. Extension of sampling efforts in the Caribbean and western North Atlantic

Several exploratory cruises in the western Caribbean Sea and Bahamas regions have been completed during spring between 2009 and 2013. Scattered collections of bluefin tuna larvae have been found in the Yucatan Channel, east of the Yucatan Peninsula, and north of the Bahamas. However, the relative amount of spawning activity that takes place in these areas is currently unknown. Current assessment models assume that larvae collected in the Gulf of Mexico encompass all of the western spawning stock. The relative importance of alternate spawning grounds therefore needs to be determined, to better test this assumption. Genetic testing of bluefin larvae collected can be used to assess the closeness of the relationship between larvae collected inside and outside the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, hydrodynamic backtracking analyses will be used to estimate original spawning locations of larvae from the Caribbean and Atlantic. This information can be combined to focus sampling efforts on particular regions in space and time, and repeated sampling across several years should be completed to determine the importance of previously unknown spawning grounds.

Of the two alternative spawning grounds identified, the area north of the Bahamas is potentially the largest (**Figure 4**). Habitat models suggest that potential spawning grounds are extensive, though it is unknown how much of the area may be utilized. The cruise in 2013 sampled only a portion of the area (**Figure 5**) but results suggest some level of spawning activity, though the extent is unknown. We propose a series of cruises in May and June over two years in this area that would cover a larger geographical extent. Approximately 200 samples would be taken in each cruise concentrated in areas identified as high probability for larval bluefin habitat.



**Figure 4.** Probability of occurrence of bluefin tuna larvae.



**Figure 5.** Stations sampled and possible extent of similar habitat.

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## Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6

**United States proposals for improving the scientific information  
for stock assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna**

*(Document submitted by U.S. Scientific Delegation to ICCAT SCRS)*

SUMMARY

*The United States scientific delegation to the SCRS recognizes the need to improve the scientific information for stock assessments of western Atlantic bluefin tuna. To this end the delegation proposes a three-part approach: 1. Improve existing and/or develop new indices for stock assessments, including advancements to the existing larval survey and development of an age-0 survey. 2. Improve the collection and processing of biological material (otoliths, spines, tissue samples) from the fishery, either on vessels, at ports of landing or in markets. 3. Develop a genomic-based approach to assessment of BFT similar to the close-kin estimates of spawning biomass of southern bluefin tuna.*

The United States recognizes the need to improve the scientific information for stock assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna. To this end the U.S. proposes a three-part approach:

1. Improving existing and/or developing new indices for stock assessments. The U.S. supports initiating an index for age-0 bluefin tuna and welcomes collaboration on the design and methodology. Fish of this size are rarely encountered in U.S. fisheries, however 41 BFT (267-413 mm FL) were captured while trolling in waters off Miami, FL during the late summer (Brothers *et al.* 1982). This suggests that it may be possible to initiate a trolling survey for age-0 BFT (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6**). The U.S. has also proposed expansion of the existing larval survey (Lamkin *et al.* 2014) to encompass more of the potential spawning area of WBFT and to increase the efficiency of the sampling. Both of these projects address key time periods (early juvenile and larval, respectively) in the life history of BFT, as well as provide known-origin samples to support projects in (3), below.

Current indices may also be improved by better accounting for the effects of environmental factors and regulations that affect interpretation of CPUE (a process that is ongoing at the SCRS and recommended by the SCRS Methods working group). We note, however, that indices only provide value to assessments after several years of standardized data collection. Furthermore, indices of relative abundance are only one of many pieces of information that go into a stock assessment and simply adding additional indices will not solve many of the key uncertainties for ABFT.

2. Improving the collection and processing of biological material (otoliths, spines, tissue samples) from the fishery, either on vessels, at ports of landing, or in markets. This is critical for improving stock assessments, for otolith microchemistry and for the analyses proposed in item (3) below. These improvements are simple in concept - initiate and support comprehensive collection of tissues for routine estimation of age and stock composition, but often difficult to achieve due to sampling logistics.
3. Develop a genomic-based approach for the assessment of BFT (**Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6**). The recent success of applying a close-kin analysis to estimate the spawning stock abundance of southern bluefin (Bravington *et al.* 2013), coupled with the rapid increase in resolution (and decrease in costs) of advanced genetic techniques as a result of the human genome project make the application of genomic approaches particularly relevant. First, the increased resolution provided by Restriction-site Associated DNA (RAD) provides thousands of loci for identifying population-level and individual-level differences, vastly increasing resolution over the much smaller number of microsatellites currently available. This increases the potential to determine stock of origin, and - beyond this, provides the potential for genetic mark recapture experiments such as close-kin analysis to estimate absolute abundance, mortality rates or migration, addressing directly some of the key uncertainties in BFT assessments. In particular the close-kin analysis could provide a *fishery-independent estimate of the WBFT spawning stock numbers*.

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### *Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6*

#### **A feasibility study on the development of annual relative abundance indices for young-of-the-year bluefin tuna (*thunnus thynnus*) in the Straits of Florida**

The SCRS recognized that “large uncertainty in stock status is exacerbated by the lack of appropriate information/data and scientific surveys” (ICCAT SCRS REPORT 2013). Current and future stock assessment models rely upon relative abundance indices. The youngest ages for which an index is available are ages 2 and 3. The availability of indices for the youngest age classes is particularly useful for improving the estimates of number of fish in these age classes in the most recent years of the data series, as there are fewer years of data available in the catch for these cohorts. Recruitment indices of Age 1 Southern bluefin tuna are developed for that species by a trolling survey off the coast of Western Australia, and considered for informing the management of fish when they enter the fishery two years later (Itoh *et al.* 2013).

Abundance indices for western Atlantic young-of-the-year (YOY/Age 0) will improve the assessment and management of the stock (albeit after the index has several some years of continuous information). However, such indices have not been developed, as bluefin of this young age are generally regarded as insufficiently available. Bluefin of this size are not targeted in the U.S. fisheries. Some Age 0 fish have been collected as part of targeted research projects, but even during such efforts, encounter rates are generally low. However, Brothers *et al.* (1983) collected a number of YOY during a study reporting on the growth of western Atlantic larval and juvenile BFT in 1982. Their approach to sampling juvenile BFT in the Straits of Florida was to request that local Miami charter boat operators retain YOY BFT. Forty-one (41) fish were caught on hook and line using techniques such as trolling small feather lures from mid-August through October of 1979-1980, ranging in size from 267 to 413 mm fork length. Although no similar effort has been made to acquire juvenile western Atlantic BFT of this size category in the years since, it is possible that such fish can still be found in the area and the season described by Brothers *et al.* (1983). Local fishermen may not identify these small tunas as BFT as at this small size they can be easily confused with blackfin tuna (*Thunnus atlanticus*). Hence, a primary step is determining the feasibility of developing a BFT YOY index is to ascertain the availability of these YOY fish.

It is reasonable to assume that a large fraction of the YOY of the Western Atlantic population spawned in the Gulf of Mexico pass through the Straits of Florida after leaving the Gulf of Mexico for Atlantic waters. Therefore, Phase One of the proposed feasibility study will be to characterize the availability (in time, location, vulnerability to various gears/techniques) of the Age 0 fish in the Florida Straits, to determine if YOY BFT can be collected in numbers sufficient to enable the development of indices of abundance for these young fish.

Phase One should be continued for 2 -3 years, to evaluate consistency of year-to-year availability. If warranted based on the data collected through Phase One, trials of standardized methods to collect data for ongoing abundance indices (Phase Two) can begin in parallel as early as year two of the study. Ideally, the availability and feasible logistics will permit the development of a scientific survey, perhaps employing methodologies similar to those of Itoh *et al.* (2013). Alternatively, some form of fishery dependent indices may be required.

## Methods

We propose to make a comprehensive effort to access the availability of YOY BFT by liaising with the commercial and recreational (private and charter) fishing community in the Florida straits (from West Palm Beach to Key West). From our initial query, we will identify fishers willing to participate but who are also conscientious in terms of communicating with the research team and procuring samples. To justify participants taking time to locate and catch small tuna during the presumed duration of presence in the Florida Straits (from mid-August through mid-October), monetary compensation may be necessary. Species identification information will be distributed to each participating boat captain. For YOY bluefin, the size and number of gill rakers on the first arch (34-43) is an easy distinguishing characteristic vs blackfin tuna (19-25), the most common similar scombrid in this area (Gibbs and Collette 1967). Communications to all participants when and where the schools of tuna are sighted will be essential. All cooperating participants would have to obtain an exempted fishing permit under NOAA's scientific permitting system, and an exemption under ICCAT regulations may be required. It is anticipated that the total catch from this feasibility study would still be quite minimal so as to not affect the stock or have any impact upon U.S. quotas of BFT.

Personal visits and regional face to face meetings will be an important aspect of program implementation. Brothers *et al.* (1983) made multiple in-person visits to talk to captains, most importantly at the beginning of the collections. As BFT enter the straits of FL at Key West, communications of first sighting in this location will raise awareness of the presence of YOY BFT. Some accommodation for freezer holding facilities may be required. One option may be to purchase small freezers for placement near cleaning stations at marinas or public ramps. This approach has been used successfully to obtain biological samples in some other surveys (e.g. Large Pelagic Biological Survey). As compensation, marina operators could be offered shared use of the freezers during survey operations, and exclusive use at other times. Participating fishers can leave whole or cleaned (head and attached skeleton only) specimens in the freezer, inside bags with id tags. Vessel interactions with YOY bluefin tuna will require log-book documentation so that time, date, location, fishing methods and catch rates are recorded and made available to the researchers.

Collection of additional information on catch rates and methodology will provide the necessary information for developing a full statistical design and power analysis for an operational survey. Information on timing, duration of passage and spatial distribution will be essential for designing a full survey. Data on capture and encounter rates, as well as successful fishing methods such as gear, lures, trolling speed, time of day and detection and identification of schools, will provide critical methodological details.

Phase Two of the project, if determined to be feasible based on the data collected in Phase One, would be the design and implementation of a pilot survey (fishery-independent designed survey or, if necessary, a fishery dependent survey). This could begin as early as Year Two of the project, while Phase One is continued in parallel, to confirm year-to-year consistency in availability.

The methodology employed in a scientific design may be similar to those used in by Itoh *et al.* (2013). Alternatively, other approaches may be considered. For example, YOY BFT have been caught in mid-water trawls in the Gulf of Mexico.

## Budget

Costs for Phase One may include possible monetary compensation for participating fishery constituents, funds for travel to regularly meet with participants and recover specimens, securing freezer/ refrigerator facilities, and partial salary for a contracted scientist. Duration of the pilot is expected to be at least 2 or 3 years. The cost of design and implementation of a pilot scientific survey will depend upon the results of Phase One and the difficulty and complexities involved.

### Anticipated results of feasibility study

1. Data on the availability, timing and duration of passage of YOY BFT through the Straits of Florida.
2. Data on the capture and encounter rates which will be critical for power and sample size analyses for an operational index.
3. Data on successful capture methodologies, such as gear, lures, trolling speed, time of day and detection and identification of schools to determine the most efficient sampling protocols.
4. Biological samples of known stock origin for genetics, age and growth analyses.
5. (Depending on results of Phase One) Survey design for the development of YOY BFT abundance indices. Pilot survey to test suitability.

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*Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6***DEVELOPMENT OF A GENOMIC-BASED APPROACH TO ASSESSMENT OF BFT****Introduction**

The rapid development of high-throughput, high resolution genetic analytical methods coupled with the rapid decrease in the cost of these analyses has made quantitative genomics a powerful technology for population assessments. In contrast to previous methodologies (microsatellites, single nucleotide polymorphisms, etc.), that provided relatively few (10s) markers for resolution, restriction-site associated DNA sequencing (RAD) analysis produces thousands of genetic markers per individual (Baird *et al.* 2008, Davey and Blaxter 2011), vastly increasing the resolution of markers for population-level differences and allowing for the unique identification of individuals or their progeny. Improved population level resolution increases the potential for resolving one of the key uncertainties in ABFT- stock of origin in mixed fisheries. Unique identification of individuals provides the potential for mark-recapture analyses that eliminate several nuisance parameters, namely tag loss and reporting rates. Furthermore, the thousands of available loci from RAD analysis make it possible to conduct parentage analysis which provides the critical information for estimation of spawning abundance through close-kin analysis (CKA), an approach that allows for abundance estimation from sampling of spawners and juvenile.

In contrast to many other methods of assessing populations, genetic approaches offer some desirable properties. First is the potential to identify individuals and their progeny, a property that expands genetics as a tool for conducting mark-recapture type studies. Along these lines, genetic methods offer the potential for non-invasive tagging with a mark that cannot be shed, potentially augmenting any conventional tagging program. Lastly, the resolving power is increasing and the costs are decreasing quite rapidly due to the economy of the human genome project, making the genotyping of thousands of samples possible.

We propose a pilot project to evaluate the utility of using advanced RAD DNA methods to evaluate stock mixing, to identify individual BFT and their parents and to evaluate the existing sampling framework (larval surveys and biological sampling of the fishery) for conducting a full close-kin analysis to estimate spawning abundance, independently from and complimentary to traditional stock assessment approaches. The proposal objectives follow:

1. Estimate the feasibility of identifying stock origin using RADseq technology from previously collected samples of known stock origin (East and West).
2. Analyze existing western Atlantic bluefin tuna larval samples collected from the Gulf of Mexico to estimate diversity of parents to determine if the larval survey provides effective samples for close-kin analysis.
3. Initiate/evaluate sampling design to collect DNA samples from adult BFT.
4. Provided (1), (2) and (3) work, then initiate close-kin analysis to estimate the absolute abundance of spawning western Atlantic tuna.

**Methods*****RAD sequencing***

Restriction-site associated DNA sequencing (RADseq) is a relatively new methodology for rapidly and cost-effectively obtaining 1000s of genetic markers per individual and analyzing a large number of samples concurrently (Baird *et al.* 2007, Davey and Blaxter 2011). In conjunction with methodologies for parallel processing of samples, RADseq becomes a very efficient tool for genetic studies. In contrast to earlier means of identifying genetic diversity (microsatellites, single nucleotide polymorphisms, etc) which were costly to develop and limited usually to only a few markers in number, RADseq provides thousands of markers, of which some will indicate population-level differences, and others differences at the individual level. The output of the RADseq analysis is a table of presence/absence of a particular loci (of which there may be thousands) for each individual sequenced. Then a principal components analysis is performed to determined combinations of loci that distinguish individuals or groups.

*Close-kin analysis (CKA)*

Close-kin analysis was originally proposed for minke whales (Skaug, 2001) and has, most recently, been successfully applied to Southern Bluefin tuna (Bravington *et al* 2013) as a means to estimate spawning abundance in situations where conventional tagging, and standard surveys or indirect assessment methodology proves difficult or highly uncertain. This is certainly the case for ABFT. The method proceeds as follows: take a random sample of juvenile fish and random sample of spawners, compare the genetic composition of each juvenile and each spawner to determine if any of the spawners could be a parent and then count the number of matches - juveniles that had a parent in the spawners, or the Parent – Offspring Pairs (POPs). If the spawning population is high, there will only be a small proportion of the sampled juveniles will result in POPs. The estimate of absolute spawning stock numbers ( $\hat{N}$ ) is then obtained from a mark-recapture model where the unique parental genetic contributions (one each from mother and father) present in juveniles serve as a tag that can be recaptured from adults in the fishery. The model follows below:

$$\hat{N} = 2 * J * A / POP$$

where  $J$  is the number of juveniles sampled and  $A$  is the number of adults sampled. Relatively independent of the population size, the target level for estimating the abundance of spawners is 50 POPs as the variance of the population size estimate stabilizes at that level. Secondly, if the analysis is conducted over multiple years, observing the presence of the same adult (generally one spawning) in the juveniles over multiple years gives information on survival of adults.

Target levels of sampling for adults and juveniles to obtain 50 POPs is approximately  $10*(N)^{.5}$ , so for a spawning population of 60,000 fish (current WBFT VPA estimates) one would need 2500 total fish (e.g. 1250 age-0 and 1250 adults).

Numerous other details will require further analysis for the full CKA, once the pilot project determines the feasibility of proceeding.

*Sampling*

One of the key requirements for a genomic approach to succeed will be obtaining adequate samples. To achieve the pilot part of this proposal all samples are currently archived and available. For the full CKA, the current larval survey averages between 1000 -1500 fish per sampling season, indicating that it may be sufficient for CKA, if the samples meet the genetic diversity requirement (i.e. larvae are sufficiently mixed such that individual larvae demonstrate high spawner diversity).

To obtain 1250 adult samples it may require some substantial sampling of the U.S., Canadian, Japanese or Mexican (the primary CPCs capturing Western origin BFT) fisheries, particularly as some of these fish could be of Eastern origin. Given that the total catch in any given year is ~7000 spawners (age 8+ fish) this would require obtaining a tiny tissue sample (~1 milligram, or a less than a pencil eraser size) from about 20% of the total catch.

*Pilot project*

The initial pilot project will be to determine the feasibility of determining stock origin with RAD analysis with existing samples of known origin collected from the spawning grounds in the Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean Sea, and to evaluate genetic diversity in larvae. Collaborators on this pilot include Jan McDowell, John Graves (VIMS), Peter Grewe and Mark Bravington (CSIRO) and the large Pelagics Lab at University of New Hampshire (Lutcavage lab). Initial project costs are in **Table 2**.



**Table 2.** Initial costs for pilot project and close-kin genetic work (note that the initial cost of \$50 per fish should decrease about \$20 on an operational basis. Costs are in U.S. dollars and do not include labor, scientific support, travel or sample collection needed for part 3).

1. To screen known origin fish to determine whether stock origin can be determined			
	Target fish	Cost per sample	Total
Western origin	100	50	5000
Eastern origin	100	50	5000
2. Larval to determine number of parents and half-sibling within and between samples			
	Target fish	Cost/sample	Cost
Larval from 2009-2011	1000	50	50000
		Total	\$60,000
3. Close kin analysis			
Larvae/juveniles	1250	50	62500
Adults	1250	50	62500
			\$125,000

## Expected results

### *a. Estimation of stock proportion*

We expect that we will be able to evaluate the feasibility of stock identification through RAD analyses fairly soon. If this works, it will provide a relatively inexpensive and non-lethal means of determining stock origin.

### *b. Estimation of parentage diversity of larval samples*

If unique parentage can be determined, this analysis will provide the necessary information to determine whether the larval survey provides samples with enough spawner diversity (number of parents) to be able to be considered a random sample of the juvenile. The analysis will evaluate, through rarefaction curves the number of unique parents as a function of number of larvae sampled, both within a larval tow and between larval tows. This will help determine whether it is better to sample more larvae in a location, if spawner diversity is high within a tow, whether it is necessary to sample more stations in time and space, or, if spawner diversity is low both within and between stations, whether the larval survey will not provide the necessary platform for randomly sampling juveniles.

### *c. Full close-kin analysis*

Provided that parts (1) and (2) succeed and that an adequate number of spawners can be obtained from the fishery, then a full close-kin analysis can proceed which will provide an estimate of absolute abundance of the spawners that produced the juveniles in a given year. It is critical that adults that could have produced the juveniles in a given year be sampled, so the full CKA may need to be updated in future years as past spawners are encountered and included in the prior year's data.

Estimates of absolute spawning stock number will provide an independent check upon existing stock assessment estimates, increasing certainty in the abundance of the stock. Further, if ongoing, these estimates will greatly enhance the ability to estimate the stock-recruitment relationship as the spawning stock estimates will be independent of the recruitment estimated in the assessment model. These estimates can also be formally incorporated into the management procedure approach (MP) proposed for BFT (ICCAT 2013).

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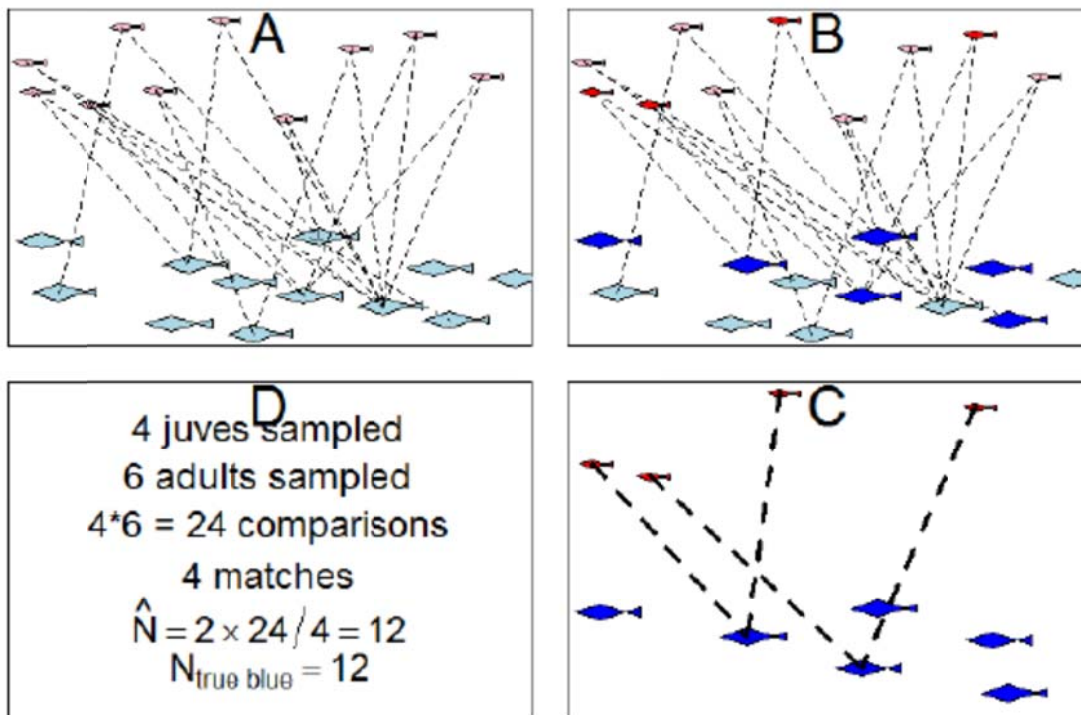
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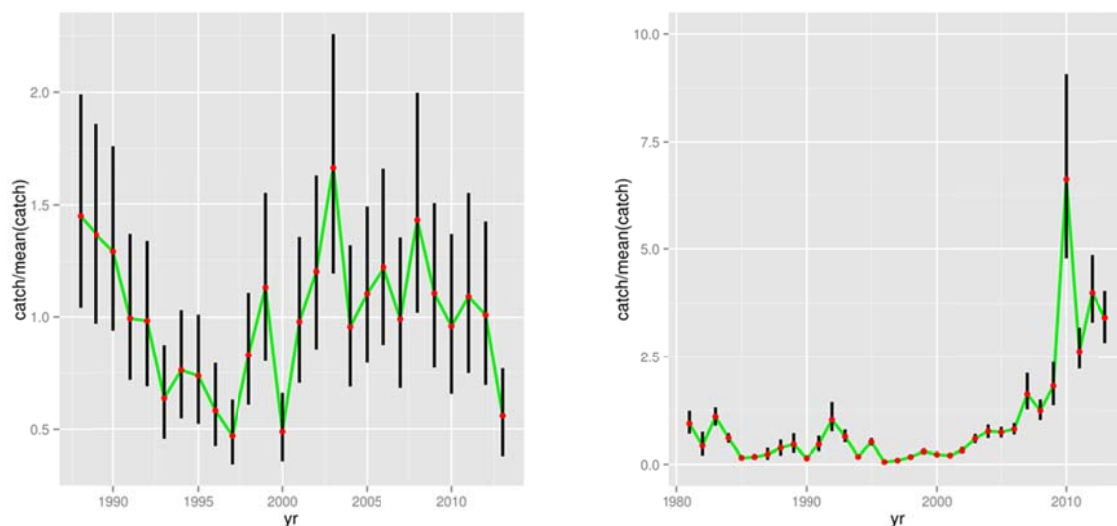
**Figure 1** (reprinted with permission from Bravington *et al* 2014). Cartoon of close-kin: the DNA profile of the juvenile “tags” its two parents, and we check to see how many tags are recaptured. Clockwise from top left: A shows all the adults (blue), juveniles (pink), and parental relationships; B shows sampled juveniles (red) and sampled adults (deep blue); C shows only what we can actually observe, i.e. the samples and the identified POPs; D shows the calculation of the estimate, which in this slightly contrived example happens to be exactly equal to the true number. Note that two juveniles match to the same adult, but this still counts as two POPs.

## Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.6

**Canadian proposals for the development and implementation of fishery independent indices  
of abundance for the gulf of St Lawrence bluefin tuna**  
(Document submitted by Canada)<sup>2</sup>

## 1. Background

Analytical assessment models for Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT), *Thunnus thynnus*, are calibrated using primarily fishery dependent catch per unit effort (CPUE) indices of abundance that rely solely on fishery information. In recent years, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has expressed concern about the representativeness of these indices and their ability to track trends in abundance due to changing fishing patterns and management imposed initiatives for both the eastern and western BFT stocks. In the latest report, the SCRS strongly recommends the development of fishery independent abundance indices for both stocks to complement the existing indices (ICCAT 2013, 2013a). Currently, Canada provides 2 indices of abundance, both CPUE based, for calibrating the western BFT assessment; Gulf of St Lawrence (1981-2013) and SWNS (1988-2013) rod and reel index (**Figure 1**). Both index time series have been influenced by external factors that may reflect annual changes in the index not directly associated with changes in abundance. The introduction of mandatory submission of logbooks in 1996, the implementation of individual transferable quotas in 2004, changing fishing practices, and in some areas, fishing restrictions imposed by the regional associations have affected the timing of the fishery, and all contribute to trends in the indices. Uncertainty related to the large increase in the GSL index resulted in the exclusion of the 2010 data from the 2012 assessment. The GSL index remained relative high in 2011 and 12 and proposed changes in exclusion may further affect the index.



**Figure 1.** Standardized BFT index of abundance with 95% confidence intervals for Southwest Nova Scotia (left) and the Gulf of St Lawrence (right).

The main uncertainty regarding these changes in trends relates to the impact they have on the assumption of constant catchability of the fishery dependent indices over time, and whether or not the index trends (i.e., changes in indices) reflect actual changes in abundance and/or changes in management initiatives or the fishery. There are several examples on both sides of the Atlantic where changes or adaptations in management and the fishery have potentially affected the indices of abundance used in the eastern and western bluefin tuna assessments. In fact real concern was expressed at the last SCRS meeting that several of the indices for the eastern stock may be lost in the near future due to management changes. This has led the SCRS to recommend the development of fishery independent indices of abundance which tend to be relatively consistent over time in terms of gear, coverage and survey design. It is also important to note that the development a new fishery independent index of abundance will require 7-10 years before it has an influence on the assessment output results.

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## 2. Proposals

Below we present 2 independent proposals to develop and implement fishery independent indices of abundance for the Gulf of St Lawrence; the first acoustic-trolling survey based index and the second a mark-recapture study. Each proposal on its own would provide a new fishery independent index of BFT abundance. Furthermore, while there are aspects of each approach that could be integrated into the other survey design, simply combining both approaches will not satisfy the requirements of either index. For the acoustic-trolling survey, coverage would be limited by the tagging proposal. Conversely, the number of BFT available for tagging, and their distribution, under the acoustic-trolling survey would be substantially reduced, albeit available for conventional tagging. Fish captured by trolling could however be used to apply popup satellite tags (PSAT) and /or uniquely coded acoustic tags (V16 Vemco Inc., NS, Canada) as proposed in the mark recapture study. Neither proposal is ranked regarding priority.

Combining the acoustic-trolling survey with the mark-recapture study would provide limited access to bluefin tuna for tagging; however, the two proposals have different requirements/assumptions to estimate abundance. The acoustic trolling survey is designed to cover a broad area in search of acoustic signals associated with tuna for enumeration of the number of fish. The trolling will be used to collect a representative sub-sample for identification of targets and estimation of size distribution. Additional fish could be obtained by collaborating with the commercial fishing fleet in each stratum if insufficient quantities are available from the survey vessel. This would of course add additional vessel costs to the proposal. The aim of the mark-recapture study is to catch and mark as many fish as possible in the time available, thereby narrowing the confidence intervals of the biomass estimate. The mark-recapture study proposal recommends fishing for tuna over a broad area (4 regions) in the Gulf of St Lawrence for increased coverage. Unfortunately, fishing for tuna to tag does not require vessel movement once the fish are located. While this limited movement would meet all the requirements for a mark recapture study, it would severely restrict the acoustic coverage which requires almost continuous movement. Consequently, while there are some options for combining the acoustic-trolling survey with the mark recapture study, doing so would compromise both approaches. It is thus recommended that only one or both proposals be put forward for funding.

## **2.1 Proposal 1 – Acoustic-Trolling Survey**

*“Development and Implementation of a Fishery Independent Index of Abundance for the Gulf of St Lawrence Bluefin using Acoustic-Trolling survey.”*

### **2.1.1 Context**

The first proposal to develop a fishery independent index of abundance for Gulf of St Lawrence (GSL) bluefin tuna combines a traditional approach (trolling) of capturing large pelagic species with state of the art acoustic technology (split-beam echo-sounder and multi-beam sonar). Currently the Gulf of St Lawrence rod and reel index of abundance is based on catch and effort from the logbooks of the commercial fishery which tends to be stationary during fishing. No acoustic information is available from the commercial bluefin tuna fleet, although fishers commonly use acoustics to observe tuna. The survey will employ acoustic to improve coverage within a predefined area or stratum and trolling to catch and sample fish. In essence, the acoustic technology will be used to quantify and count bluefin tuna like targets in the water column and the trolling to estimate catch rates and target identification/validation for backscatter estimation. The approach integrates the technology and capture gear such that two fishery independent indices of abundance will be available from a single survey. Data for both indices will be collected concurrently from the same vessel(s).

### **2.1.2 Objectives**

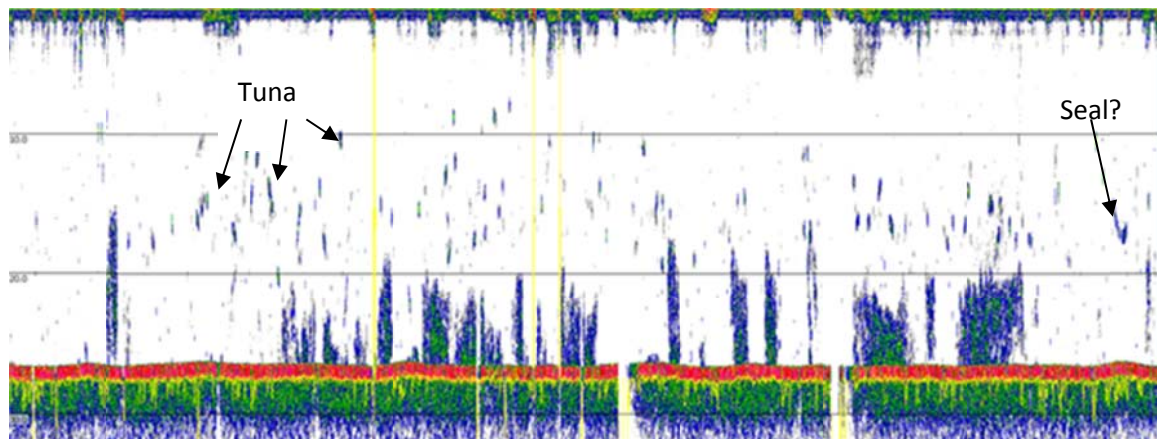
The primary objectives of the proposed survey are to:

- 1) Develop one or more long term fishery independent indices of abundance for bluefin tuna in the Gulf of St Lawrence. This approach will involve the implementation of a combined trolling and acoustic survey that could result in two independent indices of abundance from the same survey design and vessel.
- 2) Enhance Biological sampling (size data and otoliths). In addition to standard measurements for all captured fish, a sub-sample of bluefin tuna caught during trolling could be retained for biological sampling (otoliths, sex/maturity, stomach content etc.) assuming scientific quota is available.
- 3) Collaborate with, and support, of other bluefin tuna research and researchers. Fish captured during trolling could be tagged (traditional or PSAT) or a tissue/genetic sample collected before the fish is released.

### **2.1.3 Equipment**

Standard commercial baited trolling gear will be utilized to catch and to estimate the CPUE using standardized protocols during the survey. The specific configuration will be finalized after discussion the industry and international scientists. Options to strengthen the line will also be explored to decrease fish retrieval time and increase acoustic survey time. The size of bluefin tuna captured in the Gulf of St Lawrence has ranged from <10kg to >650kg between 1972 and 2013. Mean raw and flank sizes by year are described in **Table 1**.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans own and operates several acoustic monitoring systems suitable for a bluefin tuna survey. It is proposed to utilize a calibrated 120kHz Simrad EK60 scientific echosounder (7 degree beam angle) combined with a 500kHz high resolution Mesotech M3 multi-beam sonar (range approximately 100m, swath 120 degrees and variable beam angles) to conduct the survey. The vessel mounted sounder would be orientated downward and the sonar forward. If more than one vessel is utilized an alternative configuration of a EK 60 echosounder (same beam angle) and a 200kHz MS2000 multi-beam sonar (180 degree swath) could be deployed. Both systems will be pole mounted to the side of the survey vessel, for easy deployment and retrieval, if possible. An example of bluefin tuna in an echogram is presented in **Figure 2.1.1**.



**Figure 2.1.1** Echogram of herring schools and bluefin tuna observed on Fisherman’s Bank September 28, 2013 recorded by a fishing vessel as it search for herring during a commercial fishing operation (below).

Several options are available for vessels to deploy the trolling and acoustic equipment. Given its compact size, the equipment can be deployed from almost any commercial, recreational or scientific vessel, however because of the shallow water around PEI it is recommended that only smaller vessels be considered for the survey (<85’, preferably 45’ or less).

#### 2.1.4 Survey design

The actual survey design is not finalized, but will incorporate historical data on bluefin tuna catches and up to date information from the fishing/recreational industry. Figure 2.1.2 illustrates the location of bluefin tuna catches from 1997 to 2013 and **Figure 2.1.3** the same information annually. Based on this information it is evident that bluefin tuna tend to be concentrated in a few locations and within a 15-20 km distance along the northern shore of PEI, as well as in a 10-20km band that extends from Fisherman’s Bank to coast of Cape Breton from Port Hood to Inverness, broadening slightly near Cape Breton. The areas of concentrations include 1) North Cape eastward to Malpeque Bay, 2) Crowbush to East Point, 3) Fisherman’s Bank eastward to about half way between PEI and Cape Breton, and 4) the southwestern coast of Cape Breton.

The Gulf will be divided into 5 or 6 stratum (**Figure 2.1.4**) and effort focused in those strata where bluefin tuna are known to concentrate, however, the coordinates of the strata may change slightly after discussions with the tuna industry. The amount of time spent in each stratum will depend upon the amount of vessel time available. A series of transects (either systematic parallel or zig-zag) will be established in each stratum based on historical catches and recent effort. It is anticipated that 2 surveys of 10-12 day duration will be conducted each year, one in August and one in late September. Acoustic data will be collected continuously throughout the survey.

Acoustic data will be analyzed using Echoview and in-house software and the results presented as acoustic backscatter, observed biomass, and the number of observed tuna per stratum. Trolling data will be expressed in terms of CPUE where effort will be per hour or multiple hours fished.

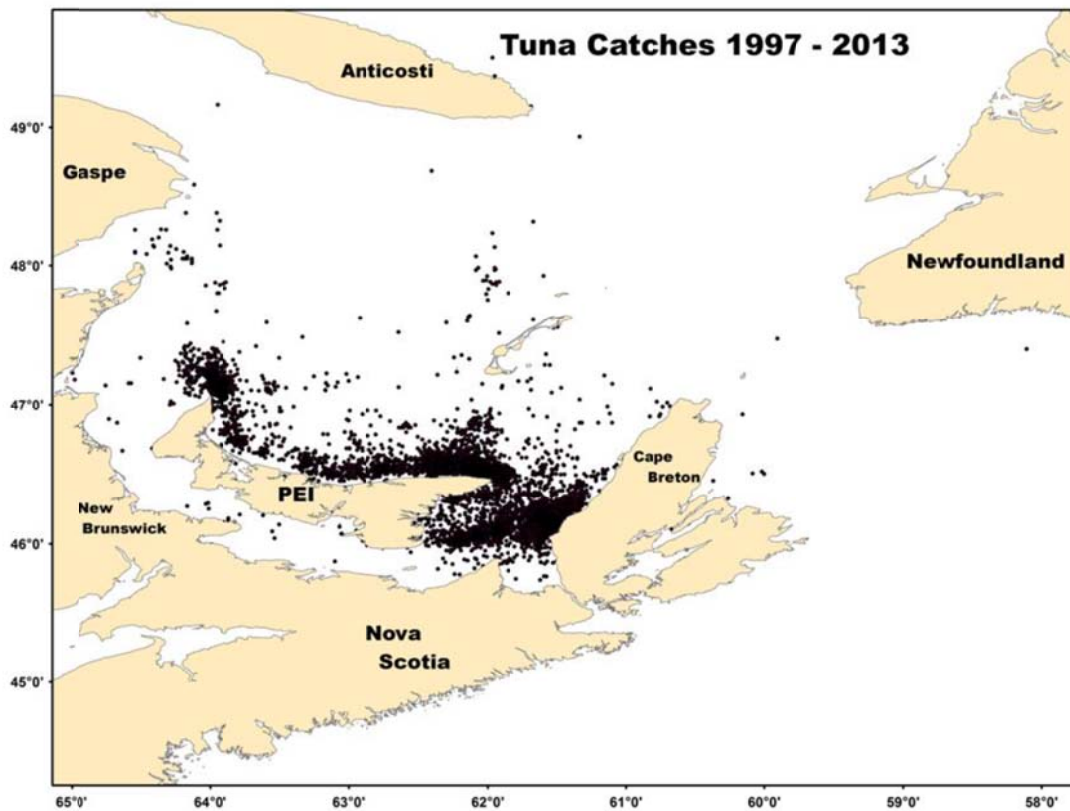
Biological measurements will be undertaken when the bluefin tuna are alongside the survey vessel. It is the intent of this survey to release all captured bluefin tuna alive, unless they are required for specific studies and a quota source has been identified. Incidental mortalities (expected to be few) will use the ICCAT research mortality allowance (Total 20t annually) to accommodate any unforeseen mortality.

#### 2.1.5 Reporting

An annual report on the project’s progress and results will be provided/presented to the industry, DFO and the SCRS.

**Table 1.** Summary of Gulf of St Lawrence bluefin tuna mean lengths and weights from 1997 to 2013.

Year	Number	Raw Weight (kg)			Flank length (cm)			
		Average	Min	Max	Number	Average	Min	Max
1997	226	426.8	19.5	595.1	226	288.3	104.9	321.3
1998	227	421.1	281.2	600.6	227	288.2	251.3	326.6
1999	385	371.7	23.1	586.9	385	275.7	110.9	319.8
2000	573	354.9	38.6	658.2	573	272.2	131.9	332.1
2001	376	305.6	151.5	505.8	376	260.6	208.4	309.0
2002	597	272.7	24.0	493.5	597	250.6	112.3	303.9
2003	590	257.3	95.3	460.8	590	247.6	178.8	295.6
2004	736	252.2	70.8	437.3	736	246.1	160.0	298.7
2005	792	251.0	100.2	421.8	792	245.1	181.9	295.1
2006	962	257.0	72.1	466.3	962	246.7	162.8	296.6
2007	586	281.4	4.5	505.3	586	251.2	65.0	304.5
2008	736	279.3	117.9	478.1	736	251.7	193.2	299.1
2009	802	317.7	68.5	585.6	802	260.4	158.3	319.6
2010	585	335.6	86.2	537.1	585	263.7	170.6	310.7
2011	637	300.4	59.0	504.4	637	255.2	152.2	304.3
2012	817	276.3	90.7	527.5	817	247.6	175.9	308.9
2013	734	297.7	133.8	489.9	734	254.3	197.1	301.5
Total	10361	295.0	4.5	658.2	10361	255.4	65.0	332.1

**Figure 2.1.2** Location of bluefin tuna catches in the Gulf of St Lawrence from 1997 to 2013. Each point represents a single fish.

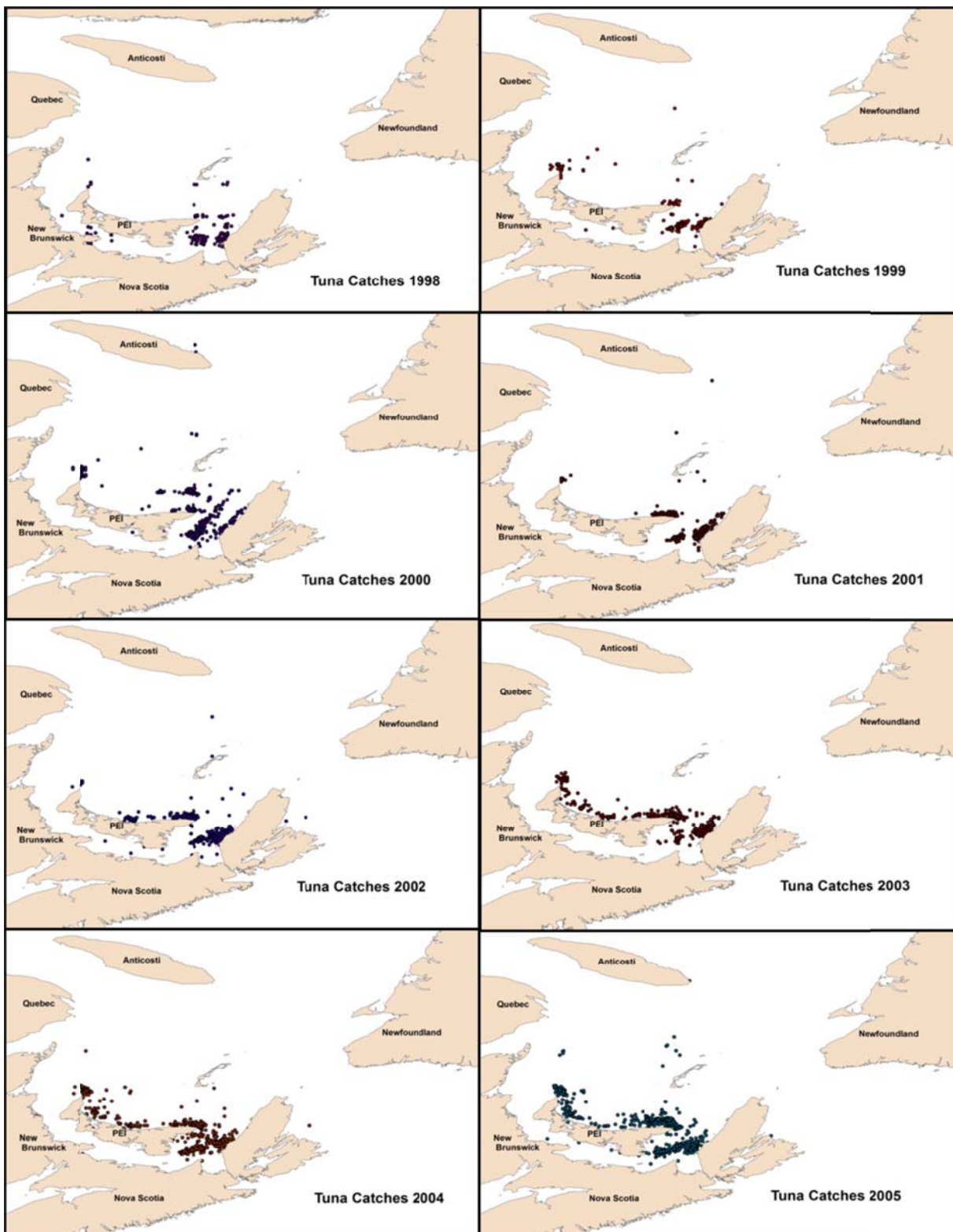
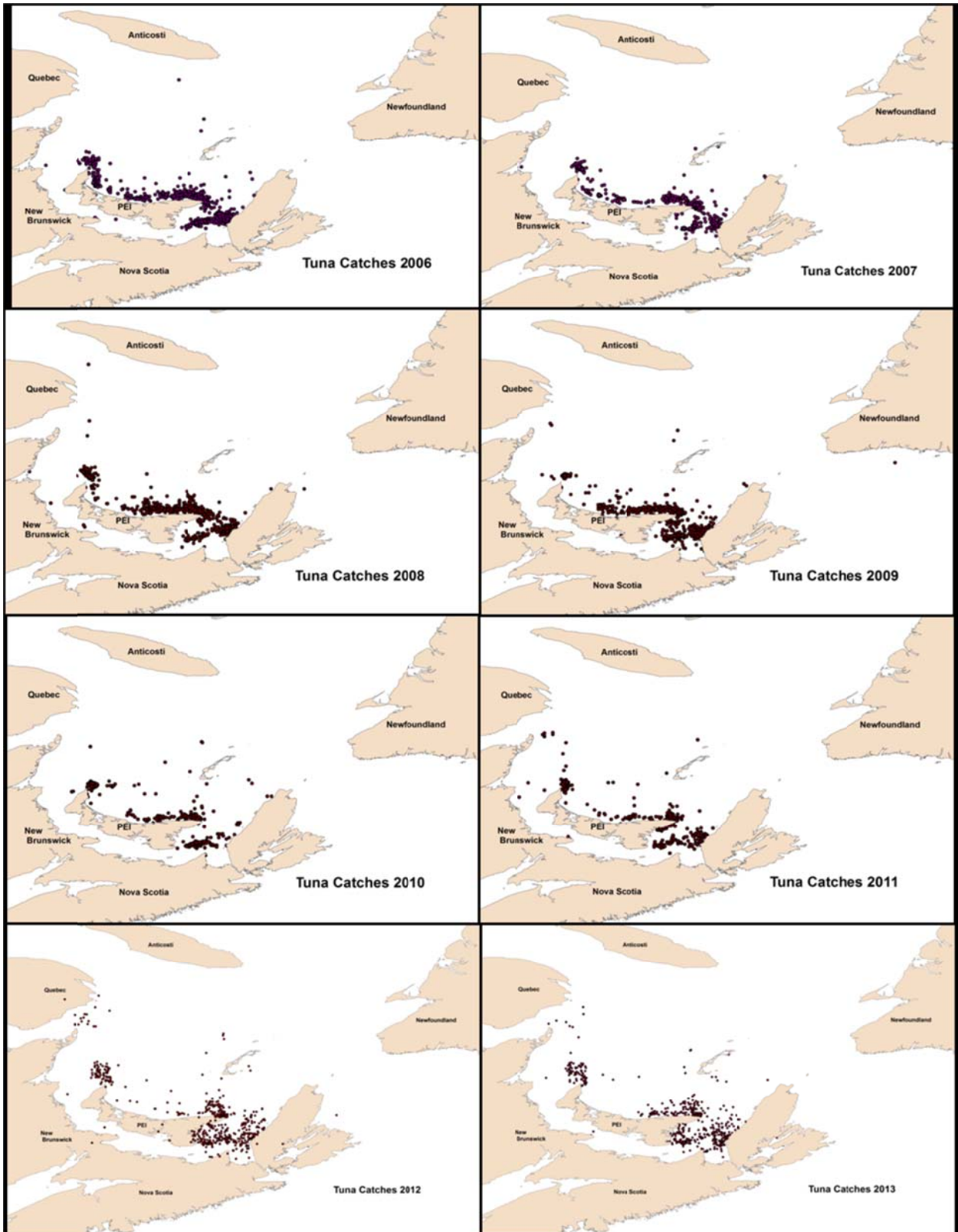
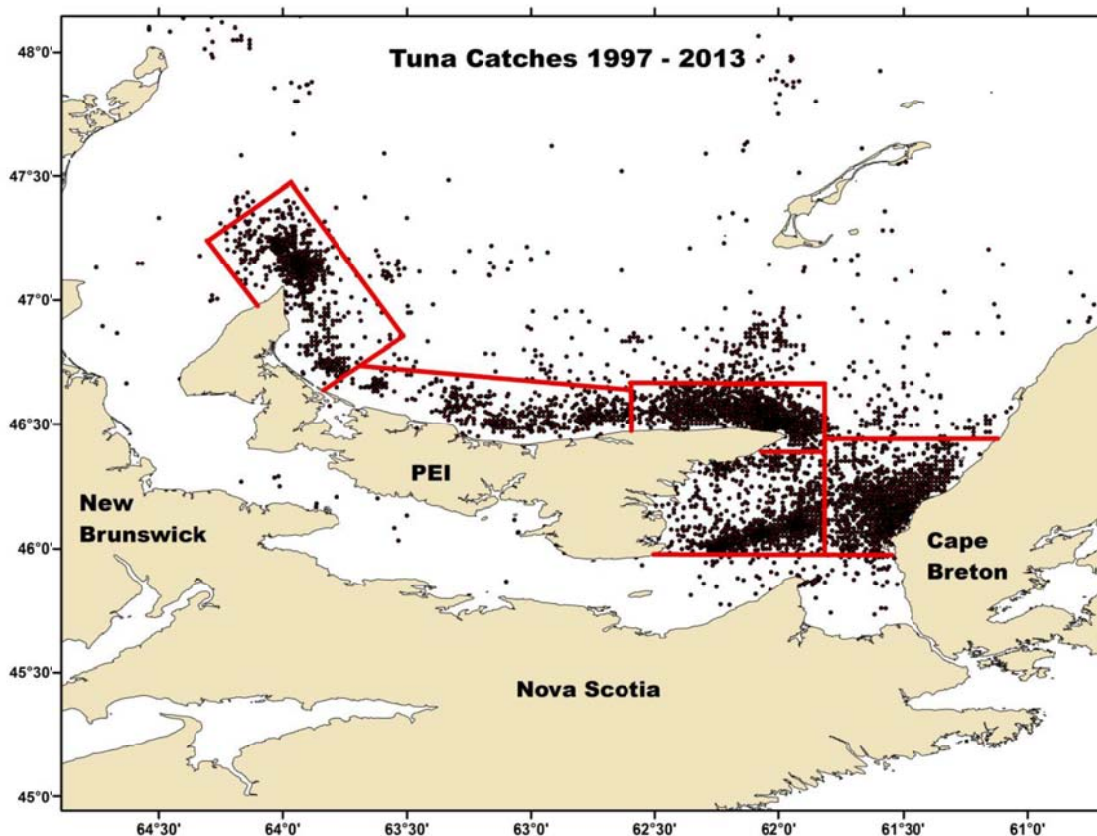


Figure 2.1.3a Location of bluefin tuna catches in the Gulf of St Lawrence by year from 1998 to 2005. Each point represents a single fish.





**Figure 2.1.3b** Location of bluefin tuna catches in the Gulf of St Lawrence by year from 2006 to 2013. Each point represents a single fish.



**Figure 2.1.4** Approximate location of the Gulf of St Lawrence trolling-acoustic survey strata with the catches from 1997 to 2013. Transects will be defined for the stratum one the amount of vessel time is determined.

## 2.2 Proposal 2 – Mark-Recapture Study

*“A Mark and Recapture Experiment to Determine the Abundance of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Present on a Seasonal Basis each Year in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada”.*

### 2.2.1 Overview

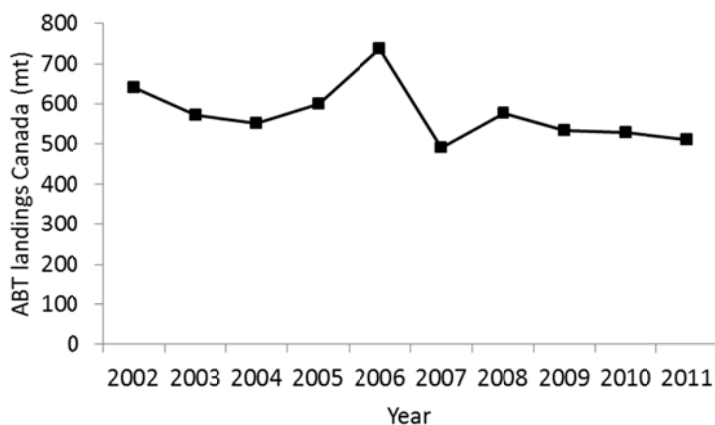
Accurate estimates of bluefin tuna abundance are vital for both sustainable commercial and recreational exploitation and conservation, but are difficult to achieve due to their highly migratory behaviour. In this multi-year project, in collaboration with both commercial and recreational fishers from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, we will deploy both conventional and electronic tagging technology inside a Jolly-Seber open population mark and recapture experimental framework to obtain an abundance estimate for bluefin Tuna in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The critical assumptions of a Jolly-Seber mark and recapture abundance models for open populations are: 1) Every animal has the same probability of capture; 2) marked animals have the same probability of survival; and 3) marks are not lost or overlooked. Based on our past tuna tagging work in the Gulf, we are certain there will be no or extremely limited tagging mortality, so the stock will be unaffected. All fishers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence will be encouraged to participate (see attached letters of support). Also, this proposal can benefit from, and add value to proposed broad band acoustic surveys and otolith collection by DFO by leveraging human resources, ship time and increased tagging opportunities. Critical infrastructure is already in place including lines of acoustic telemetry receivers at the entrances to the Gulf of St. Lawrence operated by Dalhousie University’s Ocean Tracking Network (OTN). A portion of project support has been secured from the National Research and Engineering Council of Canada through the Discovery Grant Program to MJWS.

### 2.2.2 Context

Studying large-pelagic, highly migratory marine fishes is difficult due to the expense of access and monitoring of movement (Donaldson *et al.* 2008). Fisheries dependent methods (i.e., Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE)) have been used to estimate abundance for large pelagic fishes though the shortcomings of these methods have been well documented (Hilborn and Walters 1992). Large pelagic fishes are difficult to census by traditional population assessment methods, such as mark and recapture, as access to fish for release is often minimal. Regardless, interest in fish tagging data for stock assessment has increased (Anon. 2007) and tagging data may provide the only viable alternative to traditional fisheries dependent methods for the measurement of population abundance (Polacheck *et al.* 2006).

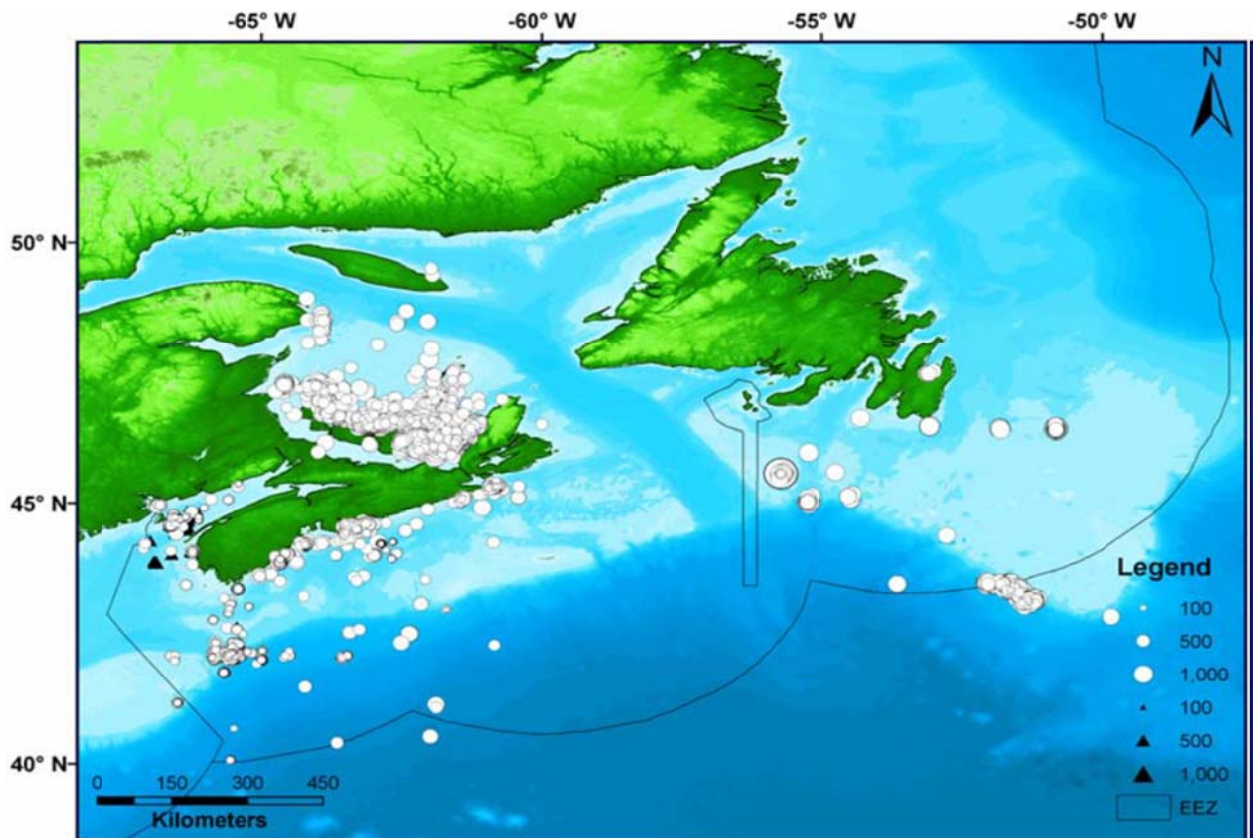
Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) are a large marine, highly migratory, pelagic fish that breed in tropical waters but feed throughout tropical and temperate areas. Bluefin tuna have the ability to retain heat through counter current heat exchangers (Carey and Teal 1966) and can have internal temperatures that are 5°C to 13°C above the ambient water temperature (Graham and Dickson 2001), which allows them to range widely into cool productive oceanic waters in the western and eastern Atlantic Ocean, including the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.

In the North Atlantic Ocean, Atlantic bluefin tuna are fished commercially by fishers from more than 40 countries (National Research Council 1994). Atlantic bluefin tuna are managed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) as two separate stocks; a western stock that breeds in the Gulf of Mexico and an eastern stock that breeds in the Mediterranean Sea (National Research Council 1994). The abundance of western Atlantic bluefin tuna has been severely reduced with a currently estimated population of approximately 98,000 individuals (age 8 and older; Anon 2012) that is considered to be approximately 25 to 36 % of the 1970 level (Anon 2012). Because of low abundance, in 2010 Atlantic bluefin tuna were proposed for listing and protection under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), although the proposal was not accepted by CITES member nations. Recently (2011) bluefin have been recommended for listing as Endangered under the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC; <http://www.cosewic.gc.ca>) and assessment for a listing by the Species At Risk Act (SARA) is underway. Because of conservation concerns commercial quotas for Atlantic bluefin tuna in Canadian waters have been reduced in recent years as managers attempt to rebuild the western stock (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 2.2.1** Atlantic bluefin tuna landings and discards in metric tonnes by year 2002-2011 (from DFO 2011, and Hanke *et al.* 2013).

Atlantic bluefin tuna migrate seasonally into Canadian waters to feed on abundant prey including Atlantic Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus*) and Atlantic Saury (*Scomberesox saurus*). They are accessed in two main regions in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, in southwest Nova Scotia and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence they are fished by fleets from Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. Bluefin tuna are generally present in Canadian waters from June to December and are fished by Canadian fleets in the Bay of Fundy, on the Scotian Shelf, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off Newfoundland (**Figure 2**). Atlantic bluefin tuna fished in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence are part of the western Atlantic Ocean stock (Rooker *et al.* 2008).



**Figure 2.2.2** Location and landed weight in lbs from logbooks of Atlantic bluefin tuna caught by Canadian fishers from 2000-2009. Symbols represent landed weight by gear (white circles = hook and line; black triangles = electric harpoon). Black line is the boundary of the Canadian Exclusive Economic Zone (Figure from DFO 2011).

The CPUE for Atlantic bluefin tuna has risen dramatically in the last few years in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (**Figure 1**) to the point where in 2010 the Prince Edward Island fleet (310 licenses) caught their entire quota in 3 days (Hanke *et al.* 2013). Historically this took months to achieve. These data and similar observations have caused both fishers and scientists to question the accuracy of the current western Atlantic tuna abundance estimates (Bluefin RPA meeting, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 2011).

There are other indications of stock resurgence of bluefin tuna including the data from 59 pop-up archival satellite tags that we deployed on Atlantic bluefin tuna in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence two weeks prior to the opening of the Prince Edward Island, Gulf Nova Scotia and Gulf New Brunswick commercial fisheries in 2010 (Stokesbury *et al.* 2011). After approximately 533 Atlantic bluefin tuna were harvested from the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Hanke *et al.* 2013) only 2 fish with satellite tags were re-captured. However 53 of 59 tags (4 failed to report) reported from live fish after the close of the commercial season (Stokesbury *et al.* 2011). Though not rigorous, this indicates that there may be more Atlantic bluefin tuna present in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence than have been previously estimated.

In summary, for proper management and conservation, there is a significant and timely need to development accurate indices of abundance Atlantic bluefin tuna in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The goal of this project is to obtain this information through a multi-year mark and recapture experiment using a Jolly-Seber open population model (Jolly 1965, Seber 1965, Ricker 1975, Amstrup 2005).

### 2.2.3 Experimental design

Study site - The Gulf of St. Lawrence is bounded by Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador. It is similar to an inland sea as it has distinct physical characteristics and is partially isolated from the North Atlantic Ocean (**Figure 2**). Historical micro constituent analysis (Rooker *et al.* 2008) and archival tagging (Wilson *et al.* 2010) have established that Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Gulf of St. Lawrence belong almost exclusively to the western stock.

Approach - We will design and test a procedure that utilizes both mark and recapture using conventional dart tags (Ricker 1975, Amstrup 2005, Stokesbury *et al.* in press), and spatial and temporal animal movement data derived from acoustic (Stokesbury *et al.* 2005) and archival satellite tags (Stokesbury *et al.* 2004, Block *et al.* 2005, Stokesbury *et al.* 2007, Stokesbury *et al.* 2011). Historical data from archival satellite tagging and new data from acoustic and conventional tagging will be used to address the assumptions that are required for estimating abundance through mark and recapture for an open population.

An “open” population changes in abundance during the study due to births, deaths, immigration and emigration (Krebs 1989). For a Jolly-Seber estimate (Jolly 1965, Seber 1965, Ricker 1975, Pollack *et al.* 1990) mark-recapture samples are taken on three or more occupations. The key point is that you must determine, “When was the individual last captured?” The time interval can vary between captures but fish must be individually marked. The population size is calculated from dividing the size of the marked population by the proportion of animals marked (number of animals caught in a sample compared to how many of those animals were marked; Krebs 1989). The increase in the numbers of bluefin tuna that will be examined for marks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence due to the growing catch-and-release charter fishery (catch and release 600 to 800 fish per year) and therefore the increase in tags that will be recaptured, will allow this experiment to be conducted at a higher level of precision than has been possible previously.

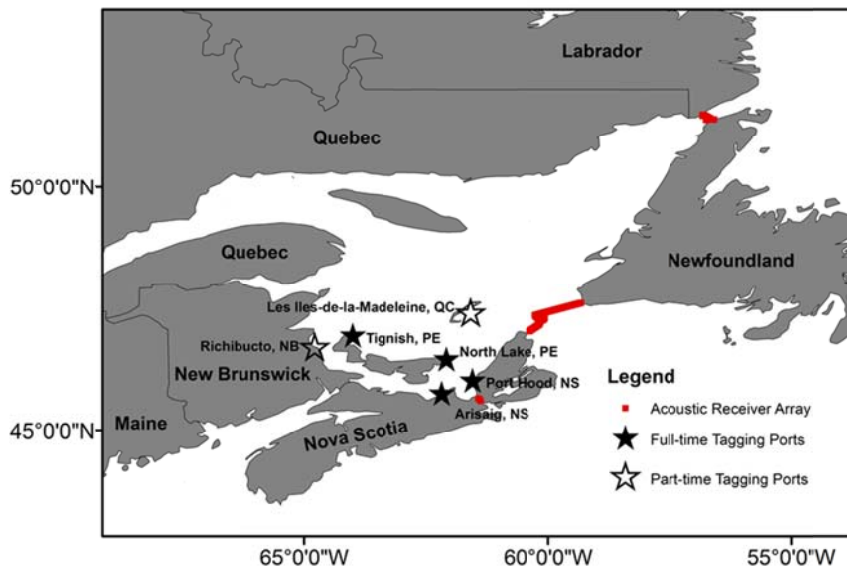
A Jolly-Seber mark and recapture experiment will be performed in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Prince Edward Island Fishermen’s Association, the Gulf Nova Scotia Fishermen’s Association (see included letters of support) and other bluefin tuna fishers from the region. There is now a recreational charter fishery for Atlantic bluefin tuna in the southern Gulf of Saint Lawrence. Many tuna are now captured in this recreational fishery, and released back into the population. By tagging bluefin tuna captured in this fishery, as well as the wide spatial distribution provided by tagging with commercial fishers, there is an opportunity to apply conventional tags (Floy spaghetti streamers) to large numbers of tuna during the summer and early autumn. Researchers will be deployed on fishing boats in four locations during the months of August to November (North Lake and Tignish PEI, Port Hood and Arasaig NS; **Figure 4**) and two locations where opportunistic tagging can occur (Richibucto, NB, Magdalen Islands PQ; **Figure 4**) to attach conventional tags to bluefin tuna captured and released by fishers. Returns of marked animals will occur, both through recapture in the charter fishery and through the commercial fisheries that open in the autumn.

#### 2.2.4 Implementation and staff

2014 – Preparation for execution of the project will start during the summer of 2014. Multiple years of tagging and tag recapture will be required to provide the first valid estimate of abundance. This procedure is necessary as the number of tagged fish must build up over at least two seasons to provide enough tagged fish and tag returns to create a valid estimate of abundance. Based on the recapture of our archival tags in 2010 in relation to the total estimated catch ( $2/55 = u = 0.036$ ) we suggest a provisional population of ~ 14,000 tuna are now in the Gulf each year, keeping in mind that this is only a portion of the total stock abundance as not all bluefin tuna enter the Gulf of St. Lawrence each year. Based on the estimated provisional population we will be required to tag between 200 to 250 tuna a year to obtain a valid estimate that will have either the 25 or 10 % probability of accuracy that is required for management and scientific study, respectively (Krebs 1989).

One Post-Doctoral Fellow (Post-Doc) will be hired to work on the project year round. This responsible scientist will assist in experimental design, lead the field crews and assist in data analysis, report preparation and information dissemination to fishers and managers. The field research team will consist of the responsible scientist and three technicians who will be hired for 3-4 months a year augmented with field assistance from the study P-I’s and fishers. Post-Doc and technicians will undergo training including safety training (MEDS A-3 Dartmouth Survival Systems Inc.), training in conventional and acoustic tagging techniques, otolith and tissue removal and sample preparation, metadata recording and data analysis.

To perform the experiment we will be required to tag approximately 200-250 bluefin tuna/yr in regions of the Gulf where we anticipate, from past years knowledge, that they will randomly mix with the population. The study design will consist of either the Post-Doc or technicians being stationed in all four locations (**Figure 4**; North Lake and Tignish, PEI and Port Hood and Arasiag NS) that geographically coincide with past areas of high catch rates (**Figure 1**). Also, tagging will be performed from ports in New Brunswick and the Magdalen Islands when possible. Opportunistic tagging opportunities are also expected (tagging that is not directly chartered for). Each researcher in each region will be responsible for: 1) Deploying conventional and acoustic tags; 2) gathering recaptured tags from fishers; 3) providing information to fishers regarding the projects objectives and experimental design and 4) dockside sampling of otoliths and tissue for the DFO monitoring program examining mixing rates of eastern and western bluefin tuna through otolith structure.



**Figure 4.** Map of the Gulf of St. Lawrence with positions of hydroacoustic receiver lines operated by the Ocean Tracking Network, Dalhousie University, and positions of proposed placement of our Atlantic bluefin tuna team for tagging operations in 2014.

In each of these regions we will have a local draw where each fisher from PEI (in the two PEI locations) or Nova Scotia (in the two Nova Scotia locations) regardless of whether they fish commercially or in the charter fishery, will have an equal chance to take a researcher on their boat to tag tuna. No commercial capture will be allowed during this process, so there is no possibility of high-grading. The fisher will be paid \$700 per day and will be responsible for all costs (including fuel, tackle, bait, and wages for crew). This amount of money is meant only to offset costs and money made by fishers will be negligible. We have budgeted for 80 tagging day trips (20 per location). We also anticipate opportunistic tagging opportunities that may present themselves such as collaboration with other projects answering this call for proposals, or when fishers with the blessing of their associations provide tagging opportunities.

During tagging, tuna will be captured using rod and reel, and fishers will only use barbless circle hooks to reduce impact on fish. Hooked tuna will be fought and brought to the side of the boat where they will be tagged with either 1 or 2 Floy conventional tags, sampled for a DNA plug, weight estimated and the fish will then be released. While tagging takes place the tuna will be held at side of a boat while the boat slowly moves forward allowing the fish to ram ventilate as described in Stokesbury *et al.* (2011).

Our tagged tuna will be recaptured during tagging operations and during regular charter and commercial fishing activities. Tags must be returned to researchers. To ensure this, we will work diligently to introduce all fishers to the project, objectives and experimental design. Also, to provide added incentive for tag return a yearly lottery will be held with a single \$5k prize. Each conventional tag returned by a fisher will provide one opportunity to win the prize. Our project will provide yearly estimates of relative abundance based on exploitation rate as well as a final, valid population estimate. Activities for the first 3 years (2014-2016) are shown in the Grant chart (**Figure 5**).

### 2.2.5 Chronology

**Figure 5.** Grant chart of activities (2014-2016) for a mark and recapture experiment to estimate relative abundance of Atlantic bluefin tuna annually present in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada.

Task	2014		2015				2016			
	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec
Experimental Design Refinement	XXX	XXX	XXX				XXX			
Hiring of Post-Doc & Techs	XXX	XXX		XXX				XXX		
Training of Post-Doc & Techs (sampling)	XXX			XXX				XXX		
Survival Systems Inc. training	XXX			XXX				XXX		
Field training Post-Doc and Techs (tagging)	XXX				XXX				XXX	
Field logistics (accommodation etc.)	XXX		XXX				XXX			
Ordering tagging supplies	XXX		XXX				XXX			
Meetings with fishers & associations	XXX	XXX		XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX	
Conventional tagging	XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX
Acoustic tagging	XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX
Tag recapture	XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX
Otolith & Tissue sampling	XXX				XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX
Data Analysis			XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
OTN line download (OTN Dalhousie )		XXX					XXX			XXX
Lottery for tagging trips	XXX			XXX				XXX		
Tag prize lottery (\$5k)		XXX					XXX			XXX
Lottery for tagging trips	XXX			XXX				XXX		
First relative abundance estimate							XXX			
Annual Relative abundance estimate							XXX			XXX

### 2.2.6 Tagging

Each year 30 Atlantic bluefin tuna will be tagged with uniquely coded acoustic tags (V16 Vemco Inc., NS, Canada). Bluefin tuna enter and exit the Gulf of St. Lawrence through the Cabot Strait in the south or the Strait of Belle Isle in the north. The Ocean Tracking Network at Dalhousie University ([www.OceanTrackingNetwork.org](http://www.OceanTrackingNetwork.org)) has both of these passages completely covered with a continuous line of hydroacoustic receivers that will log on data from acoustic tags that allow individual identification of fish and provide a time and location stamp when the fish enters or leaves the Gulf. Report authors (MJWS, SJC and MJD) are primary investigators in the Ocean Tracking Network and have many years of experience with electronic and conventional tag data capture, storage, access and analysis.

Acoustic tags with a 10 year life span will be utilized in this study. Therefore we will have a record each time an individual acoustic tagged tuna enters or exits the Gulf of St. Lawrence. These data will allow us to gain critical information on immigration and emigration for the Jolly-Seber population estimate that we can use to validate the model and allows a measure of what portion of the tuna return to the Gulf of St. Lawrence on an annual basis. These data, when applied to the numbers of tagged tuna in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, will give us an accurate estimate of the number of tuna that are present in the Gulf of St. Lawrence from each year of tagging and provide an accurate estimate of  $M_i$  (The number of marked animals in the population at the time of the  $i$ th sample; **Table 1**). The project will take place over several years so that the marked population will gradually build up, and the recaptures over years will provide accurate and robust estimates of abundance over time.

**Table 1.** Key Parameters and Statistics necessary for the execution of a Jolly-Seber mark-recapture experiment (Information from Pollack *et al.* 1994; **Table 4.1**).

Parameters	Definition
$M_i$	The number of marked animals in the population at the time the $i$ th sample is taken ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ; $M_1 = 0$ ).*
$N_i$	The total number of animals in the population at the time the $i$ th sample is taken ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ).
$B_i$	The total number of new animals entering the population between the $i$ th and the $(i + 1)$ th sample and still in the population at the time of the $(i+1)$ th sample is taken ( $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$ ).**
$\Theta$	The survival probability for all animals between the $i$ th and $(i + 1)$ th sample ( $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$ ).
$p_i$	The capture probability for all animals in the $i$ th sample ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ).
<b>Statistics</b>	
$m_i$	The number of marked animals captured in the $i$ th sample ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ).
$u_i$	The number of unmarked animals captured in the $i$ th sample ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ).
$n_i$	$m_i + u_i$ , the total number of animals captured in the $i$ th sample ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ).
$R_i$	The number of the $n_i$ that are released after the $i$ th sample ( $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$ ). This may not be all of the $n_i$ due to losses on capture.
$r_i$	The number of the $R_i$ animals released at I that are captured again ( $i = 1, \dots, k - 1$ ).
$z_i$	The number of animals captured before I, not captured at I, and captured again later ( $i = 2, \dots, k - 1$ ).

\*Each year 40 Atlantic bluefin tuna will be tagged with uniquely coded acoustic tags (V16 Vemco Inc., NS, Canada). Bluefin enter and exit the Gulf of St. Lawrence through the Cabot Strait in the south or the Strait of Belle Isle in the North. The Ocean Tracking Network at Dalhousie University has both of these passages completely covered with a continuous line of hydroacoustic receivers that will log on data from acoustic tags that allow individual identification of fish and provide a time and location stamp, when the fish enters or leaves the Gulf. This will determine the ratio of tagged fish returning to the Gulf on a yearly basis.

\*\*Estimates of immigration will be obtained from an examination of historical monthly trends in CPUE through the year. These data when compared with estimates of rate of emigration from acoustically tagged fish will give an estimate of immigration to the aggregation.

Assumptions: A Jolly-Seber (Ricker *et al.* 1975, Pollock *et al.* 1990, Amstrup 2005) mark- recapture model for an open population has three critical assumptions that must be fulfilled for the accurate and unbiased assessment of abundance. They are: 1) Every animal has the same probability of capture; 2) marked animals have the same probability of survival; 3) marks are not lost or overlooked. Assumptions will be fulfilled as: 1) Bluefin tuna will be fished with non-selective gear, on a broad geographical scale (tagging locations very similar to areas of high commercial catch). 2) All marked animals will have the same probability of survival as tags will not affect catchability after the 14 day period used to provide random mixing of tagged fish back into the population. 3) We will double tag a portion of the tuna (20%) to obtain an estimate of tag shedding (tag loss).

Additionally, we will invest a large amount of effort to include fishers in the project as well as provide project information to the public through outreach programs in order to increase the accuracy of the tag return data. It is well known that regulation of fisheries can cause problems and a decline in tag return accuracy (Stokesbury *et al.* 2009). Our research team will attempt to talk to every captain fishing in the area, singly or in groups, to impress upon them the importance of tag return data to the overall project and how the information will help them and DFO manage the resource. Also, as mentioned above, there will be lottery (\$5,000 prize) held each year with one chance to win for each tag that you have returned, to add extra incentive for tag return.

### 2.2.7 Significance of work

By improving estimates of abundance we will make possible the development of sustainable management targets for commercial harvest and for setting conservation targets.



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## Annex 1. Proposed budgets

### 1.1 Trolling-Acoustic Proposal Budget

A major source of uncertainty associated with this project is that no funding source has been identified and no funds have been allocated to conduct this, or any other, survey to develop a fishery independent index of abundance for bluefin tuna. The following budget is based on the estimated cost to undertake the survey for both the start-up and subsequent year's. The largest portion of the budget is attributed to vessel costs to conduct the survey. Major cost saving could be achieved through vessel contributions from industry and/or DFO. The proposed survey is budgeted with and without the vessel costs.

Year 1:

Technical support:

1 field technician (EG 4/5 \$80K/year )		\$20,000
1 full time technician (EG 4/5 \$80K/year)		\$80,000
Travel:		
Field Costs		\$9,000
Consultations (Industry/Scientific)		\$7,000
O&M:		
O&M (equipment, maintenance, material, supplies)	\$60,000	
Software upgrades		\$10,000
Over-time in field		<u>\$5,000</u>
Sub-Total Start-up year	\$191,000	
Vessel Charter		
28 days at 8k/day		<u>\$224,000</u>
Total Start-up year	\$415,000	

Year 2 (and after without inflation):

Technical support:

1 field technician (EG 4/5 \$80K/year )		\$20,000
1 full time technician (EG 4/5 \$80K/year)		\$80,000
Travel:		
Field Costs		\$9,000
Consultations (Industry/Scientific) 2,000		
O&M:		
O&M (equipment, maintenance, material, supplies)	\$10,000	
Software upgrades		\$10,000
Over-time in field		\$5,000
Vessel Charter		
Sub-Total Start-up year	\$136,000	
Vessel Charter		
28 days at 8k/day		<u>\$224,000</u>
Total Start-up year	\$360,000	

**1.2 Mark-Recapture Proposal Budget**

## Budget

Category	Number	Cost	Total	Sub Totals
<b>Salaries</b>				
Post-Doc	1	50,400	50,400	
Technician (3 months)	3	7,560	22,680	73,080
<b>Equipment</b>				
Floy Tags	400	4	1,600	
Floy Tag Return Lottery	1	5,000	5,000	
Coded Acoustic Tags (V16)	40	462	18,480	
Vessel Charter	80	700	56,000	81,080
Office Supplies	1	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>Travel &amp; Accommodations (Field work)</b>				
Mileage	4	2,500	10,000	
Accommodations	4	2,500	10,000	
Food	4	2,500	10,000	
Supervisor (Mileage and accommodation)	1	3,000	3,000	33,000
<b>Consultants</b>				
Program management consulting	15	600	9,000	
Scientific consulting	10	600	6,000	15,000
			<b>Subtotal</b>	203,160
Acadia university Overhead (20%)				40,632
			<b>Grand</b>	\$243,792
			<b>Total</b>	per year

## Budget justification

*1. Salaries and benefits (Total = \$73,080/year)**A. Post doctoral fellow and technicians – Total Amount: \$73,080/year*

Context: Funds are requested to support one Post-Doc (Mr. Aaron Spares) during each year of the program. The NSERC approved annual salary for a Post-Doc is \$45,000 (plus 0.12 benefits) for a total cost of \$50,400/year. Also, we will need three technicians for 3 months each (\$15/hour, 37.5 hours/week, plus 0.12 benefits = \$7,560/tech/year; Tech total = \$22,680).

Post-Doc and technicians will be responsible for specific focused tasks. They will receive training (some already have) in conventional (Floy) tag deployment on bluefin tuna. They will also receive training in metadata recording, structure and quality. Our researchers will be placed in major tuna landing or access centres in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. They will be responsible for deploying conventional tags on tuna. They will also gather recaptured tags from fishers in their area. Generally researchers develop a good relationship with local fishers because they have a project presence in each region to answer questions and provide a point of contact. Their presence will have a very positive impact on the quality of the data acquired. This factor will also greatly increase the rate of tag return. As a side benefit to bluefin tuna research, researchers will be trained in otolith removal, care and storage, as well as tissue removal, storage and data capture. Our researchers placed in the major landing centers will be able to sample bluefin tuna heads and tissue for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to assist the otolith analysis now underway (contact: Dr. Alex Hanke, DFO, St. Andrews, NB).

## 2. Equipment or facility (Total = \$81,080/year)

### A. Purchase – Total Amount: \$20,080 /year

Funds are requested to purchase 400 Floy™ conventional tags with applicators (\$4k). These tags will be deployed on bluefin tuna throughout the study (Total = \$1,600).

Funds are requested to purchase 40 V16 coded acoustic tags. (Total cost \$18,480). These tags, in conjunction with Ocean Tracking Network receiver lines in place across all opening of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, will provide information on seasonality, emigration and immigration into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Tags will be programed for 10 years, which will provide a long data set of Atlantic bluefin tuna activity.

### B. Charter – Total Amount: \$56,000/year

Fishing boat charter will be used to deploy tags. The estimated cost will be \$700 per day. We have budgeted for 80 days per year (20 days per major tuna port total = \$56,000/year). This will provide coverage of the major areas of tuna distribution and having 4 tag deployment centres over time will address the assumption of the tags being randomly mixed with the population.

### C. Tag Return Lottery: \$5,000

Conventional tags that are recaptured must be returned in order for the population assessment model to be accurate. The best way to ensure compliance is to have good communication between the science team and fishers. Also, instead of a small reward (\$10 or hat per tag return) we will conduct a lottery. For each tag returned that fishing captain gains one chance to win an end of the year lottery for \$5,000.

## 3. Materials and supplies (Total = \$1,000/year)

Yearly user fee for operation of ESRI products (ArcGIS Geostatistical Analyst (\$45), ArcGIS Tracking Analyst (\$45), ArcGIS Spatial Analyst (\$45), ArcINFO (\$450), and ArcGIS 3D Analyst (\$41) = \$720/year (HST included). Also, support is required for materials and supplies for students in the program such as printer paper and ink, production of posters for poster presentations, office supplies (Total = \$1,000/year)

## 4. Field work travel – Total = \$33,000/year

### A. Field work

Tagging of large pelagics will be performed in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence from 4 locations, Tignish PEI, North Lake PEI, Port Hood, NS, and Ballentyn's Cove / Arasaig NS. Tagging and tag recapture will take place July-September. We estimate mileage costs of \$2500/ year per location, accommodation costs of \$2500/year per location (for house rental or motel, whichever is the least expensive) and per diem costs of \$2500/year per location (Total = \$30,000/year). As the project supervisors the total for PI's will travel costs will be similar to each field operation since they must visit the four locations regularly and also make trips to New Brunswick and Quebec (Magdalen Islands) for information dissemination, and tag retrieval (\$3,000). Total travel field costs for PI's are \$30,000 + \$3,000 = \$33,000).

## 5. Consultants

The hiring of a consultant for program management includes interacting with funding partners, and dissemination of information to industry and government groups.

Scientific consultant includes experimental design and statistical assistance to ensure maximum benefit is derived from data on mark and recapture abundance (Total = \$16,000/year)

### Cash and In- Kind contributions from other sources

In Kind contributions include salaries for scientific team, and some administrative support from the Prince Edward Island Tuna Fishermen's association. Also, the Ocean Tracking Network has invested over \$1,000,000 in this region to provide coverage to detect animals carrying acoustic tags that cross the Cabot Strait and Strait of Belle Isle receiver lines.

Cash contributions to the proposed research program are detailed in the table below.

Source	Status	Year 1 2014	Year 2 2015	Year 3 2016
NSERC DG to MJWS	Secured for year 1-3	20,000	20,000	20,000
NSERC IRDF	Unsecured	30,000	30,000	30,000
NSERC IUSRA (3)	Unsecured	13,500	13,500	13,500
<b>Total Cash Contribution</b>		<b>63,500</b>	<b>63,500</b>	<b>63,500</b>

## **Annex II: Research Team**

### ***II 1.0 Acoustic Trolling Survey***

*Dr. Gary D. Melvin* is Head of the Pelagic (large and small) unit at the DFO St Andrews Biological Station responsible for research and assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna. Nationally and internationally he is a recognized expert in fish stock assessment and hydroacoustics. His experience covers many aspects of fisheries, aquaculture, and environmental science as a researcher, scientific advisor, and manager. His current research involves adapting acoustic technology (single, split, and multi-beam) to addressing fisheries issues, monitoring behaviour, evaluating the potential impact of tidal power development and developing collaborative projects with the fishing industry and universities.

*Dr. Alex Hanke* is a Research Scientist in the Population Ecology Section at the St. Andrews Biological Station. He has broad experience as an oceanographer, a fish geneticist and quantitative fisheries ecologist. As part of the Large Pelagics Group, he is concerned with International Governance Strategy issues related to Atlantic bluefin tuna, swordfish and marine turtles. His current research interests include understanding the life cycle and behaviour of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna population, improving the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment through improved indices of abundance, and examining ocean climate influences on the distribution and abundance of western Atlantic bluefin tuna.

*Technical support:* Technical support for the acoustic analysis and field operations will be recruited from a pool of qualified technicians/biologists.

### ***II 2.0 Mark-Recapture Study***

*Dr. Michael Stokesbury* is a Canada Research Chair in Ecology of Coastal Environments at Acadia University. He has published many tagging and tracking studies, including migration and behavior research on Atlantic bluefin tuna, Atlantic salmon, Greenland sharks, Atlantic sturgeon. He has also co-authored a paper in *Nature* on Atlantic bluefin Tuna population structure and authored a paper detailing the post-release survival rate for Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

*Mr. Aaron Spares* is a doctoral candidate at Dalhousie University and is nearing completion of his thesis. He has authored and co-authored several publications on the open ocean marine migration of Atlantic salmon and Arctic char. Aaron has also worked tagging Atlantic bluefin tuna off North Carolina and Nova Scotia with the Tag-A-Giant Foundation and, most recently, with the PEI Fishermen's Association off Prince Edward Island.

*Dr. Steve Cooke* is a Canada research Chair in fish ecology and conservation physiology at Carleton University in Ottawa. He has published over 330 articles that focus on understanding the interface between behaviour, physiology, and fitness in wild fish. He is a globally recognized expert in conducting fish tagging experiments and worked with M. Stokesbury to determine the post release mortality for Atlantic bluefin tuna, captured and released in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

*Dr. Kevin Stokesbury* is Chair of the Department of Fisheries Oceanography at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, MA, USA. He is responsible for the Fisheries program conducted at SMAST which includes sea scallops, lobsters and groundfish research. His laboratory and members of the commercial sea scallop industry and the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries have provided critical data that has been used in sea scallop fisheries management plans and the Habitat omnibus.

*Dr. Michael Dadswell* is a Professor of Biology at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. His research focuses on the life history and migratory behavior of fishes. He has published numerous papers and articles on marine migration and population estimates of marine fishes using mark-recapture methods including shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, alewife, American shad, Atlantic salmon and striped bass.

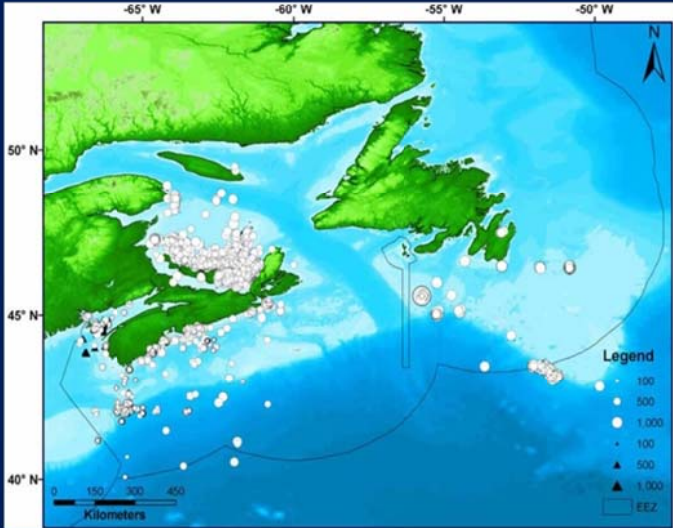
Brunswick and Quebec (Magdalen Islands) for information dissemination, and tag retrieval (\$3,000). Total travel field costs for PI's are \$30,000 + \$3,000 = \$33,000).

Appendix 7

**A Mark and Recapture Experiment to Determine the Abundance of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Present on a Seasonal Basis each Year in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada**

Dr. Michael Stokesbury  
Canada Research Chair in the Ecology of Coastal Environments  
Acadia University

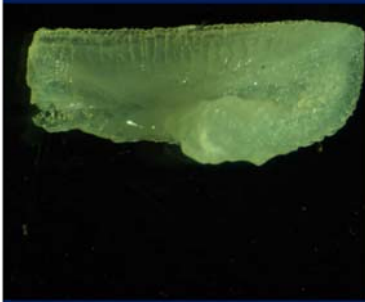
### GSL Study Site



Location and landed weight in lbs from logbooks of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna caught by Canadian fishers from 2000-2009. Symbols represent landed weight by gear (white circles = hook and line; black triangles = electric harpoon). Black line is the boundary of the Canadian Exclusive Economic Zone (Figure from DFO 2011).

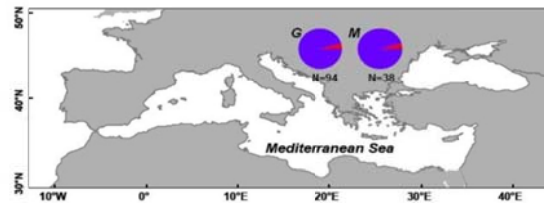
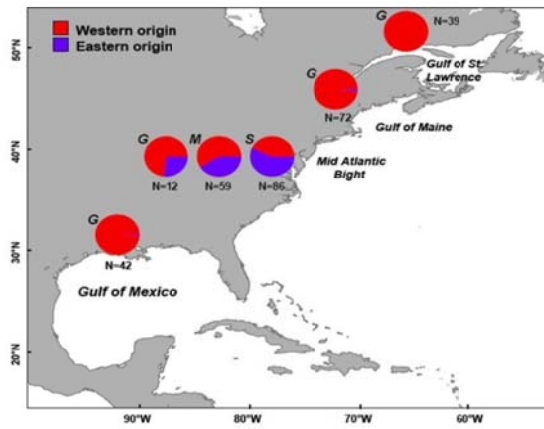


## Microconstituent Analyses Indicate Origin

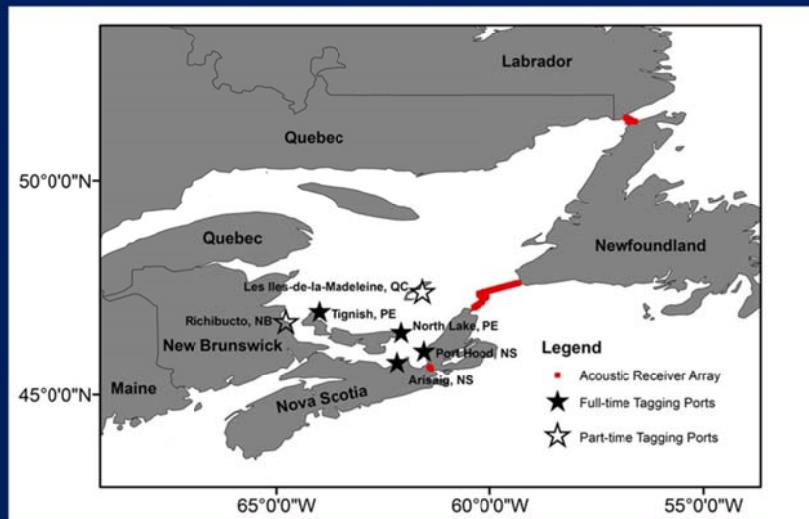


Science

Rooker, Secor, DeMetrio, Schlosser, Neilson & Block, 2008 322:742-744.



## Historical archival, acoustic and conventional tagging



Map of the Gulf of St. Lawrence with positions of hydroacoustic receiver lines operated by the Ocean Tracking Network, Dalhousie University, and positions of proposed placement of our Atlantic Bluefin Tuna team for tagging operations in 2014.

## Jolly-Seber Mark and Recapture Experimental Design for an open population

Key Assumptions for the accurate and unbiased assessment of abundance.

- 1) every animal has the same probability of capture
- 2) marked animals have the same probability of survival
- 3) marks are not lost or overlooked

Assumptions will be fulfilled as:

- 1) Bluefin Tuna will be fished with non-selective gear, on a broad geographical scale (tagging locations very similar to areas of high commercial catch).
- 2) All marked animals will have the same probability of survival as tags will not affect catchability after the 14 day period used to provide random mixing of tagged fish back into the population.
- 3) We will double tag a portion of the tuna (20%) to obtain an estimate of tag shedding (tag loss) and engage fishers throughout the fishery to ensure high rates of return of tags that have been captured.

## Valid Estimate (archival)

- Multiple years of tagging and tag recapture will be required. The number of tagged fish must build up over at least two seasons to provide enough tagged fish and tag returns to create a valid estimate of abundance.
- Based on the recapture of our archival tags in 2010 in relation to the total estimated catch ( $2/55 = u = 0.036$ ) we suggest a provisional population of ~ 14,000 tuna are now in the Gulf each year, keeping in mind that this is only a portion of the total stock.
- Based on the estimated provisional population we will be required to tag between 200 to 250 tuna a year to obtain a valid estimate that will have either the 25 or 10 % probability of accuracy that is required for management and scientific study, respectively.

## Tag and Release

- Commercial and Charter boats involved
- Barbless circle hooks
- Heavy leaders
- Fish brought to surface and tagged over the side while moving forward
- Fish released

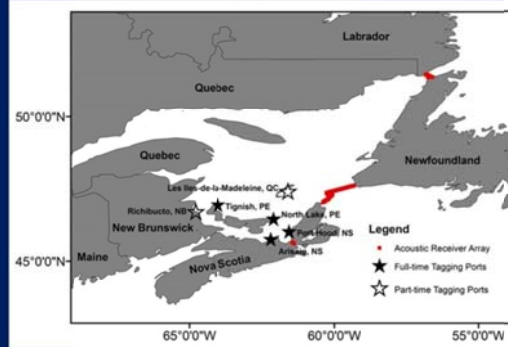


## Experimental Design (Conventional tags)

- By tagging Bluefin Tuna captured recreational fishery, as well as the wide spatial distribution provided by tagging with commercial fishers, there is an opportunity to apply conventional tags to large numbers of tuna during the summer and early autumn.
- Researchers will be deployed in four locations during August to November (North Lake and Tignish PEI, Port Hood and Arasaig NS). Opportunistic tagging can occur in other locations i.e., Richibucto, NB, Magdalen Islands PQ.
- Returns of marked animals will occur both through recapture in the charter fishery and through the commercial fisheries that open in the autumn.

## Immigration and Emigration (Acoustic Tags)

- 40 bluefin/ year will be tagged with uniquely coded acoustic tags
- OTN has both passages to the GSL gated with hydroacoustic receivers.
- This will determine the ratio of tagged fish returning to the Gulf on a yearly basis
- Immigration rate from historical monthly trends in CPUE through the year compared with estimates of emigration from acoustically tagged fish



## Timeline

Task	2014		2015				2016			
	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	
Experimental Design Refinement	XXX	XXX				XXX				
Hiring of Post-Doc & Techs	XXX		XXX				XXX			
Training of Post-Doc & Techs (sampling)	XXX		XXX				XXX			
Survival Systems Inc. training	XXX		XXX				XXX			
Field training Post-Doc and Techs (tagging)	XXX			XXX				XXX		
Field logistics (accommodation etc.)	XXX	XXX				XXX				
Ordering tagging supplies	XXX	XXX				XXX				
Meetings with fishers & associations	XXX		XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX		
Conventional tagging				XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX	
Acoustic tagging				XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX	
Tag recapture				XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX	
Otolith & Tissue sampling				XXX	XXX			XXX	XXX	
Data Analysis		XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	
OTN line download (OTN Dalhousie)					XXX				XXX	
Lottery for tagging trips			XXX				XXX			
Tag prize lottery (\$5k)					XXX				XXX	
Lottery for tagging trips			XXX				XXX			
First relative abundance estimate					XXX					
Annual Relative abundance estimate					XXX				XXX	

Grant chart of activities (2014-2016) for a mark and recapture experiment to estimate relative abundance of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna annually present in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada.

## Budget

Category	Cost
Salaries	73,000
Equipment	82,000
Field work travel	33,000
Consultants	15,000
<u>Overhead</u>	<u>41,000</u>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>244,000/year</b>

## Key Collaborators

- PEIFA
- GNSTFA
- DFO
- OTN
- Aaron Spares, Dalhousie U., Canada
- Dr. Steve Cooke, Carleton U., Canada
- Dr. Kevin Stokesbury, U. Mass., USA
- Dr. Mike Dadswell, Acadia U., Canada



### Additional research plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna from Japan for 2014 discussion

(Document submitted by Japan)<sup>3</sup>

Japan proposed a research plan in 2013 in the first meeting of the working group of fisheries managers and scientists in support of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment (Itoh 2013). Taking account of the discussion at the meeting as well as articles published in journals recently and relevant information, we propose an alternative research plan for Atlantic bluefin tuna (ABF) to be considered.

Golet *et al.* (2013) reported that distribution of large size ABF in the Gulf of Maine has shifted toward east (offshore) in recent years, and therefore United States ABF catch was decreased (**Figure 1**). Vanderlaan *et al.* (2014) pointed out that one of the possible reasons for increasing in CPUE for large size ABF in the Gulf of St Lawrence was the result of distributional shift from the Gulf of Maine to the Gulf of St Lawrence. These suggest that it is dangerous to rely on any stock abundance indices from limited time, area or fishing gear especially in the case of ABF, which is a highly-migrating species whose distribution and migration appear to vary largely in the long term.

In order to resolve these uncertainties, we propose to have research programs that will obtain five fishery indices for ABF in large size (185 cm in curved fork length, 177 cm in straight fork length) in the feeding ground in the northwestern Atlantic. These five indices should be obtained every year with certainty.

- Fisheries indices in the Gulf of St Lawrence in Canada
- Longline CPUE off southwestern Nova Scotia in Canada
- Rod & Reel CPUE in the area in Gulf of Main and Georges Bank in US
- Japanese longline CPUE in the area 40-50N, 45W-55W
- Japanese longline CPUE in the area 40-50N, 55W-70W

For the fisheries indices and relevant researches in Canada and US, we expect proposals from them. For the Japanese longline, many operations have been conducted every year in the area 45W-55W around 40 degree North, however, the number of operations has been small and fluctuated in the western area from it (Kimoto *et al.* 2013) (**Figure 2**). We analyzed Japanese longline logbook data in 21 years (1993-2013) since the present recording form was established. **Figure 3** shows the proportion of the number of years that Japanese longline vessels caught ABF in more than 10 operations by 5-by-5 degree square. In the area west of 55W, the proportions were small as less than 43%. This area is in the middle of the four areas, the main fishing ground for Japanese vessels (around 45W), Gulf of St Lawrence, Nova Scotia and Gulf of Main. It is interesting to obtain the data in this area to know the continuity of ABF distribution among the four areas, as well as the relative proportion of abundance in each area. Obtaining distribution data from this middle area will enable drawing of a whole picture.

Japanese longline vessels are the best candidate for the scientific research. Using commercial vessels has advantages in order to secure consistency in catch ability to compare the index within the area for previous years and neighboring areas.

To have the research, in order to obtain reliable abundance indices, at the same time in practical sense, it would be appropriate to conduct 20 operations per month in November and December by three vessels. The research area will be in the area between 40N and 43N and between 55W and 66W, excluding EEZ. The area may be split into four sub-areas in order to secure a certain number of operations in each of sub-area.

In the logbook record dataset, annual CPUE (N\_BFT/1000 hooks) ranged from 0.59 and 9.71 with mean of 3.25 in the area. The total round weight of ABF per operation was 751kg in mean. Expected catch in round weight, if no fish were released, is 3 vessels x 2 months x 20 operations x 0.751 ton = 90.1 tons.

<sup>3</sup>Tomoyuki Itoh, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Fisheries Research Agency. 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu, Shizuoka, 424-8633, JAPAN. itou@fra.affrc.go.jp

Note that not all the ABF caught were large fish in the area. In some years or specific areas, a large part of catch was smaller size fish. No detailed size information was available for old years earlier than 2008.

Given large fluctuations among years in catch amount and size, it is quite difficult to predict catch amount and its size composition precisely in advance. If actual catches were much larger than planned, the research must be ended earlier or the fish hooked must be released to keep the mortality less than allowed. The operations and fish caught should be observed on board by the scientific observer, as well as its activity should be monitored by daily reporting.

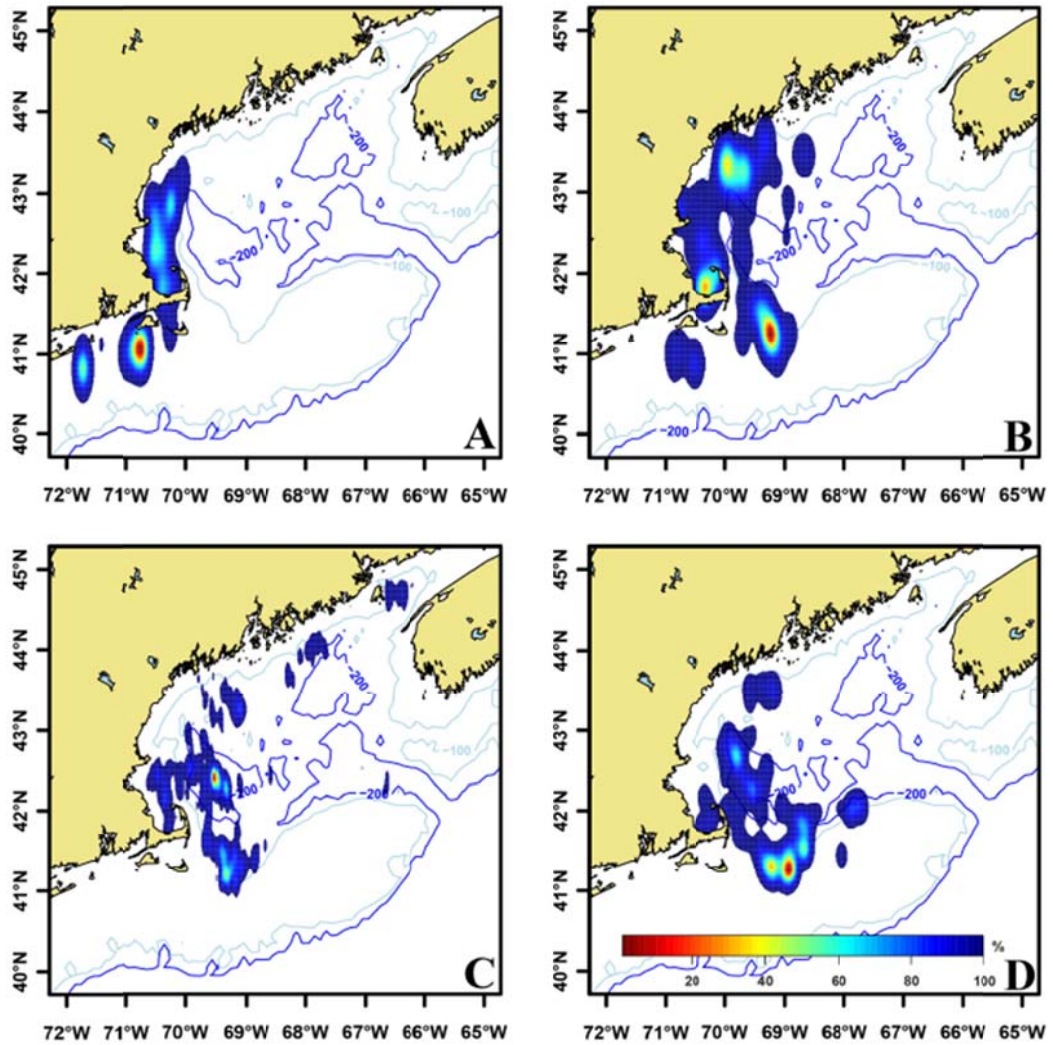
Since CPUEs in the area are much lower than those in the main fishing ground, commercial longline vessels are not likely to operate in this area as part of their commercial activities. A certain incentive should be considered if they are used or an alternative framework such as using a research vessel should be considered.

Among the five components described above, whether fish we are targeting are independent (stay only in one area) or relating to another area (move between areas) within a couple of months is another key question to be asked. Such distribution dynamics should be investigated by using electronic tags, including archival tags and pop-up satellite tags.

Another question is the origin of fish. While large size fish in the Gulf of Main and Gulf of St Lawrence are found to be western origin, a tentative result from GBYP suggests that fish caught in the Japanese longline fishing ground is a mix of eastern and western fish. In the researches, a sufficient number of otoliths should be collected to answer this question.

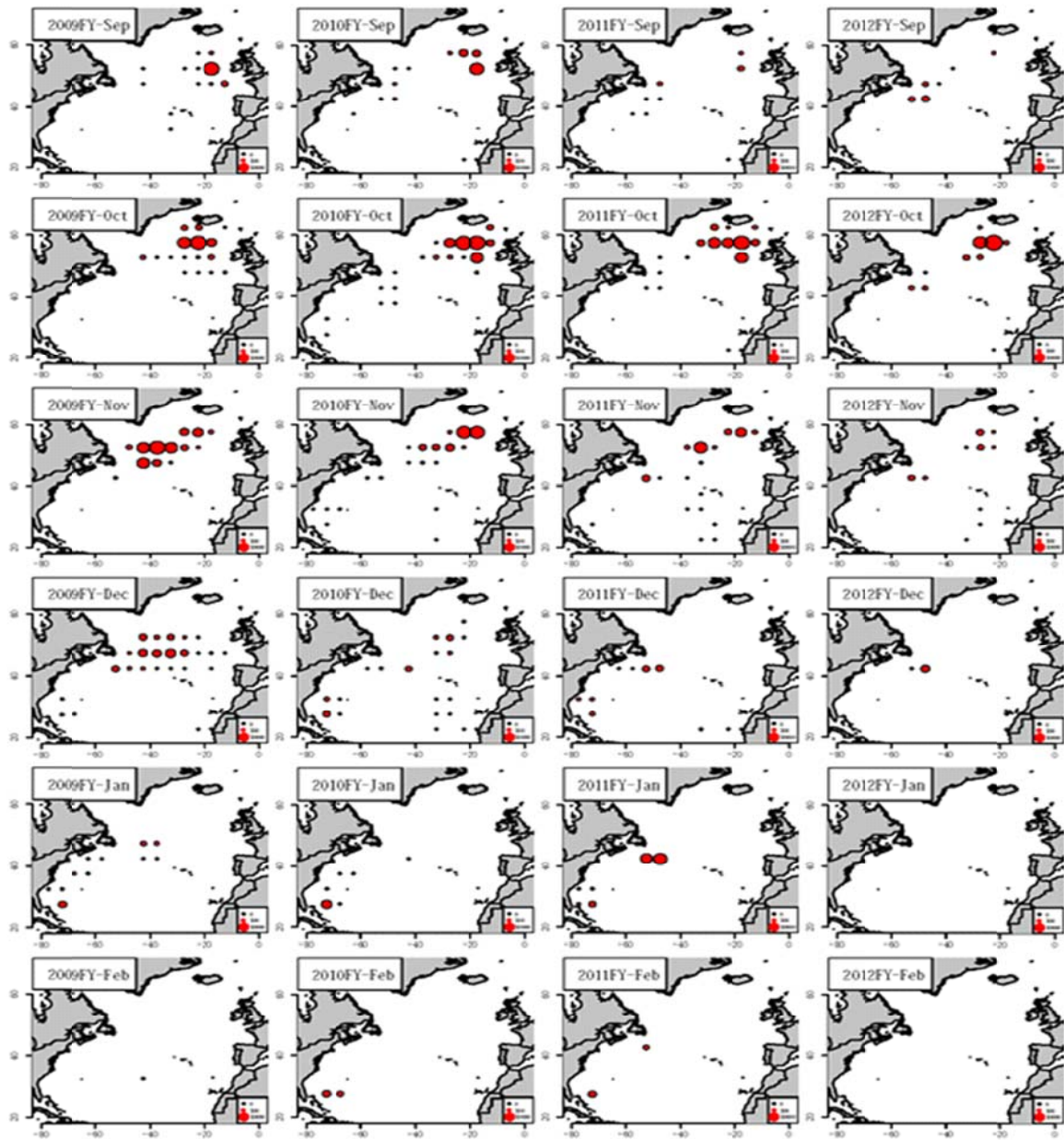
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- Vanderlaan, A. S. M., A. R. Hanke, J. Chasse and J. D. Neilson (2014) Environmental influences of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) catch per unit effort in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. Fisheries Oceanography 23: 83-100.

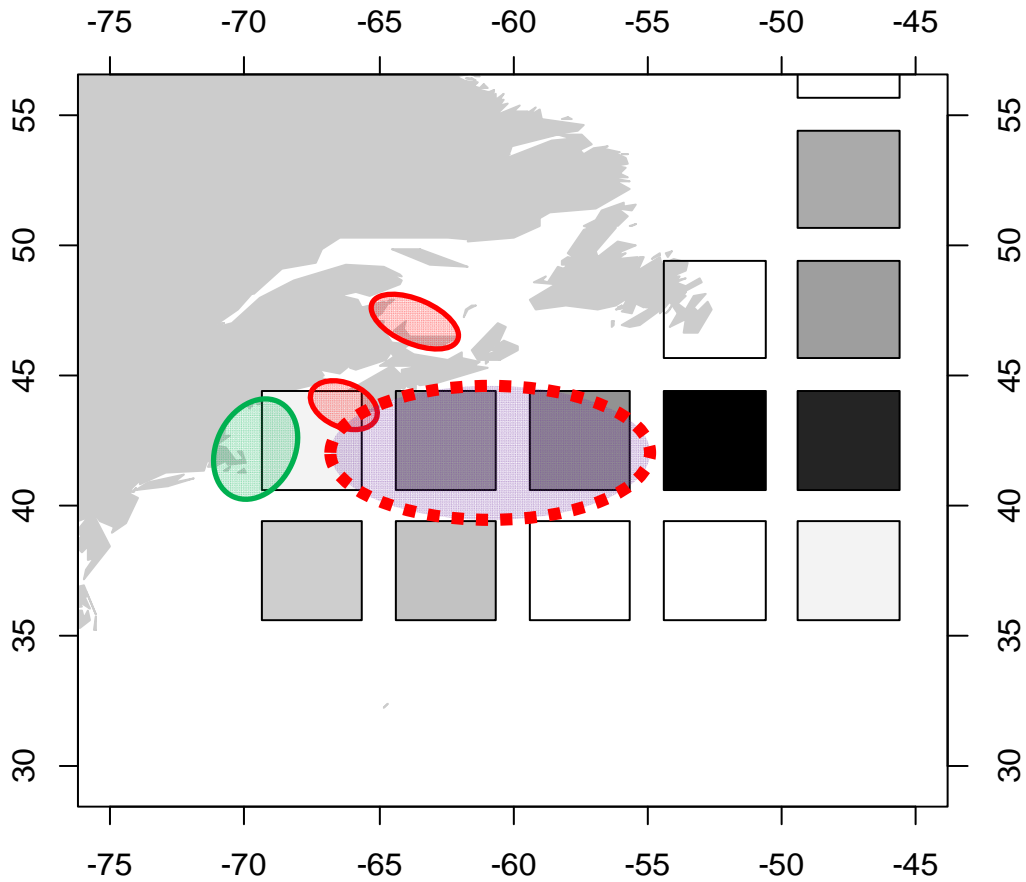


**Figure. 1.** Distribution of Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Maine. Kernel density estimations were constructed based on the number of fish observed in each school over four selected time periods. Density estimations were normalized yielding utilization distributions that displayed probability of occurrence during four time periods, A) 1979-1985, B) 1986-1992, C) 1993-1999, and D) 2000-2005. (Figure 2 of Golet *et al.* 2013).





**Figure 2.** Monthly distributions of accumulative bluefin catch in number by Japanese longliners by 5x5 degree area in the main season (September-February: top to bottom) in the period between 2009 and 2012 Fishing Years (left to right). (from Kimoto *et al.* (2013).



**Figure 3.** Proportion of years which Japanese longline vessels caught BFT in more than 10 operations in a 5x5 cell among 21 years from 1993 to 2013 in the northeastern Atlantic Ocean from Japanese longline logbook data. Dark squares are higher proportion. The oval enclosed by red dots is the proposed area for Japanese longline research. Ovals in red area are the research areas for Canadian fishery in Gulf of St Lawrence and southwest of Nova Scotia. An oval in green is the research area for US Rod and Reel area in the south of Gulf of Main.

Appendix 9

July 12, 2014

## A Perspective on Bluefin Tuna Stock Status:

A case for the <sup>lowly</sup> Surplus Production Model

1

By AR Hanke

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July 12, 2014

### Concept:

*"wherever possible, multiple options should be used"*

#### On the plus side

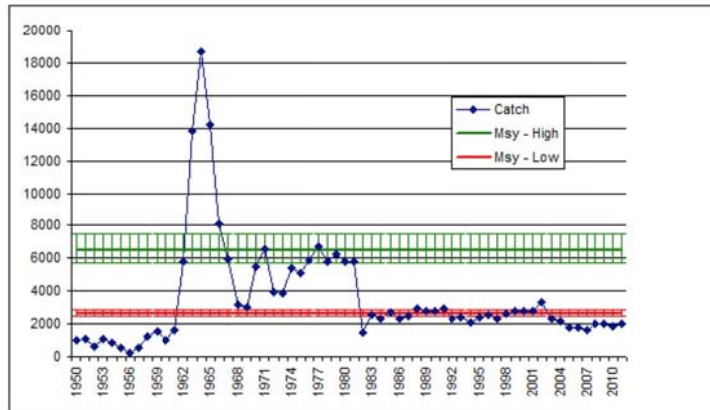
- Minimal data requirements
- Stock and dynamics can be described in terms of biomass
- Can lead to the conclusion that the data provide no information

#### Caution

- Biomass can be either recruitment or growth
- If no contrast in effort over biomass levels, model confuses high growth and low biomass with low growth and high biomass
- Catch rate not sensitive to changes in biomass

# BFT Catch Relative to MSY

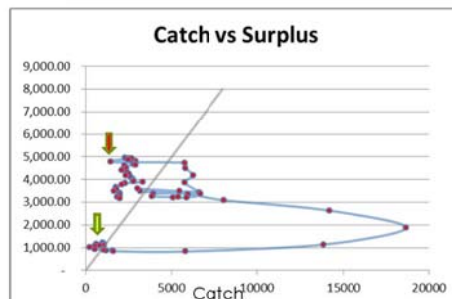
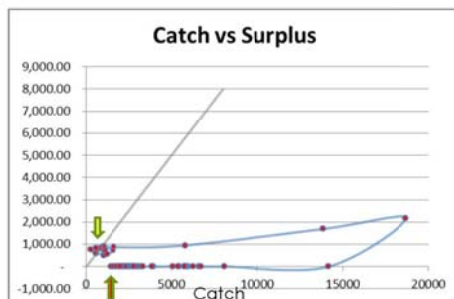
*"I wouldn't walk over a bridge if it was called VPA!"*



# Sustainable Removals:

## Low Recruitment

## High Recruitment



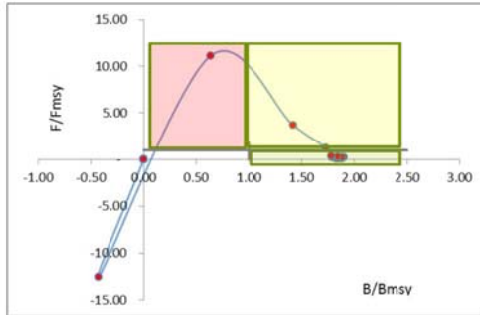
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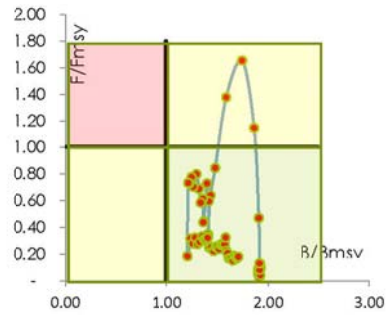
# Phase Plots:

Relative Biomass vs Relative F

## Low Recruitment



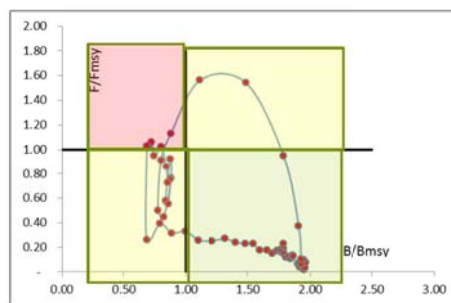
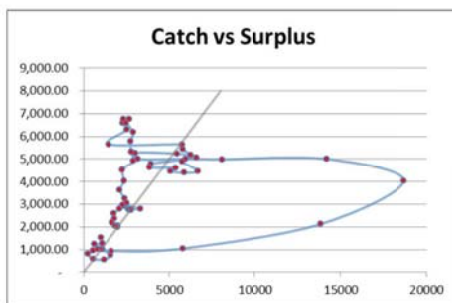
## High Recruitment



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# An Alternative Reality:



## Potential Areas of Study

*“ it is far better to know that the information one has is not informative than to follow model results blindly ”*

- Stock status: VPA vs SPM
- What is reasonable:
  - Conditions for equivalence
- Stability of model and outputs (hindcasting)

## Conclusion:

*“simple production models should often be used in stock assessments based on catch/effort data, even when more realistic and structurally correct models are available to the analyst”*

- Useful tool when limited information is available or extra information is of dubious quality
- Simple model, more cautious interpretations
- Provide insights into relative performance of the stock through time

## Conclusion (cont'd)

- Useful in risk assessments
- Have developed to a point where “*even if more information is available and more complex and realistic models can be implemented, it would be sensible to implement a simpler model if only to act as a contrast*”.

## Hind Casting:

“*wherever possible, multiple options should be used*”

- Hind casting trials that compare assessment results for different series of years speak to the stability of the model and outputs.

1970 to 2013 vs 1970 to 2012

or

1970 to 2010 vs 1971 to 2013

**Data problems:**

**Lack of contrast**

- Need high F's to observe r at low biomass
- Need low F's to detect K and any density-dependent changes in recruitment, growth, or mortality at high biomass

**Changes in catchability**

- Variation in gear, electronics, knowledge, fish distributions
- Violates  $CPUE = qB$

**Assumptions**

- abundance index (CPUE) is proportional to true abundance (Biomass)
- instantaneous reaction of stock
- symmetric parabola
- need large range of efforts (high and low)
- stock is self-contained
- any loss is mortality
- no interspecific interactions
- the environment is constant
- fishing is density-independent



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### Advantages (check)

- calculate MSY and  $F_{opt}$  without catchability
- requires only catch and effort data
- don't need to know size or age structure
- inexpensive

### Disadvantages

- does not incorporate environmental factors
- excludes trophic linkages
- assumes stock has stabilized at current rate of fishing
- doesn't tell us much about the mechanisms affecting the population dynamics

<http://people.uncw.edu/scharff/courses/458/Lecture%2011%20-%20surplus%20production%20models.pdf>

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- VPA and surplus production models are based on a fairly simplistic view of fish population dynamics. In reality the processes governing fish population size are much more complex. Furthermore, these two methods suffer from specific peculiarities and limitations. VPA models assume that fish cohorts are well defined whereas in reality cohorts are mixed and difficult to distinguish. Closely related to this problem, VPA's are heavily dependent on the ability to age fish, which is problematic.
- VPAs also work best for long-lived species, and tend to be more reliable for estimating historic rather than recent population sizes. Surplus production models, on the other hand, are heavily dependent on the assumption of proportionality between CPUE and resource biomass. Although this assumption may be reasonable for non-shoaling species such as hake or cod, it is clearly invalid for small shoaling species like anchovy and pilchard caught by purse-seine gear. As a result both VPAs and surplus production models are unsuited to the management of small shoaling species.

[http://www.olrac.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=133:surplus-production-models-the-black-box-approach-to-the-estimation-of-fish-stock-size-and-productivity&catid=58:knowledge-base&Itemid=141](http://www.olrac.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=133:surplus-production-models-the-black-box-approach-to-the-estimation-of-fish-stock-size-and-productivity&catid=58:knowledge-base&Itemid=141)

## Are Age-Structured Models Appropriate for Catch-Effort Data?

- The implication of these findings is that simple production models should often be used in stock assessments based on catch/effort data, even when more realistic and structurally correct models are available to the analyst; the best choice depends on how much contrast has occurred in the historical effort and catch per unit effort data, rather than on prior knowledge about which model structure is biologically more realistic.

Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 1985, 42(6): 1066-1072, 10.1139/f85-132

## Performance of production models on simulated data

Comparing the two models side by side, a general result was that the simple surplus production model did as well as, if not better than, the age structured production model in estimating  $B/B_{msy}$ ,  $F/F_{msy}$ , and typically outperformed the age structured model in estimating  $MSY$ .

<http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/download/S9RW01%20Productionmodelsimulation.pdf?id=DOCUMENT>

# Improvement of Management Indices

Gary Melvin  
Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Canada

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## Introduction

- The Main purpose of this presentation is:
  - to promote a better understanding between Science and Managers, and
  - to stimulate discussion and debate on the management/science interactions
- Each field of expertize has its own language and understanding of what is being stated.
- Would like to provide 3 examples of what might be considered misconceptions or uncertainty
  - Subtle indication for manager consideration
  - Real uncertainty – high/low recruitment scenarios
  - Inaccurate assumptions - Potential improvement

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## Subtle indicator or Indications

- Within the stock assessment world there is an obligation to report specific values following a standardized protocols (e.g., biomass estimate and probabilities).
- Most cases Management will take these outputs and use them in a typical manner to provide their recommendations on catch levels and other aspects
- There are cases where Science has concerns or uncertainties as to whether or not these outputs (theoretically valid) are reflective of the stock status (garbage in, garbage out).

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## Subtle Indicators (Cont)

- Where this concern or uncertainty occurs Science will usually put caveats or qualifiers on their advise to Management.
- It is here that Management must take heed in this subtle indicator of uncertainty, and incorporate it into their advice.
- Recent Case in point is the last eastern BFT assessment.

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## Eastern BFT Assessment

- Unquantified uncertainties are coming from various sources
- Poor quality of fisheries information. SCRS acknowledges there are considerable data (Catch/effort) limitations for the eastern stock up to 2007. (insufficient before 1990's and even worse up to early 2000's).
- All CPUE indices have been strongly affected by recent management measures making it difficult to track changes in abundance.

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## Eastern BFT (Cont)

- Lack of knowledge on key biological/ecological process (natural mortality, population structure, productivity, recruitment dynamics, impact of environmental changes, selectivity patterns, etc).
- The Kobe Matrices provides a mechanism to account for uncertainty in the estimates for the information as provided, however, it cannot integrate many important sources of uncertainty.

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## Eastern BFT cont

- Result: Even though all CPUE indices are showing an increasing trend, given the multitude and magnitude of the unquantified uncertainties the SCRS cannot provide robust advice to support a substantial change in TAC.
- Important that Management take these subtle indicators from Science that all is not well into their recommendations.
- In other words Management should not take all numbers literally when multiple serious qualifiers are provided by Science.

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## Real Uncertainty – High/Low Recruitment

- Important to separate stock assessment/ biomass estimates from projections.
- Last Stock assessment (2012) for wBFT shows a gradual increase in SSB since about 2008
- Current Projections based on Beverton Holt (high) and two-line (low) recruitment scenarios for western BFT essentially provide no advice to Management.
- The dilemma dates back to 1982 with the introduction of VPA with 2 options:
  - Constant recruitment – allowed fishing to continue
  - SSB/R relationships – suggested no fishing

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## Real Uncertainty cont

- In 1993 as part of a separate recovery plans for East and west BFT, two recruitment options proposed SSB/R relationship or geometric mean 1983-1992.
- 1996 Methods working group explored Beverton-Holt and “two line” models, however projections based only on the latter.
- Beyond 1996 both recruitment scenarios were used for projections.

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## Real Uncertainty cont

- Report of 2000 assessment describes the alternative SSB/R relationships and their relationship to established rebuilding targets.
- First time relationships referred to as the high and low recruitment scenarios.
- Interestingly, both recruitment scenarios give at least a 50% probability of rebuilding to the 1975 biomass by 2018.

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## Divergent advice:

- Unfortunately, over time there has been a divergence in the projections from each model such that
  - the Beverton-Holt relationship no longer permits fishing nor a recovery by 2018, whereas
  - the “two line” relationship fishing can occur and a recovery by 2018
- Workshop in Washington DC (2012) to review the available data and relationship between SSB/R and to come to a consensus.

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## Workshop Summary

- Workshop made “No” recommendation for one model over the other, although little support for the two-line model.
- Advice was to keep fishing mortality low and rebuild SSB to 30,000mt (possibly a decade).
- No consideration was given to errors in estimating SSB and R in the VPA
- Bottomline Science/management still stuck with two equally plausible scenarios.

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## Overview High Low Recruitment

- From a Science perspective this has been ongoing for a couple decades and is a bit embarrassing that it hasn't been resolved.
- From a management perspective Science is not providing any advice on future stock status or targets based on projections.
- On the one hand (low) every thing is well and the fishery is operating at about BMSY, while on the other (high) targets can not be reached even by closing the fishery.

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## Overview High Low Recruitment

- Overall the two extremes essentially tell managers nothing on how to reach their targets.
- Alternatives approaches to estimate recruitment used in other fisheries must be explored (e.g., geometric mean of time period or fixed recruitment).
- Important to acknowledge that the wBFT stock is low relative to the 1970's, but slowly rebuilding since about 2008.

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## Inaccurate assumptions – Potential for improvement

- The SCRS has been expressing concern regarding fishery dependent indices of abundance (CPUE) used in BFT stock assessment due to changing fishing patterns and management initiatives.
- Basic assumption of any index of abundance is that factors affecting the index remain relatively constant over time, thus observed changes in the index are reflective of changes in abundance.
- The impact of deviations from this assumption can range no significant effect to inaccurate representation of trends in biomass (random noise) .

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### Canadian Example

- The TL/HL CPUE index of abundance for BFT from SWNS is based on the number tuna caught per 100 hours of fishing standardized for several factors (month, gear, year, etc).
- Effort (hours fishing) is determined from the log books identified as targeting BFT under the general assumption the all effort for the trip has been directed at fishing for bluefin tuna.
- While in the past this may have been true, in the last 10 years or more the fishery has been targeting other tuna species such as big eye for part of the fishing trip.
- This change in fishing practice is variable from year to year and the reduction in effort directed for BFT is not accounted for in the SWNS BFT index of abundance.

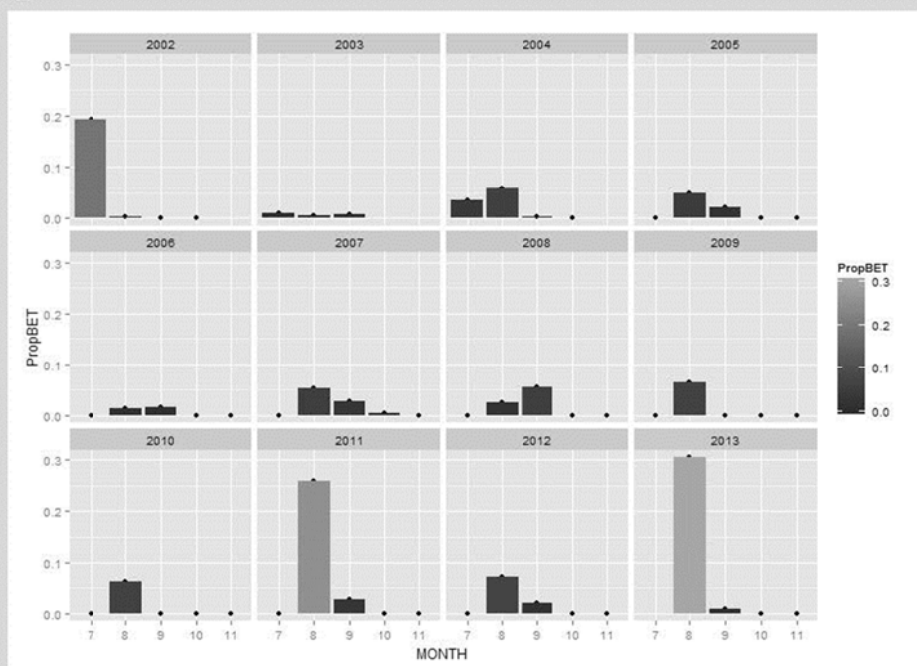
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# Big Eye Tuna

- The practice is to hail out as BFT then to spend some unknown portion of time directing for Big Eye before targeting BFT.
- Anecdotal information suggests that for a 5 day trip up to 4 days may be directed at species other than BFT due to the low quota and or market.
- The result is that effort may be over estimated substantially, thereby reducing the index of abundance. (in above 80%).
- The amount of targeting for other species also varies by month and year.

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Proportion of BFT trips where the catch of BET exceed BFT by month and year. Effort directed at BET should not be attributed to BFT.



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## Multi-Species Fishing trips:

- Multi-species fishing trips can introduce a bias depending upon the effort directed at the species.
- Total trip effort will result is an over-estimate of effort and an underestimate of CPUE.
- As with the Big Eye example, the amount of time will and has varied by month and year.
- Logbooks need to be sufficiently detailed so that effort can be apportioned into it species components.
- For some fisheries sufficient detail may already exist in the original logbooks to address this issue.

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## Summary

- Management needs to take into the consideration the subtle indicators associated with advice from Science.
- Outstanding long term issues such as the high/low recruitment scenario projections must be resolved or overcome (alternative approaches)as they provide no advice to management and generally enhance confusion and uncertainty around the advice.
- Indices of abundance should be examined to determine if fishing patterns have changed or management initiatives have impacted the index and corrected where possible.

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**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.6****Coverage of fishery data for the western stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna in ICCAT***(Document submitted by Japan<sup>4</sup>)*

Coverage of catch & effort data and size data to the total catch of western stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna was calculated based on ICCAT database for major fisheries. It included USA (longline in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), longline other than GOM and rod & reel fishery), Japan (longline only), Canada (combined various fisheries) and Mexico (longline in GOM).

Although ICCAT database is a systematic one, it is not easy to fully understand its various types of code and items. It is desirable to double-check the results of this working paper.

**Materials and methods**

The data files used were as follows:

- Total catch in weight: Task 1. File used was t1nc\_20131210.xlsx
- Catch & Effort: Task2\_ce. File used was t2ce\_20131210.mdb
- Size: Task2\_size. File used was t2sz\_20131210.mdb

Data were subtracted as follows:

***USA longline in GOM***

- Total catch in weight: Species="BFT" & Stock="ATW" & Flag="U.S.A." & Area="GOFM" & GearGrp="LL". It included dead discards.
- Catch&Effort: QuadID=4 & Lon>=45 & FlagCode="USA & GearGrpCode="LL" & Lat >= 15 & Lat <= 35 & Lon >= 81 & Lon <= 100
- Size: Flag="U.S.A." & GearGrpCod="LL" & SampAreaCod="BF60"

***USA longline other than GOM***

- Total catch in weight: Species="BFT" & Stock="ATW" & Flag="U.S.A." & Area≠"GOFM" & GearGrp="LL". It included dead discards.
- Catch&Effort: QuadID=4 & Lon>=45 & FlagCode="USA & GearGrpCode="LL" & Lat > 30 & Lon <= 80
- Size: Flag="U.S.A." & GearGrpCod="LL" & SampAreaCod=(BF51, BF52W, BF55, BF56W, BF61, BF67W, BF63, BF64W, BF66W)

***USA Rod & Reel***

- Total catch in weight: Species="BFT" & Stock="ATW" & Flag="U.S.A." & GearGrp="RR". It included dead discards.
- Catch&Effort: QuadID=4 & Lon>=45 & FlagCode="USA & GearGrpCode="RR"
- Size: Flag="U.S.A." & GearGrpCod="RR" & SampAreaCod=(BF51, BF52W, BF55, BF56W, BF60, BF61, BF67W, BF63, BF64W, BF66W)

***Japan longline***

- Total catch in weight: Species="BFT" & Stock="ATW" & Flag="Japan" & GearGrp="LL"
- Catch&Effort : QuadID=4 & Lon>=45 & FlagCode="JPN & GearGrpCode="LL"
- Size: Flag="Japan" & GearGrpCod="LL" & SampAreaCod=(BF51, BF52W, BF55, BF56W, BF60, BF61, BF67W, BF63, BF64W, BF66W)

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<sup>4</sup> Tomoyuki Itoh, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Fishery Research Agency, Japan.

### *Canada*

- Total catch in weight: Species="BFT" & Stock="ATW" & Flag="Canada"
- Catch&Effort: QuadID=4 & Lon>=45 & FlagCode="CAN"
- Size: Flag="Canada" & SampAreaCod=(BF51, BF52W, BF55, BF56W, BF60, BF61, BF67W, BF63, BF64W, BF66W)

### *Mexico longline in GOM*

- Total catch in weight: Species="BFT" & Stock="ATW" & Flag="Mexico" & GearGrp="LL" & Area="GOFM"
- Catch&Effort: QuadID=4 & Lon>=45 & FlagCode="MEX" & GearGrpCode="LL" & Lat >= 15 & Lat <= 35 & Lon >= 81 & Lon <= 100
- Size: Flag="Mexico" & GearGrpCod="LL" & SampAreaCod=BF60

Coverage in the catch & effort was derived as N\_BFT in Task2\_ce / total catch in number.

Coverage in the size was derived as the sum of numbers Task2\_sz for "siz" (data records which actually measured fish) / total catch in number.

Because Task1 data does not include the total catch in number, the total catch in number was not clear in some cases. The total catch in number used here was the sum of catch-at-size for USA fisheries based on suggestion from Dr. Craig Brown. That for Japanese longline was the sum of the number in catch & effort. For Canada, catch in weight was used for the coverage of catch & effort and catch-at-size for the total of size coverage. For Mexico, catch in weight was used for the coverage of catch & effort.

### **Results**

Data in a period from 1990 to 2012 were used. Details in each of six fisheries were shown in **Table 1**.

Coverage in catch & effort was summarized in **Table 2**. US data for rod & reel in 2011 and 2012 were not included in the dataset used. The coverage has been high for Japanese longline, Canadian fishery and Mexican longline in GOM. That of US rod & reel had been low as 5.8-11.0% in 2007-2010. That of US longline in GOM has been about 80% since 2006.

Coverage in size measurement was summarized in **Table 3**. For ICCAT database, both the number of fish whose size measured and the estimated catch-at-size which raised to total catch should be reported. Such reporting was incomplete for the number of fish whose size measured for US in 2011 and 2012, and for Japan in 2012.

The coverage in size has been high for Canadian fishery. That of US was low as 5-32% in 2008-2010.

The size coverage in old years of Japanese longline had been quite low as 0-7% up to 2007. It increased from 16% in 2008 to 51% in 2010. This increase was because of inclusion of the scientific observer data. In addition, body weights of all the individual Atlantic bluefin tuna caught were decided to be reported from Japanese vessel in 2008. Almost 100% size data coverage has been attained since 2008. Although Japan has not yet submit the data of the individual weight to ICCAT as "siz" records in Task2\_sz, the catch-at-size data submitted ("cas" records in Task2\_sz) were made from this data.

**Table 1.** Data coverage of bluefin tuna catch.**Table 1.1** USA longline in GOM.

Source	Task_1	Task2_CE	Task2_CE	Task2_Size	Task2_Size		
YearC	Total catch	N_BFT	W_BFT	Num (size measured)	Num (catch-at-size)	Percent CE	Percent size
unit	Ton	Number	kg	Number	Number	%	%
1990	153	207	0	71	0		
1991	184	360	0	111	0		
1992	112	161	0	73	0		
1993	54	88	0	0	0		
1994	52	63	0	0	0		
1995	35	63	0	0	0		
1996	36	71	0	79	0		
1997	24	55	0	0	0		
1998	18	35	0	0	0		
1999	48	119	0	0	0		
2000	43	472	0	85	0		
2001	20	205	0	36	0		
2002	33	0	0	102	0		
2003	54	361	0	186	0		
2004	151	516	0	93	232	222%	40%
2005	118	314	0	78	0		
2006	88	148	0	0	367	40%	0%
2007	81	302	0	23	344	88%	7%
2008	112	354	0	22	469	76%	5%
2009	112	345	0	69	454	76%	15%
2010	56	201	0	37	219	92%	17%
2011	13	33	0	0	51	65%	
2012	105	345	0	0	422	82%	

**Table 1.2** USA longline other than GOM.

Source	Task_1	Task2_CE	Task2_CE	Task2_Size	Task2_Size		
YearC	Total catch	N_BFT	W_BFT	Num (size measured)	Num (catch-at-size)	Percent CE	Percent size
unit	Ton	Number	kg	Number	Number	%	%
1990	122	57	0	48	0		
1991	121	83	0	20	0		
1992	235	127	0	59	0		
1993	123	176	0	151	0		
1994	133	128	0	176	0		
1995	176	87	0	204	0		
1996	199	61	0	101	0		
1997	167	80	0	148	0		
1998	138	117	0	163	0		
1999	174	86	0	171	0		
2000	199	428	0	79	0		
2001	110	278	0	58	0		
2002	191	0	0	167	0		
2003	246	649	0	224	0		
2004	124	928	0	163	232	400%	70%
2005	93	785	0	103	0		
2006	116	901	0	0	906	100%	0%
2007	92	1,336	0	100	928	144%	11%
2008	121	1,349	0	149	841	160%	18%
2009	223	1,393	0	340	1,431	97%	24%
2010	183	1,471	0	228	1,518	97%	15%
2011	228	878	0	0	1,184	74%	
2012	187	416	0	0	1,124	37%	

**Table 1.3 USA Rod & Reel.**

Source	Task_1	Task2_CE	Task2_CE	Task2_Size	Task2_Size	Percent	Percent
YearC	Total catch	N_BFT	W_BFT	Num (size measured)	Num (catch-at-size)	CE	size
unit	Ton	Number	kg	Number	Number	%	%
1990	752	4,057	0	1,781	0		
1991	696	6,374	0	1,126	0		
1992	324	812	0	1,181	1,455	55.8%	81%
1993	540	703	0	1,712	0		
1994	462	360	0	1,716	0		
1995	844	479	0	1,760	0		
1996	840	0	0	3,094	0		
1997	931	1,976	0	3,787	0		
1998	777	1,395	0	2,466	0		
1999	760	656	0	2,898	0		
2000	683	413	0	2,424	0		
2001	1,244	1,038	0	7,464	1,363	76.2%	548%
2002	1,523	2,163	0	5,639	0		
2003	991	2,929	0	3,480	0		
2004	716	6,596	0	4,853	0		
2005	425	9,123	0	1,218	0		
2006	376	7,029	0	129	6,146	114.4%	2%
2007	634	1,022	0	817	15,069	6.8%	5%
2008	658	655	0	1,757	11,302	5.8%	16%
2009	860	1,239	0	2,760	11,561	10.7%	24%
2010	682	829	0	2,398	7,569	11.0%	32%
2011							
2012							

**Table 1.4 Japan longline.**

Source	Task_1	Task2_CE	Task2_CE	Task2_Size	Task2_Size	Percent	Percent
YearC	Total catch	N_BFT	W_BFT	Num (size measured)	Num (catch-at-size)	CE (N_CE)	size (N_CE)
unit	Ton	Number	kg	Number	Number	%	%
1990	550	6,760	0	684	0	100%	10.1%
1991	688	7,238	0	783	0	100%	10.8%
1992	512	4,470	0	1,180	0	100%	26.4%
1993	581	6,059	0	1,357	0	100%	22.4%
1994	427	6,329	0	1,352	0	100%	21.4%
1995	387	5,181	0	25	0	100%	0.5%
1996	436	4,277	0	954	0	100%	22.3%
1997	330	3,232	0	86	0	100%	2.7%
1998	691	6,690	0	93	0	100%	1.4%
1999	365	4,258	0	154	0	100%	3.6%
2000	492	5,195	0	8	0	100%	0.2%
2001	506	3,282	0	0	0	100%	0.0%
2002	575	5,163	0	11	4,054	100%	0.2%
2003	57	759	0	14	744	100%	1.8%
2004	470	4,072	0	84	6,023	100%	2.1%
2005	265	8,415	0	498	4,160	100%	5.9%
2006	376	9,289	0	365	6,113	100%	3.9%
2007	277	7,757	0	548	6,679	100%	7.1%
2008	492	5,312	0	847	3,196	100%	15.9%
2009	162	1,080	0	406	1,079	100%	37.6%
2010	353	2,091	0	644	2,088	100%	30.8%
2011	578	4,890	0	2,513	4,886	100%	51.4%
2012	289	4,099	0	0	1,803	100%	0.0%



**Table 1.5** Canada.

Source	Task_1	Task2_CE	Task2_CE	Task2_Size	Task2_Size	Percent	Percent
YearC	Total catch	N_BFT	W_BFT	Num (size measured)	Num (catch-at-size)	CE	size
unit	Ton	Number	kg	Number	Number	(weight)	%
1990	438	0	437,400	2,169	2,169	100%	100%
1991	485	0	484,600	2,129	2,129	100%	100%
1992	443	0	413,500	1,782	1,782	93%	100%
1993	459	0	458,700	0	0	100%	
1994	392	0	391,800	1,514	1,514	100%	100%
1995	576	0	576,000	0	0	100%	
1996	597	0	598,100	0	0	100%	
1997	509	0	504,400	1,899	1,899	99%	100%
1998	611	0	596,300	2,345	2,345	98%	100%
1999	587	0	227,800	7	7	39%	
2000	595	0	548,188	47	47	92%	
2001	537	0	523,683	2,168	2,168	98%	100%
2002	641	0	608,683	2,473	2,473	95%	100%
2003	571	0	556,614	5,201	5,201	98%	100%
2004	552	0	536,925	5,115	5,115	97%	100%
2005	600	0	599,526	6,456	6,456	100%	100%
2006	735	0	732,871	8,616	8,616	100%	100%
2007	491	0	490,918	4,808	4,808	100%	100%
2008	576	0	570,769	7,125	7,125	99%	100%
2009	533	0	530,187	6,231	6,231	99%	100%
2010	530	0	504,397	4,134	4,134	95%	100%
2011	510	0	474,082	4,260	4,260	93%	100%
2012	493	0	472,925	4,016	4,016	96%	100%

**Table 1.6** Mexico longline in GOM.

Source	Task_1	Task2_CE	Task2_CE	Task2_Size	Task2_Size	Percent	Percent
YearC	Total catch	N_BFT	W_BFT	Num (size measured)	Num (catch-at-size)	CE	size
unit	Ton	Number	kg	Number	Number	(weight)	%
1994	4	15	9,700	14	0	243%	
1995	0	0	0	16	0		
1996	19	59	18,600	57	0	100%	
1997	2	0	2,300	3	0	115%	
1998	8	0	7,800	14	0	98%	
1999	14	0	14,800	16	0	106%	
2000	29	0	35,900	120	0	125%	
2001	10	46	0	41	4		
2002	12	50	0	47	0		
2003	22	0	22,153	71	0	100%	
2004	9	0	9,028	40	0	100%	
2005	10	0	10,137	46	0	100%	
2006	14	0	14,115	60	0	100%	
2007	7	0	7,100	27	26	100%	
2008	7	0	7,167	30	0	100%	
2009	10	0	9,904	35	0	100%	
2010	14	0	14,058	58	0	100%	
2011	14	0	13,501	55	0	99%	
2012	52	0	50,617	200	0	98%	

**Table 2.** Summary table of coverage in the number of bluefin tuna caught for catch & effort data.

	US.GOM	US.LL	US.RR	Jpn.LL	Canada	MEX.GOM
1990				100%	100%	
1991				100%	100%	
1992			55.8%	100%	93%	
1993				100%	100%	
1994				100%	100%	243%
1995				100%	100%	0%
1996				100%	100%	100%
1997				100%	99%	115%
1998				100%	98%	98%
1999				100%	39%	106%
2000				100%	92%	125%
2001			76.2%	100%	98%	0%
2002				100%	95%	0%
2003				100%	98%	100%
2004	222%	400%		100%	97%	100%
2005	0%	0%		100%	100%	100%
2006	40%	100%	114.4%	100%	100%	100%
2007	88%	144%	6.8%	100%	100%	100%
2008	76%	160%	5.8%	100%	99%	100%
2009	76%	97%	10.7%	100%	99%	100%
2010	92%	97%	11.0%	100%	95%	100%
2011	65%	74%		100%	93%	99%
2012	82%	37%		100%	96%	98%

Note that coverage of Jpn\_LL was defined to be to the total catch in catch & effort so that it became 100%.

**Table 3.** Summary table of coverage in the number of bluefin tuna caught for size data.

	US.GOM	US.LL	US.RR	Jpn.LL	Canada	MEX.GOM
1990				10%	100%	
1991				11%	100%	
1992			81%	26%	100%	
1993				22%		
1994				21%	100%	
1995				0%		
1996				22%		
1997				3%	100%	
1998				1%	100%	
1999				4%		
2000				0%		
2001			548%	0%	100%	
2002				0%	100%	
2003				2%	100%	
2004	40%	70%		2%	100%	
2005				6%	100%	
2006	0%	0%	2%	4%	100%	
2007	7%	11%	5%	7%	100%	
2008	5%	18%	16%	16%	100%	
2009	15%	24%	24%	38%	100%	
2010	17%	15%	32%	31%	100%	
2011				51%	100%	
2012					100%	

**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.6****Proposed conclusions of agenda item 7 from the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the WBFT Stock Assessment**

Provided that it does not interfere with the current work program of the SCRS deriving from previous decisions of the SCRS and the Commission, the WG requests the SCRS to:

- 1) Consider the proposal from Canada to employ the surplus production model in association with the update of stock assessment in 2014.
- 2) As part of the 2014 update assessment of western Atlantic bluefin tuna, provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. The SCRS should also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status.
- 3) Provide to the 2014 Commission meeting for its consideration:
  - A range of potential interim target reference points based on levels expressed in the percentage of currently estimated spawning stock biomass taking into account relevant factors including, but not limited to, the estimated speed of increase of the spawning stock biomass, levels of recent recruitment, and the level corresponding to a biomass enabling the SCRS to determine if there is an applicable recruitment scenario for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock;
  - A Strategy Matrix to achieve these interim target reference points;
  - A limit reference point, taking into account the historically lowest level of spawning stock biomass; and
  - A Strategy Matrix to avoid dropping below the interim limit reference point.
- 4) Review the current stock abundance indices for WBFT at the data preparatory meeting scheduled early in 2015 where access to original catch and effort data before aggregating should be allowed to all the participating CPC scientists under the confidentiality requirements.

**Joint statement by the observers from Pew Charitable Trusts, Ecology Action Centre, David Suzuki Foundation and the Ocean Foundation**

Thank you, Chairs. The Pew Charitable Trusts, Ecology Action Centre, David Suzuki Foundation, and The Ocean Foundation appreciate this Working Group's efforts to improve the western bluefin stock assessment. We support the development of new fishery-independent indices and collaboration to improve current indices. We also strongly support the movement toward reference point-based management using harvest control rules, and note that the SCRS has already established a work plan to develop HCR options informed by Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE).

ICCAT is 15 years into the 20 year rebuilding plan, and the last stock assessment indicated that the stock is at just 36% of the already-depleted 1970 level. With five years remaining in the rebuilding plan, we appreciate the desire to move quickly toward an improved model and better management approach. However, any rash decisions regarding which models to use or circumventing the SCRS in this attempt to move things forward would be a step backward for the Commission and does not constitute responsible management.

As we understand it, these science-managers meetings are intended to provide an opportunity for a fruitful dialogue between scientists and managers to better understand each other and work together to improve the assessment and management. However, in order for the Commission to maintain its credibility and adhere to science-based management, there needs to be a clear firewall between management and the scientific advice. We find parts of yesterday's discussions concerning in that they proposed to blur the lines of responsibility between scientists and managers. In that regard, we support those changes reflected in document "*Proposed Conclusions of Agenda Item 7 from the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the WBFT Stock Assessment*" (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.6**) that help to ensure that this Working Group's recommendations are not overly prescriptive and do not infringe on the independence and creativity of the SCRS.

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2014****14-01****TRO****RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

*CONSIDERING* that the adoption and the further implementation of a multi-annual program for the medium-term will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical tunas fishery;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt monitoring and control measures to ensure implementation of conservation and management measures and to improve the scientific assessment of those stocks;

*EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN* about the difficulties encountered by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in investigating the state of the stocks of tropical tunas from the Convention area and to fully evaluate options for area/time closures and propose precise relevant recommendations because of the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms by some CPCs;

*RECOGNIZING* that a pilot implementation of an area/time closure will contribute to the collection of such necessary data, and will enhance the reduction of the catches of juvenile tropical tunas;

*NOTING* that the SCRS does not have the data necessary to fully evaluate options for area/time options closure and to propose precise relevant recommendations;

*RECOGNIZING* the contribution that a reduction in the harvest of juvenile tunas in the Gulf of Guinea can contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks;

*RENEWING* the commitment to fully implement the existing mandatory reporting obligations, including those referred to in point 20 and 21 of the present Recommendation;

*CONSIDERING* that Recommendation 11-01 foresees the establishment as from 2013 of an ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (hereafter referred to as ROP TROP), to ensure the observer coverage of 100% of all surface vessels fishing for tropical tunas, including support activities, in association with fish aggregation objects, including Fish Aggregating Device (FADs), from 1 January to 28 February each year, in a delineated area;

*NOTING* that the establishment of the ROP TROP has not been achieved yet, and thus the vessels concerned were not in a position to deliver the tasks expected from ROP-TROP observers and that consequently vessels used the national observers on board to complete the tasks detailed in Annex 3 of Recommendation 11-01;

*NOTING* that the data collected by national observers adequately provide the data expected from the ROP TROP program;

*FURTHER RECOGNISING* that during the area/time closure period the coverage of national observers for purse seiner fishing for tropical tunas should be increased from the minimum of 5% of the fishing effort established by Recommendation 10-10 to a 100% coverage of fishing effort;

*RECALLING* recommendations by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in tropical tuna fisheries carried on in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that as regards skipjack tunas SCRS stated in its 2014 report that the increasing use of FADs since the early 1990s has changed the species composition of free swimming schools, and that association with FADs may also have an impact on the biology and on the ecology of yellowfin and skipjack tunas;

*NOTING* that, according to the 2014 SCRS advice, increasing harvests and fishing effort for skipjack could lead to involuntary consequences for other species that are caught in combination with skipjack in certain fisheries;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt data collection and transmission mechanisms to allow improvement of the monitoring and the scientific assessment of the related fisheries and associated stocks;

*NOTING* that in its 2013 report, SCRS recognized the effect of FADs on both sea-turtle and shark by-catch and the need to provide advice on the design of FADs that would lessen their impact on by-catch species. Therefore, information on dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure should be provided. More particularly the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure should be reported;

*RECALLING* measures related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

*CONSIDERING* that the multispecies characteristics of the tropical tuna fisheries makes it appropriate to extend to skipjack tuna the multi-annual management and conservation plan for yellowfin and bigeye tuna established by Recommendation 11-01, as amended by Recommendation 13-01;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

***Multi-annual Management and Conservation Program***

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish bigeye and/or yellowfin tunas in the Convention area shall implement the Multi-annual Management and Conservation Program initiated in 2012. As from 2015, such programme shall also apply to the eastern stock of skipjack tuna.

***Capacity limitation for bigeye tuna***

2. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Program, in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a) The capacity limitation shall apply to vessels 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater fishing bigeye tuna in the Convention area.
  - b) CPCs which have been allocated a catch limit in accordance with paragraph 13 shall each year:
    - i) Adjust their fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities;
    - ii) Be restricted to the number of their vessels notified to ICCAT in 2005 as fishing for bigeye tuna. However, the maximum number of longline and purse seine vessels shall each year be subject to the following limits:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Longliners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>
China	45	-
EU	269	34
Ghana	-	13
Japan	245	-
Panama	-	3
Philippines	11	-
Korea	14	-
Chinese Taipei	75	-

- c) Ghana shall be allowed to change the number of its vessels by gear type within its capacity limits communicated to ICCAT in 2005, on the basis of two bait boats for one purse seine vessel. Such change must be approved by the Commission. To that end, Ghana shall notify a comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan to the Commission at least 90 days before the Annual meeting. The approval is notably subject to the assessment by the SCRS of the potential impact of such a plan on the level of catches.
- d) The capacity limitation shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t.

***Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas***

3. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their flag used for any kind of support to this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").

***ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels***

4. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels. Fishing vessels 20 meters LOA or greater not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area.
5. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
6. CPCs shall without delay notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the periods of authorization have expired.
7. For CPCs for which a capacity limitation applies in accordance with paragraph 2.b) vessels fishing tropical tunas in the Convention area may be replaced only by vessels of equivalent capacity or lesser.
8. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.
9. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13] shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the ICCAT record of authorized tropical vessels.

***Vessels actively fishing tropical tunas in a given year***

10. Each CPC shall by 1 July each year notify to the Executive Secretary the list of authorized vessels flying their flag which have fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area in the previous calendar year.

The Executive Secretary shall report each year these lists of vessels to the Compliance Committee.

11. The provisions of paragraphs 3 to 10 do not apply to recreational vessels.

***Catch limits for bigeye tuna***

12. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program is 85,000 t for bigeye tuna. The following shall apply:
  - a) If the total of catches exceeds the TAC in a given year, the excess amount shall be paid back by CPCs to which a catch limit has been granted for the species concerned. Excess quantities shall be deducted the following year on a *pro rata* basis from the adjusted quotas/catch limits of the CPC concerned, as per paragraphs 16 and 17;
  - b) The TAC and catch limits for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program shall be adjusted based on the latest scientific assessment available. Whatever the outcome, the relative shares used to establish the annual catch limits for the CPCs appearing in paragraph 13 shall remain unchanged.
13. The following catch limits shall be applied for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program to the following CPCs:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Annual catch limits for the period 2012-2015 (t)</i>
China	5,572
European Union	22,667
Ghana	4,722
Japan	23,611
Panama	3,306
Philippines	1,983
Korea	1,983
Chinese Taipei	15,583

14. Catch limits shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t. However, the following shall apply:
- a) CPCs which are not developing coastal States shall endeavour to maintain their annual catch less than 2,100 t;
  - b) if the catch of bigeye tuna of any developing coastal CPC not listed in paragraph 13 above exceeds 3,500 t for any one year, a catch limit shall be established for that developing CPC for the following years. In such a case, the relevant CPC shall adjust its fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities.

***Transfers***

15. The following annual transfer of bigeye tuna shall be authorized in 2012-2015:
- a) from Japan to China: 3000 t
  - b) from Japan to Ghana: 70 t
  - c) from China to Ghana: 70 t
  - d) from Chinese Taipei to Ghana: 70 t
  - e) from Korea to Ghana: 20 t

***Underage or overage of catch***

16. Underage or overage of an annual catch limit for CPCs listed in paragraph 13 for bigeye tuna may be added/to or shall be deducted from the annual catch limit as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2011	2012 and/or 2013
2012	2013 and/or 2014
2013	2014 and/or 2015
2014	2015 and/or 2016
2015	2016 and/or 2017

However,

- a) The maximum underage that a CPC may transfer in any given year shall not exceed 30% of its annual initial catch limit;
  - b) For Ghana, the overage catch of bigeye tuna in the period 2006 to 2010 shall be repaid by reducing the catch limit of Ghana for bigeye tuna by a yearly amount of 337 t for the period 2012 to 2021.
17. Notwithstanding paragraph 16 if any CPC exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the catch limit equal to a minimum of 125% of the excess harvest, and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.



***TAC for yellowfin tuna***

18. The annual TAC for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual program is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.

If the total catch exceeds the TAC for yellowfin tuna the Commission shall review the relevant conservation and management measures in place.

***Recording of catch and fishing activities***

19. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 1** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].

20. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation, shall collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data:

## a) Deployment of any FAD

- i. Position
- ii. Date
- iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
- iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID, type of buoy – e.g. simple buoy or associated with echosounder)
- v. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

## b) Visit on any FAD

- i. Type of the visit (hauling, retrieving, intervention on electronic equipment)
- ii. Position
- iii. Date
- iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
- v. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
- vi. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g. not enough fish, fish too small, etc.)

## c) Loss of any FAD

- i. Last registered position
- ii. Date of the last registered position
- iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to under paragraphs 20(a), 20(b) and 20(c) and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD-logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs may use possible templates laid down in **Annexes 2 and 3** as reporting formats. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats.

21. CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 19 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 20, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;

- b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, to be made available to the SCRS;
  - c) The following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS:
    - i. an inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, main characteristics and the fishing vessels they are associated with;
    - ii. the number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon or of an ecosounder associated to the FAD;
    - iii. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State.
22. To facilitate the submission of the information referred to in paragraph 21 above, the Executive Secretary shall design or modify electronic forms, as appropriate.
23. With the objective of providing information useful to estimate the fishing effort related to FAD-fishing each CPC should provide full access to VMS data and trajectories of FADs to its national scientists.

***Area/Time closure in relation with the protection of juveniles***

24. Fishing for, or supported activities to fish for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall be prohibited:
- a) From 1 January to 28 February each year, and
  - b) In the area delineated as follows:

Northern limit	African coast
Southern limit	Parallel 10° South latitude
Western limit	Meridian 5° West longitude
Eastern limit	Meridian 5° East longitude

25. The prohibition referred to in paragraph 24 includes:
- launching any floating objects, with or without buoys;
  - fishing around, under, or in association with artificial objects, including vessels;
  - fishing around, under, or in association with natural objects;
  - towing floating objects from inside to outside the area.
26. The efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24 for the reduction of catches of juvenile bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas shall be evaluated by the SCRS in 2015.
27. Each CPC fishing in the geographical area of the area/time closure shall:
- a) Take appropriate action to ensure that all vessels flying its flag, including supply vessels, when engaged in fishing activities during the time/area closure referred to in paragraph 24, have an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 4**. The information collected by the observers shall be reported each year by 31 July to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS;
  - b) Take appropriate action against vessels flying their flag that do not comply with the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24;
  - c) Submit an annual report on their implementation of the area/time closure to the Executive Secretary, who shall report to the Compliance Committee at each Annual meeting.

***FAD Management Plans***

28. By 1 July of each year, CPCs with purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of such aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag, following the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans suggested in **Annex 5**.
29. The Executive Secretary shall report the content of these Management Plans to SCRS and to the Compliance Committee for review at each annual meeting.
30. The Commission encourages CPCs to undertake any research intended to improve knowledge of the potential effects of FADs on the resource and the environment and on the vessel fishing effort.

***Non-entangling FADs***

31. In order to minimize the ecological impact of FADs, in particular the entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-targeted species, CPCs shall replace by 2016 existing FADs with non-entangling FADs in line with the guidelines under **Annex 6** of this Recommendation. CPCs shall report to ICCAT Secretariat on an annual basis on the steps undertaken to comply with this provision.

***VMS***

32. If the VMS satellite tracking device of a vessel referred to in paragraph 3 stops functioning or has a technical failure when the vessel is inside the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24, the flag State shall require the vessel to exit the area without delay. The fishing vessel shall not be authorized to enter the area again without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.

***Identification IUU activity***

33. The Executive Secretary shall “without delay” verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Program is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels and not out of compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 24 and 25. If a possible violation is detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area without delay. The flag CPC shall without delay report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.
34. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the VMS, the observer provisions and the results of the relevant investigation made by the flag CPCs concerned.
35. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 32, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation in accordance with paragraph 33, on the provisional IUU list.

***Port Sampling Plan***

36. The Commission requests the SCRS to develop, by 2012, a Port Sampling Plan aimed at collecting fishery data for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas that are caught in the geographical area of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24.
37. Beginning in 2013, the port sampling program referred to paragraph 36 shall be implemented in landing or transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling program shall be reported to ICCAT each year beginning in 2014, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable.

***General provisions***

38. This Recommendation replaces [Rec. 93-04], [Rec. 98-03], [Rec. 04-01], [Res. 05-03], [Rec. 08-01], [Rec. 09-01] [Rec. 10-01] Rec. [11-01] and Rec [13-01] and shall be revised in 2015.

### Requirements for Catch Recording

#### Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival
3. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
4. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-trip operation

#### Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
  - c) Record of catches
6. Species identification:
  - a) By FAO code
  - b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set
  - c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.)
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature, if applicable
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation

#### Minimum information in case of landing, transshipments:

1. Dates and port of landing /transshipments
2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

## Annex 2

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD &amp; electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD Design characteristics</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD Marking</i>	<i>Associated beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD Type</i>	<i>Type of the associated beacon and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>		<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>		
				<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(4)	(6)	(7)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD.
- (2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (3) E.g. GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.
- (4) E.g. width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.
- (5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
- (6) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
- (7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>By-catch</i>			<i>Observations</i>	
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>		<i>Specimen released alive</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(1, 2) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section.

(3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(4) I.e., deployment, hauling, retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.

(5) dd/mm/yy.

(6) hh:mm.

(7) N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

(10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimen.

(13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

### Observer Program

1. Each CPC shall require its fishing vessels, including supply vessels, involved in the bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas fisheries in the area and during the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24 of this Recommendation to carry an observer.
2. The observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - Sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - Satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - The ability to observe and record accurately;
  - A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.
3. The observers shall:
  - a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
  - b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 4 below;
  - c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.

### Observer tasks

4. The observer tasks shall be in particular:
  - a) To monitor the fishing vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

In particular the observers shall:

- i) Record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
  - ii) Observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
  - iii) Sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - iv) Verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
  - v) Carry out scientific work such as collecting task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) Report without delay, with due regard to the safety of the observer, any fishing activity associated with FADs made by the vessel in the area and during the period referred to in paragraph 24 of this Recommendation.
  - c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
  - d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
  - e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
5. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
  6. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
  7. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 8.

**Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels**

8. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the fishing vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
  - a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 4:
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication.
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

**Duty of the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.



### Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

The FAD Management Plan for a CPC purse seine and bait boat fleets must include at least:

- a) Number of FAD to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type
- b) FAD design characteristics (a description)
- c) FAD markings and identifiers

and could include:

1. Objective of the FAD Management Plan
2. Description
  - a) Vessel-types and support and tender vessels
  - b) FAD types: AFAD = anchored; DFAD = drifting
  - c) Reporting procedures for AFAD and DFAD deployment
  - d) Catch reporting from FAD sets (consistent with the Commission's Standards for the Provision of Operational Catch and Effort Data)
  - e) Minimum distance between AFADs
  - f) Incidental by-catch reduction and utilization policy
  - g) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
  - h) Statement or policy on "FAD ownership"
3. Institutional arrangements
  - a) Institutional responsibilities for the FAD Management plan
  - b) Application processes for FAD deployment approval
  - c) Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use
  - d) FAD replacement policy
  - e) Reporting obligations
  - f) Observer acceptance obligations
  - g) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
4. FAD construction specifications and requirements
  - a) Lighting requirements
  - b) Radar reflectors
  - c) Visible distance
  - d) Radio buoys (requirement for serial numbers)
  - e) Satellite transceivers (requirement for serial numbers)
5. Applicable areas
  - a) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
6. Applicable period for the FAD Management Plan
7. Means for monitoring and reviewing implementation of the FAD Management Plan
8. Means for reporting to the Executive Secretary

**Guidelines for reducing the ecological impact of FADs in ICCAT fisheries**

- 1) The surface structure of the FAD should not be covered or only covered with material implying minimum risk of entangling by-catch species.
- 2) The sub-surface components should be exclusively composed of non-entangling material (e.g. ropes or canvas).
- 3) When designing FADs the use of biodegradable materials should be prioritised.

14-02

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF AN ATLANTIC OCEAN TROPICAL TUNA TAGGING PROGRAMME (AOTTP)**

*RECALLING* that the ICCAT recommended in 2010 the establishment of a large scale research programme, based on tagging methodology to allow estimating the key-parameters of tropical tuna population dynamics, to reduce stock assessment uncertainties and to gauge the effectiveness of different fisheries management options and conservation and management measures;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that in 2014 ICCAT launched a study on the feasibility of such a large scale tagging programme, including an estimation of the budget necessary to its implementation;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that the results of this feasibility study were discussed during the skipjack stock assessment meeting held in Dakar in June 2014 and that it was concluded that an AOTTP would greatly help in resolving uncertainty about the stock dynamics of tropical species and provide important inputs into stock assessment that are currently lacking;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS also reviewed the results of the feasibility study and stated in its 2014 report that current uncertainties in stock structure, natural mortality, and growth have important implications for the stock assessment of yellowfin tuna and that the proposed AOTTP, if fully funded, should help resolve these uncertainties;

*RECOGNISING* that in order to improve stock assessments, to reduce the uncertainty in the estimation of the status of the stocks of tropical tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, and to gauge the effectiveness of different fisheries management options, key parameters on the population dynamic and the biology of these stocks need to be further investigated;

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that, according to the 2014 SCRS report, for skipjack tuna it is difficult to estimate the MSY in conditions of recent growth of catches without having reliable indicators on the response of the stock to these increases. These indicators, i.e. CPUE series, fishing mortality estimates from tagging programmes or other indicators on the exploitation of this species, should be improved and the implementation of the AOTTP will largely contribute to this;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the implementation of similar large-scale programmes in the Indian Ocean during the years 2005-2009 and in the Pacific ocean during the years 1977-1981, 1989-1992 and 2006-2014 consistently contributed to improving the knowledge of the tropical tuna stocks and thus provided sound information in support of the decision making process;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that on the basis of the ICCAT feasibility study the total cost, without contingencies, associated to the AOTTP implementation is estimated at €16.87 million for a duration of 5 years and that therefore, the ICCAT regular budget cannot be used for the implementation of the AOTTP;

*NOTING* that the contribution proposed by the EU can cover only up to 80% of the implementation costs in line with their domestic rules and that therefore extra-budgetary and/or in-kind contributions are necessary from ICCAT CPCs and others;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. An Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Program (AOTTP) will be implemented for the main tropical tuna stocks (yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna and skipjack tuna) as well as for neritic small tunas of high importance for coastal populations.
2. All CPCs and other potential donors are encouraged to provide the necessary funding or other support, in particular in form of in kind contributions, in order to enable the conduct of this critical scientific endeavour.
3. In addition, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT will explore the possibility to use alternative sources of funding for the implementation of this program, such as the GEF Project to Enhance Tuna Management and Marine Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ).

14-03

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC  
WORKING GROUP ON FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADS)**

*RECOGNIZING* the increasing use of FADs in ICCAT fisheries, notably for tropical tunas, and the impact this may have on the species composition and on the rates of by-catch;

*REMINDING* recommendations by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to improve data collection for fisheries carried out in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, and to improve the ways to use this information in the process of stock assessments;

*NOTING* the need to assess the consequences of technological developments of FADs for future FAD-related management options;

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS recommended creating a temporary working group on FADs, which should be composed by scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry administrators and stakeholders;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. An ad hoc Working Group is established with the following Terms of Reference:
  - a) Assess the use of FADs in Tropical Tuna fisheries in ICCAT, notably by estimating the past and current number of different types of buoys and FADs operating in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, and evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments, in particular to quantify the effort associated to this type of fishery;
  - b) In view of the identification of data gaps, review the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - c) Assess the relative contribution of FADs to the overall fishing mortality in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries;
  - d) Assessing the developments in FAD-related technology, notably with regard to:
    - Technological improvement steps in relation with fishing mortality;
    - FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs;
    - Reducing FADs ecological impact through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material.
  - e) Identify management options, including the regulation of deployment limits and characteristics of FADs, and evaluate their effect on ICCAT managed species and on the pelagic eco-systems, based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach. This should take into consideration all the fishing mortality components, the methods by which FAD fishing has increased a vessel's ability to catch fish, as well as socio-economic elements with the view to provide effective recommendations to the Commission for FAD management in tropical tuna fisheries.
2. The first meeting of this Working Group shall take place in 2015 in association with the Bigeye Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting.
3. The ad hoc Working Group should be composed by scientists, fisheries managers, industry representatives and other interested stakeholders.
4. The ad hoc Working Group shall report on its work with a view to recommend the adoption of appropriate measures at the latest at the 2016 ICCAT Commission Meeting.
5. The ad hoc Working Group will be chaired by the Chair of Panel 1 and the Chair of SCRS. The chairs of the Working Group should coordinate to establish procedures to ensure a full an open exchange among all participants.

14-04

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION  
13-07 BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN  
TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN**

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the need to rationalize some of the existing provisions of the Recovery plan;

*CONFIRMING* the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2014 advice that maintaining the Total Admissible Catch (TAC) or moderately and gradually increasing over recent TACs under the current management scheme should not undermine the success of the rebuilding plan;

*HIGHLIGHTING* that, according the last SCRS scientific advice and even if uncertainties remain in assessment results, the goal of the recovery plan might already have been, or will soon be reached;

*CONSIDERING* therefore that a new phase to the recovery plan will have to be implemented following the 2014 SCRS management recommendation;

*NOTING* that managing fishing activities by maintaining catches at or below the MSY estimate shall also be supported by a Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) maintained over or at a level of the corresponding  $SSB_{MSY}$ ;

*RECALLING* that the SCRS indicated that the most precautionary MSY estimate would amount to 23,256 t and that a gradual increase of the catch level to that MSY would allow the population to increase even in the most conservative scenario;

*FURTHER NOTING* that annual increases of 20% of the TAC over three years would correspond to a moderate and gradual increase of the catch level to the most precautionary MSY estimate of the SCRS;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

**Part I  
General Provisions**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$  with at least 60% probability.

**Definitions**

2. For purposes of this Plan:

- a) "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
- b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
- c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
- d) "Auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farming cage, a purse seine net or a tuna trap to a designated port and / or to a processing vessel.
- e) "Towing vessel" means any vessel used for towing cages.  
"Support vessel" means any other fishing vessel referred to under 2.a).

- f) “Fishing actively” means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
- g) “Joint fishing operation” means any operation between two or more purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine vessels in accordance with the allocation key.
- h) “Transfer operations” means:
- any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel net to the transport cage;
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
  - any transfer of the cage with bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another;
  - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage.
- i) “Control Transfer” means any additional transfer being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- j) “Trap” means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting.
- k) “Caging” means the transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming cages.
- l) “Farm” means installation used for the farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners.
- m) “Harvesting” means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- n) “Transshipment” means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. Transfer operations of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seiner net or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as a transshipment.
- o) “Sport fishery” means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- p) “Recreational fishery” means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- q) “BCD or electronic BCD” is a Bluefin Catch Document for bluefin tuna. As appropriate, the reference to BCD shall be replaced by eBCD.
- r) “Control cameras” means Stereoscopic Cameras and/or conventional video cameras for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- s) “Farming” means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.

### **Length of vessels**

3. All lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as length overall.

## **Part II**

### **Management measures**

#### **TAC and quotas**

4. Pending the results of the next full assessment and of possible SCRS management recommendations based on a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) exercise, the management objective taken into consideration within the next two years is to maintain catches below the level of the most precautionary estimates of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), leading to reach this MSY target subsequently in three years. Following the most updated SCRS scientific advice and until results of the next stock assessment are available, the quantitative estimate of MSY is at 23,256 t. This quantitative estimate shall be reviewed in the light of results of the 2016 stock assessment.
5. The total allowable catches (TACs) shall be set at:
- 16,142 t for 2015, 19,296 t for 2016 and 23,155 t for 2017, in accordance with the following allocation scheme:

CPC	Quota 2015 (t)	Quota 2016 (t)	Quota 2017 (t)	%
Albania	39.65	47.40	56.91	0.2506266
Algeria	169.81	202.98	243.70	1.0733333
China	45.09	53.90	64.71	0.2850125
Egypt	79.20	94.67	113.67	0.5006266
European Union	9372.92	11203.54	13451.36	59.2435090
Iceland	36.57	43.71	52.48	0.2311278
Japan	1345.44	1608.21	1930.88	8.5041103
Korea	95.08	113.66	136.46	0.6010025
Libya	1107.06	1323.28	1588.77	6.9973935
Morocco	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	9.4811529
Norway	36.57	43.71	52.48	0.2311278
Syria	39.65	47.40	56.91	0.2506266
Tunisia	1247.97	1491.71	1791.00	7.8880702
Turkey	657.23	785.59	943.21	4.1541604
Chinese Taipei	48.76	58.28	69.97	0.3081704
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15821</b>	<b>18911</b>	<b>22705</b>	100

In addition to the above quotas,

- Algeria may catch up to 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. This adjustment shall continue until the Algeria combined quota amount reaches 5% of the TAC.
- Turkey and Egypt may catch up to the following adjustment amounts.

CPC	2015 (t)	2016 (t)	2017 (t)
Turkey *	50	60	70
Egypt *	16	20	25

\* Adjustment shall be re-established at the 2017 Commission meeting.

- Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017. \*\*  
\*\* Under this quota Mauritania will conduct research activities that will be reviewed by SCRS by the end of 2017. Such activities will be conducted in cooperation with an ICCAT CPC of its choice and will be subject to the presentation of a specific programme to the SCRS. The result will be made available to the Commission.
- Libya may carry over up to 50 t of its 2011 unused quota in each year until the end of 2017.

These TACs shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

5bis. Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 10 t of its quota to Egypt in each year until the end of 2017.

Depending on availability, Korea may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Egypt in 2015, and Egypt may transfer up to 25 t and 25 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Depending on availability, Korea may transfer up to 45 t of its quota to Japan in 2015, and Japan may transfer up to 25 t and 20 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

6. If the SCRS detects a serious threat of fishery collapse, the Commission shall suspend all the fisheries for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in the following year. CPCs shall immediately intensify research activities so that SCRS can conduct further analysis and present recommendations on conservation and management measures necessary to resume the fisheries.

7. In 2016 the SCRS will conduct a full stock assessment employing new modelling approaches and new information. Based on such assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise, the Commission may decide by the end of 2017 on advisable changes of the management framework for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.
8. With a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. For the fisheries concerned by paragraph 20 of this Recommendation, when submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT, CPCs shall specify if the starting dates have been modified, as well as the coordinates of the areas concerned. If prior to 31 March the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plans, the Commission shall decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC by mail vote.

Non-submission of the plans referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

#### **Associated conditions to TAC and quotas**

9. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 51.a).
10. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify the quotas allocated to each gear group referred to paragraphs 18 to 23, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.
11. Each CPC may also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries as defined in paragraphs 2.o) and 2.p).
12. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or the individual quotas allocated for catching vessels over 24 m and included in the lists referred to in paragraph 51.a), shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
13. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
14. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
15. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
16. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
17. No JFOs between different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Any CPC joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPC if the vessel is equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has an individual quota, and in accordance with the following requirements.

At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- duration;
- identity of the operators involved;
- individual vessels' quotas;



- the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved; and
- the information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation. In presence of force majeure, the notification of changes regarding the farm of destination is not required 10 days before the operation, but shall be provided as soon as possible and the farm State authorities shall provide the ICCAT Secretariat with the description of the events constituting a force majeure.

The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

### **Open fishing seasons**

18. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
19. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June, with the exception of the Norwegian Economic Zone where such fishing shall be permitted from 25 June to 31 October.
20. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 October. CPCs may specify a different starting date for the fishing seasons for these vessels operating in the eastern Atlantic, since it does not affect the protection of spawning grounds, while keeping at four months the total duration of the open season for these fisheries.
21. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 16 June to 14 October.
22. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 16 June to 14 October.
23. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraphs 18 to 22 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

### **Spawning grounds**

24. The SCRS shall continue working on the identification, as precisely as possible, of spawning grounds, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. It shall advise the Commission on the creation of sanctuaries.

### **Use of aerial means**

25. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

### **Minimum size**

26. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm.
27. By derogation of paragraph 26, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
  - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic;
  - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes;
  - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.

28. For catching vessels and traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized.

This percentage is calculated on the total catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above mentioned weight or length categories.

#### **By-catch**

29. Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain at any time, bluefin tuna exceeding more than 5% of the total catch by weight or number of pieces. Number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT as provided in the 2014 SCRS report.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

All by-catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however such bluefin tuna dies it must be landed, whole and unprocessed, where it shall be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 58, 59, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65 and 94 shall apply to by-catch.

#### **Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries**

30. Recreational and sport fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.
31. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries and sport fisheries.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

32. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.
33. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight and length overall of each bluefin tuna from recreational and sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Dead catches of recreational and sport fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 11.
34. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole or gilled and/or gutted.

### **Part III**

#### **Capacity management measures**

##### **Adjustment of fishing capacity**

35. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.
36. To that purpose each CPC shall establish an annual fishing management plan for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 35 to 45a, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping when capacity reduction is required.
37. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels.

38. Paragraph 37 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in **Annex 1** paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
39. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
40. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.
41. Without prejudice to paragraph 40, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 37, 38 and 39 so as to ensure there is no discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting.
42. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account, *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear to be estimated by SCRS.
43. The SCRS shall update the Commission annually and prior to the Commission meeting, on any changes of the estimated catch rates.
44. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.
45. For 2015, 2016, and 2017, when submitting their fishing plan to ICCAT, CPCs shall limit the numbers of their purse seiners to the numbers of purse seiners authorised in 2013 or 2014. This shall not apply to PS operating in the context of the activities referred to in paragraph 27b or to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota.
- 45a. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 37 and 39, for 2015, 2016 and 2017, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraphs 36 and 45, a higher number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such increase shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 42.

#### **Adjustment of farming capacity**

46. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan in case of modification of the plan approved in 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 47 to 49. Modifications of the farming management plan shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the 1 May each year.
47. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.
48. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
49. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 48, each CPC shall allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
50. The plans referred to in paragraphs 35 to 49 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraph 8 of this recommendation.

## Part IV

### Control measures

#### ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

51. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
- b) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels (i.e. catching vessels excluded) authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel may be registered in any of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) as long as such registration is not in both lists at the same time. Without prejudice to paragraph 29, for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

52. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 18 to 23, when applicable, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.a). For those catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna and not affected by a fishing season, record on the list shall be permitted at the latest 15 days before such authorization enters into force.

The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.b) shall be submitted 15 days before the start of their period of authorisation.

Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or force majeure. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) referred to in paragraph 51;
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will forward cases to the Compliance Committee not sufficiently justified or incomplete as per the conditions in this paragraph. The Contracting Party concerned shall be notified when such cases are forwarded to the Compliance Committee within 5 days of their original change request.

53. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

54. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.
55. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 April each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 54.

Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation Rec. 13-13 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

**Information on fishing activities**

56. By 1 April each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year. This information should include:

- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
- b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel;
- c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s);
- d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
- e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch) including nil returns.

For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
- b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.

57. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 56 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag State for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

**Transshipment**

58. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.

59. Fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted transshipping times and places.

The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all transshipping times and at all transshipping places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

60. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival;
- b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken;
- c) the name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;

- d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;
- e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transhipped.

Any transhipment requires the prior authorization from the flag State of the transhipping fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the transhipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transhipment, inform its flag State of the following:

- a) the quantities of bluefin tuna involved;
- b) the date and port of the transhipment;
- c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea;
- d) the geographical area of the catch of bluefin tuna.

The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transhipment operation.

The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transhipment to the flag State authority of the transhipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transhipment has ended.

### **Recording requirements**

- 61. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
- 62. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
- 63. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year. For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted landing times and places. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.
- 64. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
  - a) estimated time of arrival;
  - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
  - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 8 of this recommendation. This shall also apply for harvest operations.

All caging operations and transhipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the farming and designated port CPC authorities.

The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

After each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

65. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 hours after the date of transshipment in port.

#### **Communication of catches**

66. a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate during the whole period in which they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna, by electronic or other means to their competent authorities, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of bluefin tuna taken in the plan area.

For purse seiners such daily report shall be on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis including those where the catch was zero.

Such reports shall be transmitted on a daily basis for purse seiners and vessels over 24 meters, and for other catching vessels by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

- b) Each CPC shall ensure that its traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate a daily catch report (weight and number of fish), within 48 hours by electronic or other means to their competent authorities including zero catches during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna.
- c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels and traps to the ICCAT Secretariat. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

#### **Reporting of catches**

67. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches by gear type of bluefin tuna including by-catch and from sport and recreational fisheries and nil returns to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
68. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
69. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when they have closed the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 18 to 23 as well as when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

#### **Cross check**

70. CPCs shall verify, including by using inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment, transfers or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

## Transfer operations

71. Before any transfer operation, as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag State or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:

- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record;
- estimated time of transfer;
- estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred;
- information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers;
- name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate;
- port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. Numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers.

72. The flag State shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the CPC flag State authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap. Information regarding dead fish shall be recorded in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 11**.

If the flag State of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota;
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or a trap or had not been authorized to be caged and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable;
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna; or
- d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 51.b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System,

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag State of the catching vessel farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the captain of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in **Annex 10** and this paragraph.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be performed in accordance with **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

73. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.



- a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC- 20\*\*/xxx/ITD).
- b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
- c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.

74. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.

75. For transfers of live bluefin tuna as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 8**.

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

76. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 6**) and paragraphs 89 and 90, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 72 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 73.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, or when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag State of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated. However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel to conduct a new transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the Regional Observer.

77. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 75 and 76. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable.

Operators shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

### **Caging operations**

78. Prior to the start of caging operations for each transport cage, the anchoring of transport cages within 0.5 nautical mile of farming facilities, shall be prohibited.

79. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag.

If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage;
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable;

- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 72 and **Annex 10**.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation, within 24 hours / 1 working day of the request, of the catching vessel's or trap flag State, or of the CPC authorities of the farm if agreed with the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap. If no response is received within 24 hours / 1 working day from the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, the CPC authorities of the farm may authorize the caging operation. This does not prejudice the sovereign rights of the farm CPC.

Fish shall be caged before the 15 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including force majeure, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted.

80. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall prohibit placing bluefin tuna in cages for farming bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.
81. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 8**.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the farm operator, an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with the flag State of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. The catching and farm flags undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 83 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques.

82. CPCs shall take the necessary measures and actions to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging and report the results to the SCRS.

SCRS shall continue to explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging and report to the Commission at the Annual meetings.

83. A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision shall cover 100% of all caging operations, in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 9**.

The results of this programme shall be communicated by the flag State of the farm CPC to the catching CPC and to the Regional Observer. When these results indicate that the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged differ from the quantities reported caught and transferred, an investigation shall be launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days from the communication of the assessment of the video from the stereoscopic camera or alternative techniques conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in **Annex 9**, for a single caging operation or complete assessment of all cagings from a JFO, or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and/or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 72 and **Annex 10**.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to decide if releases are required and the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD shall be completed accordingly. When a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall request the deployment of a Regional Observer.

The results of this programme shall be submitted by 15 September annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the Annual meeting in accordance with **Annex 9**.

84. The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farming cage to another farming cage shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm State control authorities.
85. A difference superior or equal to 10% between the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel/trap and the quantities established by the control camera shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance of the vessel/trap concerned.
86. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. This report shall contain the information referred to in the caging declaration as set out in the *Recommendation of ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.

## VMS

87. Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels over 24 m, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 14-09].

Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, with effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied for their fishing vessels over 15 m.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 97 and 99 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels over 15 m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 15 days after their period of authorisation unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

## CPC Observer Programme

88. Each CPC shall ensure coverage by observers, issued with an official identification document, on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:
- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m);
  - 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m);
  - 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m);
  - 100% of towing vessels;
  - 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessel and trap compliance with the present Recommendation;
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, inter alia, the following:
  - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive;
  - area of catch by latitude and longitude;
  - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears;
  - date of catch.
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2009 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

For the scientific aspects of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC observer programmes.

### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

89. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100%:

- on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
- during all transfers from one farm to another;
- during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms.

Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

90. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- sign the ICCAT transfer declarations and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations;
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

#### **Enforcement**

91. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 18 to 23, 26 to 28 and 61 to 65 (fishing seasons, minimum size and recording requirements).

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines;
- seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches;
- sequestration of the vessel;
- suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish;
- reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.

92. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 78 to 86 and 93 (caging operations and observers) and with Recommendation 06-07.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines;
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBs;
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

#### **Access to and requirements for video records**

93. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred to in paragraph 81 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

#### **Market measures**

94. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme;
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels or traps whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 10 are exhausted;
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports from farms that do not comply with Recommendation 06-07.

#### **Conversion factors**

95. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

#### **Growth factors**

96. The SCRS shall review information from BCDs and other submitted data and further study growth rates so as to provide updated growth tables to the Commission by the 2016 Annual meeting.

### **Part V**

#### **ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

97. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.
98. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 97 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].
99. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.

### **Part VI**

#### **Final provisions**

##### **100. Availability of data to the SCRS**

The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present recommendation.

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

##### **101. Evaluation**

All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, all the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain shall submit each year, no later than 15 October, a detailed report on their implementation of this Recommendation.

**102. Cooperation**

All the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain are encouraged to enter into bilateral arrangements in order to improve the compliance with the provisions of this recommendation. These arrangements could notably cover exchanges of inspectors, joint inspections and data sharing.

**103. Repeals**

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 12-03 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 13-07] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Complementing Recommendation [12-03] by ICCAT which Established a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 13-08].

**ANNEXES**

**Annex 1**

**Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels Referred to in Paragraph 27**

1. CPCs shall limit:

- The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
- The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
- The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 52 of this recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats, with up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4 kg or 70 cm fork length caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 27 of this recommendation.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean under the conditions of this Annex shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
  - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
  - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.



**Logbook requirements****A – Catching Vessels****Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:**

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

**Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:**

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type by FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
  - c) Record of catches including:
    - i) FAO code
    - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
    - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seiners this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns.

6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation

**Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment:**

1. Dates and port of landing /transshipment
2. Products
  - a) species and presentation by FAO code
  - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

**Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:**

1. Date, time and position (latitude / longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
  - a) Species identification by FAO code
  - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their log book:
  - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
    - amount of catches taken on board,
    - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
    - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO.

b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:

- the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
- that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
- amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
- the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a).

### **B –Towing Vessels**

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessel shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

### **C – Auxiliary Vessels**

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

### **D – Processing Vessels**

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transshipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transshipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transshipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

No. of document

ICCAT Transhipment Declaration

<p><b>Carrier vessel</b>                  Name of vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National Register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  IMO No.</p>	<p><b>Fishing Vessel</b>                  Name of the vessel and radio call sign:                  Flag:                  Flag State authorization No.                  National register No.                  ICCAT Register No.                  External identification:                  Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>	<p>Final destination:                  Port:                  Country:                  State:</p>
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Departure	Day	Month	Hour	Year	[2_]0_[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Return	[ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ]	From:	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.	[ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ]	[ ] [ ]	To:	[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]		

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: [ ] kilograms.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
	Lat.	Long.									
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Document No.	ICCAT Transfer Declaration			
<b>1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</b>				
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation no. ICCAT Register no. External identification: Fishing logbook no. JFO no. eBCD nbr.	Trap name: ICCAT Register no.	Tug vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no. External identification:	Name of destination farm:	
			ICCAT Register no:	
				Cage Number:
<b>2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>				
Date: __/__/____	Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:
Number of individuals:			Species:	
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):				
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:		Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:		Observer Names, ICCAT No. and signature:
<b>3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS</b>				
Date: __/__/____	Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.	
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: __/__/____	Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.	
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	

Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port: Lat: Long:		
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	ICCAT Register no.	
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:
<b>4 – SPLIT CAGES</b>			
Donor Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Donor Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving Cage no.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:	
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.



### ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 89 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 April each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

#### Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm or trap observed.

#### Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
  - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm State, trap State or flag State of the purse seine vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
  - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
  - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag State authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
    - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
    - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
    - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
    - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
    - vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
    - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
    - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
    - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
    - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
  - b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
    - i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
    - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
    - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;

- iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 75 and 76;
  - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
  - vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals.
- c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
  - d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
  - e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and traps and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

#### **Obligations of the flag States of purse seine vessels and farm and trap States**

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme:
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication.
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State, trap State or flag State of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

#### **Observer fees and organization**

- 12.a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.



### ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

#### I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
  - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
  - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
  - c) fishing in a closed area;
  - d) fishing during a closed season;
  - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
  - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
  - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
  - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
  - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
  - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
  - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
  - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
  - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
  - n) fishing with assistance of spotter planes;
  - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
  - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
  - q) transshipment at sea.
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag State of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag State of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag State CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag State CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18], taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

#### II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission.



7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this Annex shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag State, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 21 of this Annex.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 16 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master\* of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this Annex safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this Annex. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.
12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag State of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.
15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Recommendation [94-09] and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.

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\* Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

- 16.a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
- b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
- 17.a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
- b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
18. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report.
19. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State.
20. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
21. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inspector Identity Card</b></p> <p><b>Contracting Party:</b></p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; width: 100px; height: 80px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="text-align: center;">Photograph</p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b></p> <p><b>Card n°:</b></p> <p><b>Issue Date:</b> <span style="float: right;">Valid five years</span></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p>The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <p>..... Issuing Authority</p> <p>..... Inspector</p>
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**Minimum standards for video recording procedures****Transfers**

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer as soon as possible after the end of the transfer operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty.

**Caging operations**

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer as soon as possible after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT caging authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. The new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

## Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations

### Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by article 83 of this Recommendation, shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 10 meters and maximum height of 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- v. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.
- vii. In cases where the stereoscopic camera footage is of insufficient quality to estimate the weight of bluefin tuna being caged, a new caging operation shall be ordered by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, or the flag CPC authorities of the farm.

### Presentation and use of stereoscopic cameras systems outcome

- i. Decisions regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or total trap catches, for JFOs and trap catches destined to a farm facility involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State. The decision regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
- ii. The farm CPC/State authorities shall provide a report to the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel, including the following documents:
  - ii.1 Technical stereoscopic system report including:
    - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
    - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution.
  - ii.2 Detailed results of the programme, with the size and weight of every fish that was sampled.
  - ii.3 Caging report including:
    - general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, BCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage file name;

- algorithm used to convert length into weight;
  - comparison between the amounts declared in the BCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be:  $(\text{Stereoscopic System-BCD}) / \text{Stereoscopic System} * 100$ );
  - margin of error of the system;
  - for those caging reports relating to JFOs/traps, the last caging report shall also include a summary of all information in previous caging reports.
- iii. When receiving the caging report, the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel shall take all the necessary measures according to the following situations.
- iii.1 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
  - the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras or alternative techniques) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.2 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
  - the release operations must be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 72 and **Annex 10**;
  - after the release operations took place, the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.3 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
  - the BCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the control cameras) and average weight accordingly.
- iv. For any relevant modification of the BCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall be not higher those in Section 2.
- v. In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO/trap, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant BCDs shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic system results. The BCDs related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released. The BCDs related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.

The BCDs relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

**Annex 10****Release Protocol**

The release of bluefin tuna from transport/farming cages into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT Regional Observer, who shall draft and submit a report together with the video records to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The release of bluefin tuna from traps into the sea shall be observed by a national observer from a CPC, who shall draft and submit a report to the CPC control authorities.

Before a release operation takes place, CPC control authorities might order a control transfer using standard and/or stereoscopic cameras to estimate the number and weight of the fish that need to be released.

CPC control authorities might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock. The operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place. These release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations.

Following completion of harvesting operations, fish remaining in a farm and not covered by an ICCAT bluefin catch document shall be released in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 72.

**Treatment of dead fish**

During fishing operations by purse seiners, the quantities of fish found dead in the seine shall be recorded on the fishing vessel logbook and therefore deducted from the Flag CPCs quota.

**Recording/treating of dead fish during 1<sup>st</sup> transfer**

- a) The BCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer – including “dead” fish) completed.

The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The BCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated BCD.

- b) A split of the BCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead BFT to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split BCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
- c) With regards to BCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.



14-05

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PROGRAM**

*RECALLING* the 1998 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 04-05], the *Supplemental Recommendations by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [Recs. 06-06, 08-04, 10-03, 12-02, and 13-09];

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY);

*CONSIDERING* that the 2014 stock assessment resulted in a more optimistic view of stock status with respect to the 2012 assessment, but that the assessment and the projections do not capture the full degree of uncertainty;

*NOTING* that under the low recruitment scenario the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock is above the biomass level that can support MSY and is consistent with the Convention objective. Under the high recruitment scenario (under which higher sustainable yields are possible in the future), the stock remains overfished, but is not experiencing overfishing. Regardless of recruitment scenario, the spawning stock biomass has increased by 70 percent since 1998, when the rebuilding program was adopted;

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has estimated MSY to be 3,050 t under the low recruitment scenario and 5,316 t under the high recruitment scenario;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the SCRS indicates that the issue of identifying either the high or low recruitment scenario, or an alternative scenario, as being the more realistic remains unresolved;

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS recommends that the next stock assessment be conducted in 2016 to incorporate new data from the research conducted under the Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Program (GBYP) and related activities and to utilize new assessment methodologies;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the value of increasing biological sampling to provide additional support toward addressing some key stock assessment uncertainties;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* the need to re-evaluate the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program no later than 2016 in light of the 2016 stock assessment results and resulting advice from SCRS;

*UNDERSCORING* that the SCRS indicates that the strong 2002/2003 year classes and recent reduction in fishing mortality have contributed to a more rapid increase in spawning stock biomass in recent years;

*UNDERSCORING FURTHER* that SCRS has advised that further increases in spawning stock biomass will increase the ability to discriminate between alternative recruitment hypotheses;

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS noted the uncertainties associated with existing CPUE fishery dependent indices, and suggested that using a scientific research quota within a TAC that is consistent with scientific advice may help support the improvement of stock abundance indices, including fishery independent indices, for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and overcome this situation;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to affect recovery in the western Atlantic, given that the productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries is linked to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25];

*RENEWING* the commitment to the full implementation of existing mandatory reporting obligations including those in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13];

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will continue the 20-year rebuilding program that began in 1999 and continues through 2018.

**Effort and capacity limits**

2. In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern or western Atlantic, CPCs will continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to the western Atlantic.

**TACs, TAC allocations, and catch limits**

3. The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will have a TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 2,000 t in each of 2015 and 2016.
4. The annual TAC, MSY target, and the 20-year rebuilding period shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.
5. If the SCRS detects a serious threat of stock collapse, the Commission shall suspend all bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic for the following year.
6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:
  - a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
USA (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	15 t

- b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

<b>CPC</b>	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<b>&lt;2,413 t (A)</b>	<b>2,413 t (B)</b>	<b>&gt;2,413-2,660 t (C)</b>	<b>&gt;2,660 t (D)</b>
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1,303 t	49.00%
Canada	22.32%	539 t	539 t	20.24%
Japan	17.64%	426 t	426 t + all increase between 2,413 t and 2,660 t	24.74%
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
Mexico	5.56%	134 t	134 t	5.56%

- c) Consistent with paragraphs 1, 3, and 6(b), the TAC for each of 2015 and 2016 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

TAC (for each of 2015 and 2016)	2,000 t
United States	1,058.79 t
Canada	437.47 t
Japan	345.74 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	4.51 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	4.51 t
Mexico	108.98 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) be less than 4 t each in any single year unless the fishery is closed.

- d) Depending on availability, Mexico can transfer up to 108.98 t of its adjusted quota in each of 2015 and 2016 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each of 2015 and 2016 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each of 2015 and 2016 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 6(d), 6(e), and 6(f) above shall: notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence, and present the results of the research to the SCRS.
7. A CPC's total quota shall include its allocations in paragraph 6, adjusted for underharvest or overharvest consistent with the remainder of this paragraph. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period for the remainder of this paragraph.
- a) Any underharvest of a CPC's total quota in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. However, in no event shall the underharvest that is carried forward exceed 10% of the CPC's initial quota allocation under paragraph 6, with the exception of UK (in respect of Bermuda), France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), and Mexico (i.e., those with initial allocations of 115 t or less), for which the underharvest that is carried forward shall in no event exceed 100% of the initial allocation under paragraph 6 (i.e., the total quota for such CPC shall not exceed twice its annual quota in any given year).
- b) If, in the applicable management period, and each subsequent management period, any CPC has an overharvest of its total quota, its initial quota for the next subsequent management period will be reduced by 100% of the excess of such total quota, and ICCAT may authorize other appropriate actions.
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 7(b), if a CPC has an overharvest of its total quota during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the CPC's total quota equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

***Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish***

8. CPCs will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm.

9. Notwithstanding the above measures, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture western Atlantic bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish so that the average over the 2015 and 2016 fishing periods is no more than 10% by weight of the total bluefin tuna quota for each CPC, and institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish. CPCs granting such a tolerance will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna having a fork length of less than 67 cm, except as the subject of a research project notified to SCRS, developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS, and conducted by individuals duly permitted by the CPC to undertake such research.
10. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size.
11. CPCs will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length less than 115 cm and report on steps taken in this regard in their Annual Report.

#### ***Area and time restrictions***

12. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico). In light of advice received from SCRS pursuant to paragraph 23, the Commission shall review this measure and consider the need for alternative management actions.

#### ***Transshipment***

13. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

#### ***Scientific research and data and reporting requirements***

14. In 2016, and thereafter every three years, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock and for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for those stocks for future years.
15. The SCRS shall prepare and present a Kobe II strategy matrix reflecting recovery scenarios of western Atlantic bluefin tuna consistent with *Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detail Reports* [Res. 11-14].
16. Canada, the United States, Japan, Mexico, and, as appropriate, other CPCs harvesting western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall collaborate in the improvement of existing indices of abundance and the development of new combined indices. To advance this work, SCRS should review the current stock abundance indices for western Atlantic bluefin tuna at its 2015 data preparatory meeting, as well as analysis of any relevant non-aggregated catch and effort data that can be provided, consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
17. The SCRS shall annually review available fishery and stock indicators and evaluate whether they warrant advancing the scheduling of the next stock assessment. In support of this evaluation, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them in advance of the SCRS annual species group meetings.
18. In preparation for the 2016 stock assessment, the SCRS should thoroughly review the evidence that initially was used in support of each recruitment scenario as well as any additional information available that might also support alternative scenarios as a means of informing the Commission on which recruitment scenario is more likely to reflect the current stock recruitment potential. If the SCRS is unable to support one scenario over the other, the SCRS then should provide the Commission with management advice that takes into consideration the risks (e.g., risk of not achieving the Convention objective, lost yield) that would be associated with opting to manage the stock under a scenario that does not accurately reflect the stock-recruit relationship.
19. If scientific evidence results in an SCRS recommendation to alter the definition of management units, or to take explicit account of mixing between management units, then the western Atlantic rebuilding program shall be re-evaluated.

20. CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to the research being undertaken through ICCAT's GBYP. At the 2015 Bluefin Tuna Data Preparatory meeting, the SCRS will (a) identify existing fisheries for which biological sampling rates should be increased, (b) identify any fisheries for which improvements in the collection and/or provision of catch, effort, and/or size data are necessary to support the stock assessment, and (c) provide guidance on enhancing efforts to cover any deficiencies identified in (a) and (b) above. CPCs should make special efforts to enhance biological sampling activities in these fisheries beginning in the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing seasons. Complementary information will also be required for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock in order to more fully evaluate the effects of mixing. In addition, it is also important to enhance, and where needed develop, an accurate abundance index for juvenile fish. CPCs should also make special efforts to ensure complete and timely submission of any collected data to the SCRS.
21. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
22. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels landing bluefin tuna are subject to a data recording system, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].
23. As part of the 2016 stock assessment, the SCRS shall review new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, including from those CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and advise the Commission on the results of this review for its consideration. Concerned CPCs are encouraged to work through the SCRS to develop advice for managing any identified times and areas under a precautionary approach.
24. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
25. The ICCAT Secretariat shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
26. All CPCs shall provide the best available data for the assessment of the stock by the SCRS, including information on the catches of the broadest range of all age classes encountered in their fisheries, consistent with minimum size restrictions.
27. SCRS should provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. The SCRS should also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status.
28. This Recommendation replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 13-09].

14-06

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON  
SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

*CONSIDERING* that shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) are caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

*RECALLING* Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 04-10], Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Recommendation [Rec. 04-10] concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 05-05], Supplement Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks [Rec. 07-06] and Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 10-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks from all ICCAT fisheries, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures;

*ALSO RECALLING* that according to Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 10-06] and Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of non-Fulfillment of Reporting Obligations [Rec.11-15], CPCs that do not report Task I data, for one or more species (including sharks species) for a given year, shall be prohibited from retaining such species until such data have been received by the ICCAT Secretariat;

*NOTING* that, following the Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment carried out in June 2012, the SCRS recommended, as a precautionary approach, that the fishing mortality of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the north and south stocks;

*FURTHER NOTING* the continued high vulnerability ranking of shortfin mako sharks in the 2008 and 2012 Ecological Risk Assessments, the uncertainty associated to the stock assessment process and the relative low productivity of this species;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the 2014 management recommendations of the SCRS indicate that precautionary management measures should be considered for sharks stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern and that in particular for shortfin mako shark the SCRS has recommended that the catches of this species should not be increased with respect to current levels until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the northern and southern stocks;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. CPCs shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of shortfin mako catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data.
2. CPCs shall include in their annual reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage shortfin mako sharks.
3. CPCs are encouraged to undertake research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history and behavioural traits, as well as on the identification of potential mating, pupping and nursery grounds of shortfin mako sharks. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.
4. The SCRS shall endeavour to conduct a stock assessment for shortfin mako sharks by 2016, if the available data permit, and shall evaluate and advise the Commission on appropriate management measures.
5. This Recommendation replaces and repeals Recommendations 05-05 and 06-10 in their entirety.

14-07

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ACCESS AGREEMENTS**

*MINDFUL* of the data reporting requirements for all CPCs and the importance of complete statistical reporting to the work of SCRS and the Commission;

*MINDFUL* of the need to ensure transparency among CPCs in respect of conditions for accessing the waters of coastal States, in particular to facilitate joint efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21] that establishes reporting and other requirements for chartering arrangements;

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in Relation to their Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-12], which requires CPCs to ensure 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 available to the flag CPC;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) that allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters under their jurisdiction for species managed by ICCAT, and CPCs whose vessels fish in waters under the jurisdiction of another CPC or non-Contracting party (NCP) for species managed by ICCAT pursuant to an agreement, shall, individually or jointly, notify the Commission prior to beginning fishing activities of the existence of such agreements and provide to the Commission information concerning these agreements, including:
  - The CPCs, NCPs, or other entities involved in the agreement;
  - The time period or periods covered by the agreement;
  - The number of vessels and gear types authorized;
  - The stock or species authorized for harvest, including any applicable catch limits;
  - The CPC's quota or catch limit to which the catch will be applied;
  - Monitoring, control, and surveillance measures required by the flag CPC and coastal State involved with, for the coastal State, a particular specification of:
    - i) the National authority (contact coordinates) responsible for issuing fishing licenses or permits,
    - ii) the National authority (contact coordinates) responsible for MCS activities.
  - Data reporting obligations stipulated in the agreement, including those between the parties involved, as well as those regarding information that must be provided to the Commission;
  - A copy of the written agreement.
2. For agreements in existence prior to the entry into force of this recommendation, the information specified in paragraph 1 shall be provided in advance of the 2015 Commission meeting.
3. When an access agreement is modified in a manner that changes any of the information specified in paragraph 1, these changes shall be promptly notified to the Commission.
4. Consistent with ICCAT data reporting requirements, flag CPCs involved in the agreements specified in paragraph 1 shall ensure that all target and incidental catches made pursuant to these agreements are reported to the SCRS.

5. Flag CPCs and coastal CPCs involved in the agreements specified in paragraph 1 shall provide a summary of the activities carried out pursuant to each agreement, including all catches made pursuant to these agreements, in their annual report to the Commission.
6. In cases where coastal CPCs allow foreign-flagged vessels to fish in waters under their jurisdiction for species managed by ICCAT through a mechanism other than a CPC-to-CPC or CPC-to-NCP agreement, the coastal CPC shall be solely responsible for providing the information required by this Recommendation. Flag CPCs with vessels involved in such an agreement, however, shall endeavour to provide to the Commission relevant information regarding that agreement as indicated in paragraph 1.
7. The Secretariat shall develop a form for reporting the information specified in this Recommendation and annually compile CPC submissions into a report to be presented to the Commission for consideration at its Annual meeting.
8. This recommendation does not apply to chartering arrangements covered by the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21].
9. All information provided pursuant to this Recommendation shall be consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
10. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements* [Rec. 11-16] is replaced by this Recommendation.



14-08

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF RECOMMENDATION 12-07 BY ICCAT FOR AN ICCAT SCHEME FOR  
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INSPECTION IN PORT**

*RECALLING* the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;

*FURTHER RECALLING* *Recommendation by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)*;

*HIGHLIGHTING*, in particular, that Recommendation 12-07 requires Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs), either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, to provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, among other things, (1) develop their capacity to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection; (2) facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programs of relevant organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of such a system, and (3) assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of Recommendation 12-07;

*RECOGNIZING* that the Commission, through Resolution 03-21 and Recommendations 11-26 and 13-19, has established several funds to facilitate attendance at meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, enhance the scientific capacity of developing state scientists, and improve data collection and quality assurance;

*ALSO RECOGNIZING* that a fund has been established under Part VII of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Seas of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) to provide assistance to developing States Parties to the Agreement for a number of purposes, including to build capacity for activities in key areas such as monitoring, control and surveillance;

*NOTING* that several Contracting Parties, on their own initiative, have been carrying out capacity building activities to assist developing coastal States in improving their management of ICCAT fisheries, including tools and approaches for collecting and assessing data, conducting monitoring, control, and surveillance activities, and enhancing domestic legal frameworks;

*DESIRING* to take further concrete steps in ICCAT to support the implementation of CPC capacity building responsibilities with regard to Recommendation 12-07 to ensure the program is as effective as possible in promoting compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A special Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCSF) be established to support and strengthen the development and implementation of effective systems of port inspection by developing CPCs in order to meet or exceed the minimum standards set out in *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)*.
2. Funds from the MCSF shall be used to provide technical assistance to port inspectors and other relevant enforcement personnel from developing CPCs. Such technical assistance can include, among other things, conducting or arranging for in country training activities and supporting the participation of relevant developing CPC personnel in training programs or exchanges offered by other CPCs or organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of port inspection systems, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions, and the resolution of disputes pursuant to Recommendation 12-07.

3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, for participation in meetings of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies where port inspection issues may be discussed, developing CPCs should seek funding support through the Meeting Participation Fund established per ICCAT Recommendation 11-26. Further, all eligible applicants for support through the MCSF should explore alternative avenues of funding available to developing CPCs, such as the UNSFA Part VII fund, prior to applying to the MCSF. The Secretariat will advise eligible applicants whether alternate ICCAT funding sources may be appropriate to support that CPC's particular capacity building needs.
4. The MCSF shall be financed, at least initially, by ICCAT's Working Capital Fund. The amount of Working Capital funds allocated to the MCSF shall be decided by the Commission. CPCs are encouraged to supplement the MCSF through voluntary contributions. The fund may also be supplemented from other sources as the Commission may identify. The Commission will identify a procedure for supplying funds to the MCSF in the future as needed.
5. The initial allocation to the MCSF will be determined based on an assessment of developing CPC needs. In that regard, developing CPCs interested in seeking assistance from the MCSF should provide a report to the Commission on their progress in implementing Recommendation 12-07 and identify specific areas where training or other assistance is needed.
6. The ICCAT Secretariat will administer the MCSF in accordance with the same financial controls as apply to regular budget appropriations.
7. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall:
  - a) establish a process for notifying CPCs annually of the level of available funds in the MCSF;
  - b) develop a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, circulate this information to the Commission for intersessional review and approval, and, once agreed, post it on the public portion of the ICCAT website;
  - c) develop and circulate to the Commission for intersessional review and approval, a process and procedures for evaluating requests for assistance from the MCSF to determine the level and type of assistance to provide taking into account available resources, Commission priorities, and the need to ensure fair and balanced access to the fund;
  - d) notify the Commission and the requesting developing CPC of the details of the assistance to be provided without delay; and
  - e) submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the MCSF, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the fund and a summary of all assistance provided.
8. CPCs with the ability to provide relevant technical assistance to developing CPCs are strongly encouraged to explore bilateral or other arrangements to provide such assistance. CPCs are also encouraged to consider ways they may be able to support any ICCAT-sponsored initiatives, such as by providing relevant experts to conduct trainings.
9. The Commission shall coordinate, where feasible and appropriate, its port inspection capacity building activities with such activities of other RFMOs, the FAO, and other relevant entities.
10. This recommendation will be evaluated and reviewed at the latest in 2017.

14-09

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION  
03-14 BY ICCAT CONCERNING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

*IN ACCORDANCE WITH* the Needs and Principles set forth in the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures Adopted by ICCAT, adopted by the Commission in 2002 to ensure effective monitoring measures;

*CONSIDERING* the deliberations of the ICCAT Working Group to Develop Integrated Monitoring Measures, held in Madeira from 26 to 28 May 2003;

*RECOGNIZING* the developments in satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS), and their utility within ICCAT;

*RECOGNIZING* the legitimate right of coastal States to monitor the vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction;

*CONSIDERING* that real-time transmission to the Fishing Monitoring Center (FMC) of the coastal State of VMS data of all the vessels (including catching, carrier and support vessels) flying the flag of a CPC authorised to fish ICCAT species enables this coastal State, particularly in the case of a developing State, to ensure the effective implementation of ICCAT conservation and monitoring measures;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Each flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC) shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (hereinafter referred to as VMS) for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall and:
  - a) require its fishing vessels to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit a message to the Fisheries Monitoring Center (hereinafter referred to as FMC) of the flag CPC allowing continuous tracking of the position of a fishing vessel by the CPC of that vessel.
  - b) ensure that the satellite tracking device fitted on board the fishing vessels shall enable the vessel to continuously collect and transmit, at any time, to the FMC of the flag CPC the following data:
    - i) the vessel's identification;
    - ii) the most recent geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a margin of error lower than 500 metres, with a confidence interval of 99%;
    - iii) the date and time of the fixing of the said position of the vessel.
  - c) Ensure, in cooperation with the coastal State, that the position messages transmitted by its vessels while fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of that coastal State are transmitted automatically and in real time to the FMC of the coastal State that has authorized the fishing activity, provided that due consideration has been given to minimizing the operational costs, technical difficulties, and administrative burden associated with transmission of these messages.
  - d) In order to facilitate the transmission and receipt of position messages, as described in subparagraph 1(c), the FMC of the flag State and the FMC of the coastal State shall exchange their contact information and notify each other without delay of any changes to this information. The FMC of the coastal State shall notify the flag State FMC of any interruption in the reception of consecutive position messages. The transmission of position messages between the FMC of the flag State and that of the coastal State shall be carried out electronically using a secure communication system.

2. Each CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the VMS messages are transmitted and received, as specified in paragraph 1.
3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1.b) is collected and transmitted at least every four (4) hours. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month, unless the vessel has been removed from the list of authorized LSFVs. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel is not authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port; the fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.
4. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate to the FMC, at least daily, reports containing the information in paragraph 1(b) by other means of communication (radio, telefax or telex).
5. CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Recommendation to their fishing vessels of less than 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall if they consider this to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.
6. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than 2017 and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness, including by changing the transmission frequency, taking into account SCRS advice, the different nature of various fisheries, cost implications, and other relevant considerations, including generally accepted MCS best practices.
7. To inform this review, the SCRS is requested to provide advice on the VMS data that would most assist the SCRS in carrying out its work, including frequency of transmission for the different ICCAT fisheries.
8. This measure shall repeal and replace Recommendation 03-14.

14-10

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO HARMONIZE AND GUIDE  
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICCAT VESSEL LISTING REQUIREMENTS**

*RECALLING* the discussion at the 2014 intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) on the need to clarify, harmonize, and guide implementation of ICCAT's vessel listing requirements;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13] shall be amended as follows:
  - a) For the final item listed in paragraph 2, change the number of days specified for authorization periods from 30 days to 45 days, so it reads as follows:
    - Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping. However, in no case shall the authorization period include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the list to the Secretariat.
  - b) For paragraph 3, make a corresponding change to the days specified, so it reads as follows:
 

Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record at any time such changes occur. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the period of authorization has expired.
2. Paragraph 2 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* [Rec. 98-08] is repealed.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC  
WORKING GROUP FOR PREPARING THE NEXT PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

*NOTING* that the first and only performance review for ICCAT was decided by the ICCAT Annual Meeting in 2007 and that the recommendations by an independent expert panel were issued in 2008;

*RECOGNIZING* that ICCAT has been progressing well with the implementation of the performance review recommendations, notably via the Working Group on the “Future of ICCAT”, the Working Group to develop amendments to the ICCAT Convention, and important improvements to the operations of the Compliance Committee;

*REMINDING* that the United National General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries of 2013 in its point 130 “*urges States, through their participation in RFMO/As, to undertake performance reviews of those RFMO/As on a regular basis, and to make the results publicly available, to implement the recommendations of such reviews and to strengthen the comprehensiveness of those reviews over time*”;

*RECALLING* that ICCAT Resolution [11-17] on best available science stipulates in its point 6 that “*the next independent performance review of ICCAT shall include an assessment of the functioning of the SCRS and its working groups through a total quality management process, including an evaluation of the potential role of external reviews*”;

*RECOGNIZING*, therefore, the need to prepare the process and terms of reference for the next performance review in time for consideration at the 2015 ICCAT Annual Meeting;

*STRESSING* that such a performance review should build on the first review and compare ICCAT’s performance with the performance of other tuna-RFMOs in relation to the Kobe recommendations;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)  
RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. An ad hoc Working Group is established in order to prepare proposed terms of reference for the next performance review of ICCAT to be agreed by the Commission at its 2015 Annual Meeting. These terms of reference shall include:
  - a) the assessment criteria, taking into account, inter alia, the criteria used by ICCAT during its first performance review, the criteria for second performance reviews by other RFMOs, ICCAT Resolution [11-17] on best available science, and the Kobe recommendations;
  - b) parameters for the composition of the performance review panel, including possible suggestions for panellists, if appropriate; and
  - c) the timeline for launching and implementing the review process.
2. The Working Group shall also explore the possibilities for comparing ICCAT’s performance with the performance of other tuna-RFMOs and make recommendations on how such a comparative performance review could be done.
3. The Working Group should work on a virtual basis starting at the latest in February 2015.
4. CPCs shall designate the participants in the WG at the latest by 31 January 2015 to the ICCAT Secretariat.

14-13

TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING  
THE RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR ENHANCING THE  
DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS**

*CONSIDERING* scientific advice released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) as the corner stone for establishing a proper management framework on stocks and fisheries under the purview of ICCAT;

*RECOGNIZING* that an in depth understanding by the Commission of scientific advice and management recommendations made by the SCRS should ease the adoption by the Commission of relevant and effective conservation measures;

*NOTING* that the ICCAT Resolution 11-17 on best available science recommends improving the communication between CPCs, the Commission, and the SCRS by enabling a constant dialogue;

*RECALLING* the work in the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists held in June 2013 in support of the W-BFT stock assessment;

*HIGHLIGHTING* the need to further enhance the dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists in the coming years in order to achieve the Convention objectives in the most efficient and effective way;

*STRESSING* that such enhanced dialogue should, in particular, allow the Commission to focus on the establishment of management frameworks that take into account Target and Limit Reference points, associated level of risks and related Harvest Control Rules consistent with Recommendation 11-13;

*STRESSING FURTHERMORE* that such enhanced dialogue should also allow the Commission to review and provide input to the SCRS on the establishment of research priorities, considering more particularly the development of the Strategic Plan on Science, and to explore further improvements in ICCAT science and management processes;

*RECALLING* that provisions laid down in Recommendation 11-26 establishing a meeting participation fund should ease the attendance of fisheries scientist and managers from developing Contracting Parties and therefore contribute to an inclusive and participative dialogue;

*EMPHASIZING* that the Commission management decisions should be based on the best available science independently developed by the SCRS;

*RECOGNIZING* that the first meeting of the SWGSM was an important step to facilitate the dialogue between scientists and managers;

*NOTING* that the SCRS strongly supports the continuation of this initiative;

*FURTHER NOTING* that that development of Harvest Control Rules and application of the Management Strategy Evaluation to ICCAT fisheries is dependent upon input and guidance from fishery managers;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A standing working group dedicated to the dialogue between fisheries scientists and managers (“SWGSM”) is established under the following objectives and rules.
2. The objective of the SWGSM is to enhance communication and foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists, by establishing a forum to exchange views and to support the development and effective implementation of management strategies, in particular through, inter alia:
  - a. the development of a general framework to guide establishment, review and update of management objectives and strategies, which

- i. is consistent with the Convention objectives, the ecosystem-based and precautionary approaches;
    - ii. defines the role and the responsibilities of both fisheries managers and scientists (SCRS) and possible interactions and feedbacks; and
    - iii. allows for reflecting both conservation and socio-economic considerations.
  - b. ways to improve managers and scientists' mutual understanding of concepts related to management strategies, including:
    - i. the adoption of Limit and Target Reference Points (LRPs and TRPs);
    - ii. the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs);
    - iii. the application of Management Strategies Evaluation (MSE).
  - c. the analysis of case studies, exchanges and feedbacks on ongoing experiences.
  - d. the identification of opportunities / approaches that would enhance the available data.
  - e. the identification of research needs and priorities, in the light of discussions on SCRS annual work programmes and on the Strategic Plan on Science and including possible social and economic research topics.
  - f. the promotion of an efficient use of scientific resources and information.
3. The Chair of the SWGSM will be selected by the Commission.
4. The SWGSM will meet inter-sessionally and its meetings will be open to fisheries managers of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing entities (CPCs), SCRS scientists and accredited observers. Fishery managers of the CPCs and fishery scientists of the SCRS will be considered on an equal footing during the standing working group meetings. Other experts may be invited to specific meetings of the standing working group depending on the topics to be discussed.
5. The structure of the meetings will include an open forum/dialogue. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through formal sessions of the SWGSM, which should ensure a balanced presence and an active participation of scientists and managers.
6. As part of its meeting, the SWGSM will review its work plan and make recommendations to update it, as necessary. Taking into account these recommendations and based on objectives identified in paragraph 2, the Commission will develop a schedule and draft agenda for future meetings of the SWGSM and assess the need to continue the Standing Working Group.
7. This Recommendation replaces the Recommendation by ICCAT for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers [Rec. 13-18].



14-14

MISC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING  
RECOMMENDATION 11-26 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEETING  
PARTICIPATION FUND FOR DEVELOPING ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES**

*RECOGNISING* that the ICCAT Meeting Participation Fund established by Recommendation 11-26 has contributed improving the participation of representatives from developing States at meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies;

*RECALLING* that concerns on the lack of participation from developing States had been echoed by the ICCAT Performance Review Panel in 2008;

*NOTING* that Article 25 paragraph 3 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) identifies, inter alia, forms of cooperation with developing States and the need for assistance relating to collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information; and stock assessment and scientific research;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the first meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) recommended that in future meetings of the SWGSM the Commission consider providing funds for two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) for those CPCs needing assistance;

*RECOGNISING* that implementing the recommendation of the SWGSM to allow for a sufficient and balanced participation of representatives from developing States at its meetings requires amending Recommendation 11-26;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. A special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) be established for the purposes of supporting representatives from those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States to attend and/or contribute to the work of the Commission and other subsidiary bodies.
2. The MPF shall be financed from an initial allocation of €60,000 from ICCAT's accumulated Working Capital Fund, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and such other sources as the Commission may identify.
3. The Fund will be administered by the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations.
4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, and the details of the assistance to be made available.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the Fund, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the Fund.
6. For participation in ICCAT scientific meetings, including Species Group and other inter-sessional meetings, those eligible scientists may submit an application for assistance from the existing funds from voluntary contribution. Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).

7. For participation in non-scientific meetings, funds will be allocated in order of application. Only one participant per Contracting Party will be funded for any one meeting, with the exception of the SWGSM, for which two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) are eligible to receive assistance. All applications shall be subject to the approval of the Chair of the Commission, the Chair of STACFAD and the Executive Secretary and, in the case of subsidiary bodies, the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought.
8. The funds in the MPF shall be disbursed in a manner that ensures a balanced distribution between nonscientific and scientific meetings.
9. All potential eligible applicants are encouraged to explore the alternative avenues of funding available to developing State Contracting Parties prior to applying to the ICCAT Fund.
10. This recommendation replaces and repeals Recommendation 11-26 in its entirety.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2014**

14-11

GEN

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE CROSS-LISTING OF VESSELS CONTAINED ON IUU VESSEL LISTS OF OTHER TUNA RFMOs ON THE ICCAT IUU VESSEL LIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH RECOMMENDATION 11-18**

*RECALLING* paragraph 11 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18];

*RECOGNIZING* the need to facilitate efficient and effective implementation of ICCAT's IUU vessel list recommendation, in particular the process to incorporate into ICCAT's IUU vessel list those vessels included in the IUU vessel lists of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) that manage tuna and tuna-like species;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the Basic principles for adopting measures for cross-listing vessels listed as IUU by other RFMOs endorsed in the recommendations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Meeting of the Tuna RFMO, held in La Jolla, California in 2011 and acknowledging, in particular, the need to preserve the decision-making authority of ICCAT in any cross-listing decision by ensuring that members have the opportunity to consider each vessel on a case-by-case basis prior to its inclusion in the ICCAT IUU vessel list;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- a) The ICCAT Secretariat will maintain appropriate contacts with the Secretariats of other RFMOs managing tuna or tuna-like species in order to obtain copies of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists in a timely manner upon adoption or amendment.
- b) As soon as possible after adoption or amendment of an IUU vessel list by another RFMO managing tuna or tuna-like species, the ICCAT Secretariat will collect all supporting documentation available from that RFMO regarding the listing/delisting determinations.
- c) Once the ICCAT Secretariat has received/collected the information outlined in paragraphs (a) and (b), it will, consistent with Recommendation 11-18, circulate the other RFMO's IUU vessel list, supporting information, and any other relevant information regarding the listing determination to all CPCs. The requisite circular will clearly state the reason the information is being provided and explain that ICCAT Contracting Parties have 30 days to object to the inclusion of the vessels on the ICCAT IUU vessel list.
- d) The ICCAT Secretariat will add any new vessels contained in the other RFMO's IUU vessel list to the final ICCAT IUU Vessel List at the end of the 30-day period provided no objection to such inclusion is received from a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 11 of Recommendation 11-18. If a CPC objects to inclusion of any vessel, the ICCAT Secretariat will instead include such vessel on the Draft IUU Vessel List, and then the Provisional IUU Vessel List to be considered by the PWG at the next Annual meeting.
- e) Where a vessel has been included on the ICCAT IUU vessel list solely due to its inclusion on another RFMO's IUU vessel list, the ICCAT Secretariat will immediately remove that vessel from the ICCAT list when it has been deleted by the RFMO that originally listed it.
- f) Upon the addition or deletion of vessels from the final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to paragraph 11 of Recommendation 11-18, the ICCAT Secretariat will circulate the final ICCAT IUU Vessel List as amended to ICCAT CPCs.

## OTHER DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED BY ICCAT IN 2014

### 7.1 SUGGESTION OF ITEMS TO DRAFT AGENDAS OF FUTURE SWGSM MEETINGS

The focus of next SWGSM meetings and more particularly the one planned in 2015 might cover:

#### 1. Introduction to Management Strategy Evaluation: Background and examples

- Additional initiatives to improve the communication and development of management considerations and scientific advice, including the role of “non-traditional” expertise such as the social sciences and economics.
- Recap of the basic components of precautionary management strategies as discussed at the first meeting of the working group – in particular, discussion on necessary trade-offs between short-term and long term management objectives.
- How to use these components as a tool for management – illustrated through example, including those outside the ICCAT purview.

#### 2. Current SCRS progress towards the implementation of Management Strategy Evaluations

- Update from SCRS on work completed to date and discussion on next steps.

#### 3. Potential for implementation of HCRs and development of case studies for ICCAT stocks

- Identification of one or two ICCAT stocks, to serve as case studies, preferably selected among rich-data stocks (e.g. northern Atlantic albacore and northern Atlantic swordfish).
- How Harvest Control Rules for ICCAT fisheries might be designed, particularly regarding the elements to support these Harvest Control Rules, such as:
  - Management Objectives (conservation and fishery related, including social and economic considerations);
  - Acceptable Levels of Risk;
  - Time to Reach Objectives;
  - Reference Points (Limit and Target);
  - Ecosystem Considerations (e.g. by-catch, impact on other stocks);
  - Monitoring and Review.
- Possible proposals on how to further develop the current provisions under Rec. [11-13].

#### 4. Management input / feedback to the SCRS on program of work

- Possible needs for social and economic data and research projects.
- Possible updates to next years' SCRS work programmes and to the SCRS Strategic Plan on Science adopted during the 2014 SCRS Meeting, in the light of SWGSM meeting results.

## 7.2 PAPER ON SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FISHING

The Working Group on Sport and Recreational Fishing, established through implementation of ICCAT Resolution 06-17, met for the first and last time on 6 November 2009 at the regular Commission meeting held in Recife (Brazil).

At the last ICCAT meeting held in Cape Town (South Africa) in November 2013, it was decided that an inter-sessional meeting could be held in 2014 in Canada, provided that the information concerned with the statistical data of this fishery was available.

However, it must be recognised that to date some CPCs have not yet provided the data requested. For this reason, the meeting was not held as foreseen.

Moreover, the group considers that now it is imperative to call on the CPCs in question to fulfil this obligation by providing the information, which will enable the meeting to be held in 2015, in Canada as previously planned.

In order to facilitate this task for the CPCs concerned, some questions have been provided below for the purposes of collecting minimum information:

1. Is a portion of the CPC's ICCAT quota devoted to sport or recreational fishing? If yes, what percentage? If no, how is this fishery managed?
2. Is a sport or recreational fishing permit necessary? If yes, what are the prerequisites for obtaining a permit? Are taxes payable? How many permits are issued on average each year?
3. What types of gears are authorised?
4. Is it allowed to keep the fish? If no, what are the time limits on the hook? Are the estimates of mortality after release into the water provided to the SCRS?
5. If it is allowed to keep fish, what are the limits?
6. Is there an established system which enables monitoring of catches? If yes, please explain how it works.
7. Are the catches and other relevant information provided to the SCRS each year? If no, why?
8. Other (please provide all information considered relevant).

Species	Is a portion of the CPC's ICCAT quota devoted to sport or recreational fishing?	Is a sport or recreational fishing permit necessary?	Are there any restrictions related to gears?	Is it allowed to keep the fish?	Is there a limit in this respect?	Is there an established system which enables the monitoring of catches?	Are the catches, effort and other relevant information provided to the SCRS?

Appropriate use of this questionnaire will lead to better knowledge of the situation of sport and recreational fishing in the world, which will enable the Working Group to carry out the mission entrusted to it by the Commission.

We thank you for your response to the steps taken by us.

Chairman of the Working Group

Abdou Diouf

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Wednesday 12 November 2014 by the Committee Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada).

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The document entitled “Summary of Assistance Provided in 2014 to Developing Coastal States” was submitted to this Committee under item 6 of the Agenda. With this change, the agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

### **4. Reports from the Secretariat**

#### ***4.1 2014 Administrative Report***

The 2014 Administrative Report was presented by the Chair.

The report summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2014. The Chair announced that Curaçao and the Republic of Liberia had deposited the instrument of accession to ICCAT with the Director-General of the FAO on 6 and 14 February 2014, respectively. Accordingly, both are members of ICCAT as from these dates. The Chair also noted the entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 23rd Regular Meeting of the Commission, the letters regarding compliance with budgetary obligations and the importance for CPCs to regularise their situation of arrears, inter-sessional meetings, ICCAT working groups and the meetings in which ICCAT was represented.

The Chair explained that the Secretariat would present in 2015 a draft of the revised ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules.

The Administrative Report was adopted.

#### ***4.2 2014 Financial Report***

At the request of the Chair, the Head of the Department of Finance and Administration presented the Financial Report prepared by the Secretariat, which had been circulated in advance.

The Head of the Department of Finance and Administration stated that the report presented the situation of the budgetary statements of the Commission, as well as that of the trust funds managed by the Secretariat, at 20 October 2014. He also stated that the Working Capital Fund stood at 117% of the total budget, attesting to the positive trend of the Commission's financial position. He explained the most significant aspects of the financial statements and informed that expenses incurred amounted to 68% while revenue received amounted to 78% of the budget approved for 2014. As to extra-budgetary expenses, he highlighted the meetings financed through the Working Capital Fund (€30,917.65), the financing of the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) (€100,000.00) and the special Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) (€80,000.00), the expenses incurred in 2014 for implementation of the eBCD (€27,982.53), the travel expenses of the ICCAT Chairs (€9,219.66), as well as the contracts with scientists approved in 2013 (€29,271.95): one for carrying out an inventory of artisanal fisheries related strategic investments in western Africa and another for data recovery under the Small Tunas Research Program in Abidjan.

As to extra-budgetary revenue received, he highlighted the voluntary contribution received from the European Union to meet the costs of the 2014 Commission meeting (€42,927.09), the special contribution from Chinese Taipei (€100,000.00), observer fees (€6,945.20), bank interest (€13,016.61), refund of VAT expenses (€20,966.08) and the overhead received from the Regional Observer Programme for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (€31,023.02).

He also informed that after the date of drafting this report, 20 October 2014, contributions were received from Angola (€6,120.33), Ghana (€154,834.00), Nicaragua (€3,101.72) and Uruguay (€6,943.00).

Finally, the Head of the Department of Finance and Administration expressed his concern at the view held by the Secretariat that if no new revenue was forthcoming before year-end, a 40% decrease was expected in the Working Capital Fund with respect to the previous financial year.

The Chair noted the large number of trust funds which were currently being managed by the Secretariat, as well as the need to reduce and unify them to improve their management. In addition, she called for caution regarding the use of the Working Capital Fund.

After thanking the Secretariat for its detailed and comprehensive presentation of the report, the United States stated that the Fund to Prohibit Driftnets could be eliminated, since it was no longer needed for its original purpose, and committed to considering alternatives for use of the remaining funds in this account. Moreover, the United States highlighted the positive results obtained by the Meeting Participation Fund and suggested seeking alternatives for reducing the workload demanded of the Secretariat to facilitate the fund's execution. Finally, the United States underlined the continuous trend of improvement of the Working Capital Fund, noting that it may be possible to support some extra-budgetary activities.

The Executive Secretary thanked the European Union for financing the hosting of the 2014 Commission meeting. Moreover, he encouraged MPF applicants, in order to facilitate the work undertaken by the Secretariat, to provide the basic information necessary for visas, reservations and payments, and to observe the deadlines set by the Secretariat, which are necessary for handling travel arrangements.

The Financial Report was adopted.

#### ***4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights***

The Chair presented the document entitled "Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties & Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions", which reflected the accumulated debt of the Contracting Parties by year. She asked the CPCs included in the document to contact the Secretariat to regularise their situation and to provide payment plans.

Honduras and St. Vincent and the Grenadines stated their intention to submit to the Secretariat a payment plan to regularise their situation.

### **5. Consideration of financial implications of the measures proposed and SCRS requests**

The SCRS Chair listed the recommendations issued by the Scientific Committee that had financial implications for 2015 (item 17.1 of the 2014 Report of the SCRS), whose amount totalled €95,500.00. Moreover, he presented the Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020, stating that several of the initiatives requested could be financed within the framework of the FAO-GEF project, but that others would require funding from the Commission.

During the discussions, and after several CPCs had stated the importance of certain scientific works, the SCRS Chair was called on to establish an order of priority for the applications.

Dr. Pilar Pallarés presented the document entitled "Priorities for SCRS research recommendations which have financial implications: A response from SCRS scientists attending the 2014 Commission meeting" which contained the priorities established by the SCRS scientists who participated in the Commission meeting. Dr. Pallarés stressed that the document did not reflect the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP). High priority was given to the following proposals: the code migration commenced in 2014 in the vessel database for the numerous applications that interact with the different databases of the ICCAT-DB system (€75,000.00), peer review for the Tropical Species Group (€12,000.00), the Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) (€135,000.00), the small tuna tagging programme (€60,000.00), and the call for tenders to expedite completion of the review of the EffDIS database (€50,000.00).

The Committee proposed financing the high priority recommendations totalling €32,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund.

Finally, the European Union proposed that the Scientific Committee submit the applications with financial implications every two years, so that they coincide with the budgetary periods of the Commission. The proposal was accepted.

## **6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of the mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities**

### ***6.1 Summary of assistance provided in 2014 to developing coastal States***

The Assistant Executive Secretary presented the document entitled “Summary of Assistance Provided in 2014 to Developing Coastal States”, which summarised the assistance provided in 2014 to developing coastal States.

She summarised the different sources of financing available to ICCAT, trust funds and the Working Capital Fund, as well as the various funds intended for capacity building activities and support for the work of the SCRS undertaken in 2014, which were divided into the general categories of: travel assistance (€6,511.03), improvement in data collection (€1,690.41), training courses (€29,503.61) and support for SCRS work (€151,530.09).

### ***6.2 Mechanism for financing the Meeting Participation Fund***

The Head of the Department of Finance and Administration presented the document entitled “Mechanism for Financing the Meeting Participation Fund”, which informed about the financial situation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). He highlighted that in addition to the opening balance of €123,419.90, the fund had been provisioned with €100,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund and a voluntary contribution from Norway in the amount of €17,307.23. He mentioned that in 2014 travel arrangements had been made for the participation of 47 people from 23 CPCs. Finally, he stated that it has been estimated that with an allocation of €74,000.00 and the carryover from 2014 the requests in 2015 could be covered.

The Chair added that to expedite the process and to improve the management of the fund, some rules of procedure had been drawn up which would establish, on one hand, those CPCs which should be included as developing States within the framework of the recommendation, and on the other, a schedule containing the deadlines necessary for processing applications.

CPCs considered that the MPF should finance the applications of participants from the countries classified under Groups B, C or D, based on the criteria used in the contributions calculation stipulated in accordance with Article 4 of the ICCAT Financial Regulations, and stressed the need for compliance with the deadlines and requirements attached in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

### ***6.3 Mechanism for financing the special Scientific Capacity Building Fund***

The Chair presented the document which reflected the financial position of the special Scientific Capacity Building Fund in 2014. She pointed out the initial allocation of €80,000 which was charged to the Working Capital Fund and that it has financed the placement of a scientist from Côte d’Ivoire with the IRD Centre in the Seychelles.

The Committee did not propose any change regarding the financing of the fund.

## **7. Consideration of the programs/activities which may require extra-budgetary funding**

### ***7.1 ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Program for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)***

Since the major source of financing of the GBYP (80%) were the voluntary contributions from the European Union, it was noted that the program activities were closely linked to the payments made by it and that any change in the payment periods could affect the activities of the program.

The Committee agreed to seek additional financing mechanisms.



### **7.2 Bluefin Tuna Electronic Catch Documentation Program (eBCD)**

Following the technical/operational issues associated with implementation of the eBCD system, the Secretariat informed that it was not going to be possible to fully implement the programme from 1 March 2015. The Committee agreed to extend the contract with the consortium formed by TRAGSA, S.A and The Server Labs, S.L., responsible for developing the programme, and that the cost incurred would be covered through the GEF-FAO Project, in the case where the application is approved, or, failing that, by the Working Capital Fund, since financing issues preventing programme implementation must be avoided.

### **8. Review of findings of the virtual working group on communications policy and actions required**

The Chair summarised the work carried out by the virtual working group created to establish an ICCAT communications policy. She remarked that there had not been much progress and that the work of the group would continue electronically in 2015 and that any developments would be presented at the next ICCAT annual meeting.

The European Union suggested firstly that the documents of the previous Commission meetings be published on the ICCAT web site and secondly, that the SCRS documents also be uploaded to the web site.

Dr. Pallarés responded that the Commission documents in electronic format would be published on the publically accessible ICCAT web site, but that the SCRS documents could not be uploaded to the web site unless their authors approve their publication in the ICCAT Collective Volume of Scientific Papers. This is because other scientific journals do not accept documents that have already been published in other media and the authors may intend to publish their papers in them.

### **9. Review of possible revisions to the budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2015 and consideration of Commission requirements for the budgetary period 2016/2017**

The revised budget for 2015 was circulated in June 2014 and included Curaçao and the Republic of Liberia as new Contracting Parties. Subsequently, a new version was presented which updated the exchange rate published by the United Nations to November 2014, and included the changes in Panel membership.

The 2015 budget was approved.

### **10. Procedures for selection of the Executive Secretary**

Following the discussions in the meetings held by the Head Delegates, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the current Executive Secretary for two additional years, from April 2016.

The Executive Secretary thanked all CPCs for the trust placed in him, and stated that he would continue to devote himself fully to the Commission. He also thanked all the Secretariat staff for their work.

The Chair informed the Committee that, as agreed by the Head Delegates, work would begin in 2015 to establish the selection process for the new Executive Secretary. She stated that the terms of reference would be discussed in the working group comprised of the Commission Chair, the STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary, which would meet in the margins of the Convention Amendment Working Group meeting, which will be held in May 2015 in Miami, the United States. This working group, open to all CPCs, will hold a meeting to prepare a new description of the post and its terms of reference, updating the terms agreed in 2003. The text with the description will be presented in the 2015 Commission meeting, and the selection and recruitment process will begin in 2016. The official selection will be made at the 2017 Commission meeting.

## **11. Other matters**

### ***Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties***

The European Union presented the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties”, which included the request of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) that the Commission fund the participation of two members per delegation (a manager and a scientist), enabling sufficient and balanced participation of the representatives of the developing States in SWGSM meetings.

The Recommendation was referred to the plenary sessions for adoption.

### ***ICCAT credentials letter***

The Secretariat presented the document entitled “Proposal for ICCAT Credentials Letter” with the objective of requesting approval of a standard letter which enabled identification of the delegates authorised to act on behalf of their CPC.

Several delegations stated that, due to their internal institutional procedures, identification of credentials in the letter would pose problems. Therefore, the Committee stipulated that for the annual Commission meetings, the Head Delegate should send a signed letter which includes a list of authorised delegates from its CPC. Moreover, it must communicate the delegates authorised to present documents for circulation during the meeting.

### ***Redundant management measures***

Following the document prepared by the Secretariat identifying the redundant measures, the United States proposed that the Committee develop a pilot project whereby once the recommendations and resolutions adopted annually enter into force, the Secretariat should review, together with the Chairs of the Panels and of the Compliance Committee, the existing measures, for the purpose of compiling, in the inter-sessional period, a list of those measures which could be eliminated, either because they have become obsolete, or have expired or due to duplication, and that this list be submitted to the Commission for its consideration. There was general agreement with this suggestion.

## **12. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the report of the STACFAD would be adopted by correspondence.

The meeting of STACFAD was adjourned by the Chair, Ms. Lapointe.

**Table 1.** 2015 Commission Budget (Euros). Revised.

Chapters	2014	2015	2015 Revised	Revised Increase
1. Salaries	1,447,487.11	1,476,436.85	1,563,173.33	5.87%
2. Travel	25,000.00	25,500.00	25,500.00	0.00%
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	153,000.00	156,060.00	156,060.00	0.00%
4. Publicationes	25,000.00	25,500.00	25,500.00	0.00%
5. Office equipment	10,200.00	10,404.00	10,404.00	0.00%
6. Operating expenses	160,000.00	163,200.00	163,200.00	0.00%
7. Miscellaneous	7,200.00	7,344.00	7,344.00	0.00%
8. Coordination of research				
a) Salaries	1,048,536.06	1,069,506.78	982,770.30	-8.11%
b) Travel to improve statistics	30,000.00	30,600.00	30,600.00	0.00%
c) Statistics-biology	17,000.00	17,340.00	17,340.00	0.00%
d) Computer-related items	37,000.00	37,740.00	37,740.00	0.00%
e) Database maintenance	24,000.00	24,480.00	24,480.00	0.00%
f) Phone line-Internet domain	22,000.00	22,440.00	22,440.00	0.00%
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	75,000.00	76,500.00	76,500.00	0.00%
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,253,536.06</i>	<i>1,278,606.78</i>	<i>1,191,870.30</i>	<i>-6.78%</i>
9. Contingencies	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00%
10. Separation from Service Fund	10,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00%
11. Research programs				
a) ICCAT Billfish Research Program	31,212.00	31,836.24	31,836.24	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>31,212.00</i>	<i>31,836.24</i>	<i>31,836.24</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>3,122,635.17</b>	<b>3,199,887.87</b>	<b>3,199,887.87</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**Table 2.** Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2015. Revised.

Contracting Parties	Groups <sup>a</sup>	GNP <sup>b</sup> 2010	GNP <sup>b</sup> 1991	Catch <sup>c</sup>	Canning <sup>d</sup>	Catch + Canning	Panels <sup>e</sup>				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	3,677	2,298	17	0	17	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	D	4,473	2,796	2,498	1,545	4,043	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	4,322	2,701	3,669	0	3,669	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	14,497	9,061	208	0	208	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,496	2,810	7,632	0	7,632	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	10,716	6,698	34,999	11,742	46,741	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	46,361	28,976	2,232	0	2,232	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cap-Vert	C	3,244	2,028	10,736	1,539	12,275	X	-	-	-	1	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep. of	C	4,354	2,721	6,096	0	6,096	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	D	1,154	721	1,900	0	1,900	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	B	20,321	12,701	18,458	0	18,458	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	2,654	1,659	2,274	0	2,274	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	A	39,608	24,755	42	0	42	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	12,469	7,793	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	1,333	833	120,576	17,333	137,910	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	2,882	1,801	6,750	0	6,750	X	X	-	X	3	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	16,852	10,533	730	0	730	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	427	267	730	0	730	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras	D	2,026	1,266	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	39,278	24,549	1	0	1	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	43,141	26,963	28,765	0	28,765	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	21,052	13,158	3,931	0	3,931	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	219	137	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Liberia
Libya	C	11,321	7,076	720	1,623	2,343	X	X	-	-	2	Libya
Maroc	C	2,865	1,791	11,087	460	11,548	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	D	1,131	707	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	B	9,101	5,688	9,636	803	10,439	X	X	X	X	4	Mexico
Namibia	C	5,125	3,203	7,050	0	7,050	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,132	708	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	1,240	775	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	84,589	52,868	3	0	3	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	7,614	4,759	19,906	0	19,906	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,140	1,338	1,790	0	1,790	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	10,351	6,469	1,955	0	1,955	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	6,172	3,858	2,258	0	2,258	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,283	802	1,838	0	1,838	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,033	646	7,982	603	8,586	X	-	-	X	2	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	352	220	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Sierra Leone
South Africa	B	7,255	4,534	5,306	0	5,306	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	2,931	1,832	34	0	34	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	15,205	9,503	3,531	0	3,531	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	4,222	2,639	4,424	2,206	6,630	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,095	6,309	13,336	3,039	16,375	X	X	X	X	4	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	33,366	20,854	242,283	266,507	508,790	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	36,189	22,618	658	0	658	-	-	-	-	0	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	46,290	28,931	10,586	11,672	22,258	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	11,952	7,470	1,237	0	1,237	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	2,963	1,852	1,086	0	1,086	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	13,503	8,439	7,811	587	8,398	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the Annex.

**Table 3.** Contracting Party Contributions 2015 (Euros). Revised.

		Exchange rate: €= 1.245 US\$ (11/2014)										
Contracting Party	Group <sup>a</sup>	Catch + Canning <sup>a</sup>	Panels <sup>a</sup>	% Catch + Canning <sup>b</sup>	% Member + Panels <sup>c</sup>	Membership fee <sup>d</sup>	Panel Membership <sup>e</sup>	Variable fees for Member <sup>f</sup>	Variables fees Catch-Canning <sup>g</sup>	Total fees <sup>h</sup>	Contracting Party	
	Albania	D	17	1	0.09%	4.55%	803.00	803.00	1,525.20	58.09	<b>3,189.29</b> Albania	
	Algérie	D	4,043	2	20.59%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	13,815.42	<b>18,512.22</b> Algérie	
	Angola	D	3,669	2	18.68%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	12,537.41	<b>17,234.21</b> Angola	
	Barbados	C	208	0	0.10%	1.79%	803.00	0.00	2,970.32	316.82	<b>4,090.13</b> Barbados	
	Belize	C	7,632	4	3.49%	8.93%	803.00	3,212.00	14,851.58	11,624.72	<b>30,491.29</b> Belize	
	Brazil	B	46,741	4	37.21%	16.67%	803.00	3,212.00	35,993.69	160,707.62	<b>200,716.32</b> Brazil	
	Canada	A	2,232	3	0.40%	13.79%	803.00	2,409.00	83,891.87	4,824.67	<b>91,928.54</b> Canada	
	Cap-Vert	C	12,275	1	5.62%	3.57%	803.00	803.00	5,940.63	18,696.73	<b>26,243.36</b> Cap-Vert	
	China, People's Rep. of	C	6,096	4	2.79%	8.93%	803.00	3,212.00	14,851.58	9,285.15	<b>28,151.73</b> China, People's Rep. of	
	Côte d'Ivoire	D	1,900	2	9.67%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	6,492.53	<b>11,189.33</b> Côte d'Ivoire	
	Curaçao	B	18,458	1	14.69%	6.67%	803.00	803.00	14,397.48	63,463.37	<b>79,466.85</b> Curaçao	
	Egypt	D	2,274	2	11.58%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	7,770.53	<b>12,467.33</b> Egypt	
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	42	3	0.01%	13.79%	803.00	2,409.00	83,891.87	90.79	<b>87,194.66</b> France (St. P. & M.)	
	Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	5.36%	803.00	1,606.00	8,910.95	0.00	<b>11,319.95</b> Gabon	
	Ghana	C	137,910	1	63.14%	3.57%	803.00	803.00	5,940.63	210,058.28	<b>217,604.91</b> Ghana	
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	6,750	3	3.09%	7.14%	803.00	2,409.00	11,881.26	10,281.30	<b>25,374.56</b> Guatemala, Rep. de	
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	730	2	0.33%	5.36%	803.00	1,606.00	8,910.95	1,111.90	<b>12,431.85</b> Guinea Ecuatorial	
	Guinea, Rep. of	D	730	2	3.72%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	2,494.50	<b>7,191.30</b> Guinea, Rep. of	
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	0.00	<b>4,696.80</b> Honduras	
	Iceland	A	1	1	0.00%	6.90%	803.00	803.00	41,945.94	2.16	<b>43,554.10</b> Iceland	
	Japan	A	28,765	4	5.11%	17.24%	803.00	3,212.00	104,864.84	62,178.11	<b>171,057.96</b> Japan	
	Korea, Rep. of	C	3,931	4	1.80%	8.93%	803.00	3,212.00	14,851.58	5,987.52	<b>24,854.10</b> Korea, Rep. of	
	Liberia	D	0	0	0.00%	2.27%	803.00	0.00	762.60	0.00	<b>1,565.60</b> Liberia	
	Libya	C	2,343	2	1.07%	5.36%	803.00	1,606.00	8,910.95	3,568.75	<b>14,888.70</b> Libya	
	Maroc	C	11,548	3	5.29%	7.14%	803.00	2,409.00	11,881.26	17,589.39	<b>32,682.65</b> Maroc	
	Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	9.09%	803.00	2,409.00	3,050.40	0.00	<b>6,262.40</b> Mauritania	
	Mexico	B	10,439	4	8.31%	16.67%	803.00	3,212.00	35,993.69	35,891.98	<b>75,900.67</b> Mexico	
	Namibia	C	7,050	3	3.23%	7.14%	803.00	2,409.00	11,881.26	10,738.24	<b>25,831.50</b> Namibia	
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.27%	803.00	0.00	762.60	0.00	<b>1,565.60</b> Nicaragua, Rep. de	
	Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	0.00	<b>4,696.80</b> Nigeria	
	Norway	A	3	2	0.00%	10.34%	803.00	1,606.00	62,918.90	6.48	<b>65,334.39</b> Norway	
	Panama	B	19,906	4	15.85%	16.67%	803.00	3,212.00	35,993.69	68,441.97	<b>108,450.66</b> Panama	
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	1,790	2	9.11%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	6,116.65	<b>10,813.45</b> Philippines, Rep. of	
	Russia	C	1,955	1	0.90%	3.57%	803.00	803.00	5,940.63	2,977.77	<b>10,524.40</b> Russia	
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	2,258	3	11.50%	9.09%	803.00	2,409.00	3,050.40	7,715.86	<b>13,978.26</b> Saint Vincent and Grenadines	
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,838	2	9.36%	6.82%	803.00	1,606.00	2,287.80	6,280.67	<b>10,977.47</b> São Tomé e Príncipe	
	Senegal	C	8,586	2	3.93%	5.36%	803.00	1,606.00	8,910.95	13,077.81	<b>24,397.75</b> Senegal	
	Sierra Leone	D	0	1	0.00%	4.55%	803.00	803.00	1,525.20	0.00	<b>3,131.20</b> Sierra Leone	
	South Africa	B	5,306	3	4.22%	13.33%	803.00	2,409.00	28,794.95	18,243.40	<b>50,250.35</b> South Africa	
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.17%	4.55%	803.00	803.00	1,525.20	116.18	<b>3,247.38</b> Syrian Arab Republic	
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	3,531	2	1.62%	5.36%	803.00	1,606.00	8,910.95	5,378.26	<b>16,698.21</b> Trinidad & Tobago	
	Tunisie	C	6,630	2	3.04%	5.36%	803.00	1,606.00	8,910.95	10,098.52	<b>21,418.46</b> Tunisie	
	Turkey	B	16,375	4	13.04%	16.67%	803.00	3,212.00	35,993.69	56,301.48	<b>96,310.17</b> Turkey	
	Union Européenne	A	508,790	4	90.41%	17.24%	803.00	3,212.00	104,864.84	1,099,794.97	<b>1,208,674.81</b> Union Européenne	
	United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	658	0	0.12%	3.45%	803.00	0.00	20,972.97	1,422.33	<b>23,198.29</b> United Kingdom (O.T.)	
	United States	A	22,258	4	3.96%	17.24%	803.00	3,212.00	104,864.84	48,112.65	<b>156,992.49</b> United States	
	Uruguay	C	1,237	3	0.57%	7.14%	803.00	2,409.00	11,881.26	1,884.14	<b>16,977.40</b> Uruguay	
	Vanuatu	D	1,086	0	5.53%	2.27%	803.00	0.00	762.60	3,710.99	<b>5,276.59</b> Vanuatu	
	Venezuela	B	8,398	3	6.69%	13.33%	803.00	2,409.00	28,794.95	28,874.49	<b>60,881.45</b> Venezuela	

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the Annex.

**Table 4.** Contributions by group 2015. Fees expressed in Euros. Revised.

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Panels<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Catch + Canning<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Fees<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Panels fees<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>Other fees<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Total fees<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	8	21	562,749	---	57.75%	6,424.00	16,863.00	1,824,648.24	1,847,935.24
<b>B</b>	7	23	125,623	3.00%	21.00%	5,621.00	18,469.00	647,886.45	671,976.45
<b>C</b>	17	39	218,412	1.00%	17.00%	13,651.00	31,317.00	499,012.94	543,980.94
<b>D</b>	17	27	19,639	0.25%	4.25%	13,651.00	21,681.00	100,663.23	135,995.23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>926,423</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>39,347.00</b>	<b>88,330.00</b>	<b>3,072,210.87</b>	<b>3,199,887.87</b>

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the **Annex**.

**Table 5.** Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

Parties	2009			2010			2011			Parties
	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	
Albania	50 t		50	0 coo		0	0 t		0	Albania
Algérie	3,054 co	1,695 co	4,749	2,642	1,495	4,137	1,797	1,445	3,242	Algérie
Angola	3,669 t		3,669	3,669 coo		3,669	3,669 coo		3,669	Angola
Barbados	135 t		135	232 t		232	257 t		257	Barbados
Belize	1,664 co		1,664	6,847		6,847	14,386		14,386	Belize
Brazil	35,502 t	12,591 coo	48,093	24,200	10,045	34,245	45,294	12,591	57,885	Brazil
Canada	2,122 co	0 coo	2,122	2,263	0	2,263	2,311	0	2,311	Canada
Cap-Vert	2,894 co	2,217 co	5,111	13,304 t	1,200 co	14,504	16,011 t	1,200 co	17,211	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep. of	6,358 t		6,358	6,872		6,872	5,059		5,059	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	1,105 t		1,105	1,718 t		1,718	2,878 t		2,878	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	18,169 t		18,169	17,173 t		17,173	20,032 t		20,032	Curaçao
Egypt	1,954 coo	0 coo	1,954	2,913	0	2,913	1,954	0	1,954	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	20 t	0 coo	20	104	0	104	1	0	1	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon			0			0			0	Gabon
Ghana	67,105 t	18,000 coo	85,105	146,182	16,000	162,182	148,442	18,000	166,442	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	7,632 t		7,632	6,658		6,658	5,961		5,961	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	2,189 t	0 coo	2,189	0	0	0	0	0	0	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	730 coo		730	730 t		730	730 coo		730	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	0 co	0 co	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	Iceland
Japan	31,362 t		31,362	29,490		29,490	25,443		25,443	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	3,519 t		3,519	3,833 t		3,833	4,442 t		4,442	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia			0			0			0	Liberia
Libya	1,082 t	1,359 coo	2,441	1,078	2,150	3,228	0	1,359	1,359	Libya
Maroc	13,956 t	482 coo	14,438	10,722	417	11,139	8,584	482	9,066	Maroc
Mauritania			0			0			0	Mauritania
Mexico	9,946 t	803 coo	10,749	9,346	803 coo	10,149	9,617	803 coo	10,420	Mexico
Namibia	5,598 co	0 co	5,598	6,232	0	6,232	9,321	0	9,321	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria			0			0			0	Nigeria
Norway	10 co		10	0	0	0	0	0	0	Norway
Panama	19,230 t		19,230	19,821 t		19,821	20,668 t		20,668	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	2,215 co		2,215	1,602		1,602	1,553		1,553	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	863 co		863	1,647		1,647	3,355		3,355	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	3,195 t		3,195	1,717 t		1,717	1,862 t		1,862	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	1,807 t		1,807	1,854 t		1,854	1,854 coo		1,854	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	13,526 t	337 coo	13,863	4,424	1,136	5,560	5,997	337	6,334	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	5,902 t		5,902	5,168 t		5,168	4,848 t		4,848	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	34 coo		34	34 t		34	34 coo		34	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	3,615 co		3,615	3,745		3,745	3,232		3,232	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	2,944 t	2,205 coo	5,149	5,260	2,208	7,468	5,069	2,205	7,274	Tunisie
Turkey	11,815 co	4,356 co	16,171	12,072	2,578	14,650	16,121	2,182	18,303	Turkey
Union Européenne	186,043 co/*	256,364 co	442,407	263,427 t/*	271,579 co	535,006	277,379 t/*	271,579 co	548,958	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	410 t		410	460		460	1,104		1,104	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	11,030 t	11,106 co	22,136	10,002	12,803	22,805	10,727	11,106	21,833	United States
Uruguay	1,999 t		1,999	644 t		644	1,067 t		1,067	Uruguay
Vanuatu	1,385 t		1,385	1,109 t		1,109	764 t		764	Vanuatu
Venezuela	7,079 t	573 co	7,652	8,373	616	8,989	7,981	573	8,554	Venezuela
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>492,917</b>	<b>312,088</b>	<b>805,005</b>	<b>637,567</b>	<b>323,030</b>	<b>960,597</b>	<b>689,806</b>	<b>323,862</b>	<b>1,013,668</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

co = Transfer of the data received (S11-0878)

coo = Transfer of the latest data received/obtained from the database

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication

\* Croatia's catches (2009: 622 t / 2010: 470 t / 2011: 470t) have been included in the European Union catches due to the accession of this country to the European Union on July 1, 2013

(Data updated until 21 June 2013)

## ANNEX: Legends

**Table 2**

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna do not exceed 5,000 t
b	GNP: Gross National Product per capita in US\$. Source: UNCTAD / GNP with values adjusted to 1991 using a multiplier of 1.60 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2009-2010-2011 Catches (t)
d	Average 2009-2010-2011 Canning (t)
e	Panel membership: Panel 1 = Tropical tunas; Panel 2 = Temperate tunas-North; Panel 3 = Temperate tunas-South; and Panel 4 = Other species

**Table 3**

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of catch and canning within the group to which the member belongs
c	Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the group to which the member belongs
d	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership
e	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership to which the member belongs
f	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage as a member of the Commission and Panels
g	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage according to catch and canning
h	Total contribution

**Table 4**

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Number of Panels within each Group
c	Total catch and canning, in t, of each Group
d	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group according to the Madrid Protocol
e	Percentage of the budget financed for each Group
f	Commission membership fees within each Group
g	Panel membership within each Group
h	Other fees: 1/3 for Commission and Panel membership and 2/3 for catch and canning
i	Total contribution



**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Reports from the Secretariat
  - 4.1 2014 Administrative Report
  - 4.2 2014 Financial Report
  - 4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests
6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of the mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities
7. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require extra-budgetary funding
8. Review of findings of the virtual working group on communications policy and actions required
9. Review of possible revisions to the budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2015 and consideration of Commission requirements for the 2016/17 budgetary period
10. Procedures for selection of the Executive Secretary
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8****Rules of procedure for the administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund****1. Definitions**

ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States shall be considered those CPCs which are classified under Groups B, C or D, in accordance with the criteria used in the contributions calculation (Article 4 – Provision of Funds, of the ICCAT Financial Regulations).

**2. Eligibility criteria*****Participation in ICCAT scientific meetings***

Applications shall be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).

Any delegate of a developing CPC shall submit a completed application by the deadline set, including a detailed description of the contribution by the applicant to the meeting. After obtaining the approval of the rapporteurs of the Species Groups involved and/or the SCRS Chair, the Secretariat shall carry out the necessary procedures for financing the travel.

*Procedure*

1. The Secretariat shall publish the travel form by invitation 90 days in advance of the commencement of the meeting.
2. MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form, including an official letter of nomination for the request for assistance signed by the Head Delegate, as well as the contact details of the candidate and a copy of the person's passport 45 days in advance.
3. The Secretariat shall review the applications to determine those which meet the eligibility criteria and shall offer a period of 5 additional days to those applicants who have not sent all the information required.
4. The Secretariat shall send an invitation to the candidates selected (30 days in advance of the commencement of the meeting).

***Participation in ICCAT non-scientific meetings***

All applications shall be selected for attendance at a single meeting by one participant per Contracting Party, and shall be subject to the approval of the Commission Chair, the STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary and, in the case of subsidiary bodies, of the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought.

Any delegate of a developing CPC shall submit a completed application by the established deadline.

*Procedure*

1. The Secretariat shall publish the travel form by invitation 90 days in advance of the commencement of the meeting.
2. MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form, including an official letter of nomination for the request for assistance signed by the Head Delegate, as well as the contact details of the candidate and a copy of the person's passport 60 days in advance.
3. The Secretariat shall review the applications to determine those which meet the eligibility criteria and shall offer a period of 5 additional days to those applicants who have not sent all the information required.
4. The Secretariat shall send an invitation to the candidates selected (45 days in advance of the commencement of the meeting).

**REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4*****REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1*****1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Helguilé Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) chaired the meeting of Panel 1.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted with no modifications (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

**3. Nomination of rapporteur**

Mr. Jean-Marc Philippeau (France, Saint-Pierre & Miquelon) was appointed rapporteur.

**4. Review of Panel membership**

Mr. Driss Meski, ICCAT Executive Secretary, presented the list of members of Panel 1.

Panel 1 is currently comprised of the following 36 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China (People's Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Curaçao requested Panel 1 membership.

**5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. Josu Santiago, recalled that the three main species caught in the East Atlantic, i.e. skipjack (SKJ), bigeye (BET) and yellowfin (YFT), represent 9% of world catches of tropical tunas with an average yearly volume of 380,000 t over the period 2008-2012.

These fisheries are multi-gear and multi-species. 83% of catches are taken by surface gears. The use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) affects the species composition of free schools and has consequences for exploitation of these resources.

Recent changes took place in the European Union's purse seine fishery: the fleet which shifted towards the West and Central Atlantic in the 1990s has recently shifted towards the area of Mauritania in the North and to an area off Angola. The percentage of catches under FADs by purse seiners has continued to increase, amounting to more than 90% of the catches.

In 2012, fishing of these three species reached a volume of 413,323 t. The catches of bigeye and yellowfin tunas were significantly below the annual averages for the period 1996-2005 (averages amounted to 2,500 t and 4,300 t, respectively). In contrast, skipjack catches showed an opposite trend with much higher catches in 2012 (258,300 t) than the average annual catches of 175,609 t from the previous period (average estimate over the period 2006-2011).

The number of tuna purse seiners decreased steadily from the mid-1990s to 2006, then increased sharply following the shift of vessels from the Indian Ocean (impact of the piracy off the Somalian coasts). Indeed, the vessels that shifted from the Indian Ocean are the best equipped in terms of technical equipment and fish storage capacity.

The SCRS Chair drew attention to the fact that significant catches of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack as well as other species are landed in West Africa and sold on the local market as faux poisson. The estimate of these catches is uncertain and the SCRS is concerned about the potential number of catches which may not be reported (faux poisson). The SCRS estimates on average that for the period 2005-2013 the faux poisson landed amount to 10,500 t/year.

There are also uncertainties regarding biological parameters: natural mortality, growth, stock structure and movements. The Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) will contribute to addressing these uncertainties by providing comparative biological results, indications of movements and a possible stock structure, as well as an analysis of interactions between fleets, data on the effects of FADs on the tuna resources, an assessment of the management measures (for example: impact of the closures). Tagging programmes, when successful, provide useful data for answering important questions on the status of stocks. The SCRS Chair encouraged CPCs to contribute to the AOTTP.

The skipjack stock was assessed in 2014. The Atlantic accounts for 7% of world skipjack production (average over the period 2008-2012). These catches are mainly taken by purse seiners and baitboats. Catches for 2012 were very high: 258,300 t. In 2013, catches reached 221,600 t, of which 203,500 t were taken in the East Atlantic and 18,000 t in the West Atlantic.

There is no specific recommendation in place for skipjack. The SCRS considers that the catches should not exceed the MSY. The Commission should be aware that the increase in removals and fishing effort for skipjack may have consequences for other species caught in association.

For bigeye tuna (last assessment in 2010), 18% of the world production is from the Atlantic. The catches, carried out by purse seiners, baitboats and longliners, amounted to 70,536 t in 2012, and 63,066 t in 2013, which are below the TAC (85,000 t). The average annual catch for the period 2008-2012 amounts to 75,600 t.

A historical peak of 133,000 t was reached in 1994, then the catches declined following the reduction in size of the fishing fleet (longliners) and the decrease in fishing effort (longliners and baitboats). The number of active seiners decreased by more than half between 1994 and 2006, yet increased after 2007 (due, among other reasons, to piracy in the Indian Ocean).

There is considerable uncertainty concerning stock status and the forecasts for bigeye tuna. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the results from modelling indicate that the stock status of bigeye tuna is consistent with the Convention objectives.

It should be noted that if the main countries caught the catch limits established in Rec. 11-01 and the other countries maintained recent catch levels, the total catch could exceed 100,000 t, which is significantly higher than the current TAC of 85,000 t. In addition, the future changes in selectivity may give rise to an increase in relative mortality of small fish which will modify these forecasts and add to their uncertainties.

Concern about the catches of small bigeye tuna has resulted in the establishment of area closures in the Gulf of Guinea. The SCRS does not have sufficient information at this time to determine the efficacy of the current closure in reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna.

The SCRS reiterates its concerns regarding underestimation of the volume of unreported catches, particularly in the faux poisson category.

The SCRS recommends maintaining the TAC level for 2015 at 85,000 t or less in order to keep the stock in line with Convention objectives.

Regarding yellowfin, a stock assessment was performed in 2011. The Kobe matrix shows considerable uncertainty in the assessment of the status of the yellowfin tuna stock and its productivity. 26% of results are consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

The reported catches of yellowfin in the Atlantic, which account for 9% of world production, amounted to 101,866 t in 2012 and are below the TAC of 110,000 t. The selectivity of juveniles has a significant impact on stock productivity and recovery. The assessment showed that the yellowfin tuna stock was overfished in 2010. The area/time closure fixed by Recommendation 11-01 should also benefit yellowfin stocks. The provisional figure for catches of yellowfin tuna in 2013 is set at 92,615 t.

The SCRS recommends maintaining the TAC at 110,000 t which would enable attainment of a biomass above  $B_{MSY}$  towards 2016 with a probability of 60%. The SCRS also recommends reducing fishing under objects (FADs) for this species (high juvenile mortality).

The Chair thanked Dr. Santiago for his presentation and opened the discussion.

The Russian Federation congratulated Dr. Santiago for the work accomplished and expressed its wish to obtain further information on the impact of piracy in the Indian Ocean on the fishing effort in the Atlantic Ocean.

Dr. Santiago indicated that over the past few years there has been an increase in the number of vessels (purse seiners) as a result of the problems of piracy in the Indian Ocean.

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities**

### **6.1 Skipjack**

The Chair gave the floor to the European Union to present the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas”, jointly submitted by Ghana and the EU. It concerns extending to skipjack tuna the provisions of Recommendation 11-01 which are currently applicable to bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

The use of non-entangling FADs is also required.

The United States wished to have more information on the national observers programme implemented to replace the ROP-TROP, in particular regarding the nature of observer duties in relation to data collection and noted its disappointment that the ROP-TROP has never been implemented since its adoption.

The EU responded that observer duties remain unchanged (requirements are listed in Annex 3 of Recommendation 11-01).

Chinese Taipei sought clarification on paragraph 25, wishing to know whether this paragraph applies only to purse seiners or to all vessels operating in the area. The EU stated that the ROP-TROP is intended for purse seiners, and that the new programme will therefore ensure compliance with the area/time closure by purse seiners.

### **6.2 Control of FADs and establishment of a FAD Working Group**

The Chair gave the floor to Senegal to present “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Management of the Number of FADs Used by Purse Seiners Amending Recommendation [11-01] on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas”, submitted jointly by Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. This draft aims to monitor the number of FADs in the tropical tuna fishery.

Each CPC shall indicate in its management plans the measures taken to limit the number of FADs. The Chair invited CPCs to consult regarding this measure and the measure presented by the EU and Ghana in order to combine them.

The European Union presented “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)”. The European Union recalled that FADs have given rise to changes in the free schools over the years. The EU therefore suggested that a working group be established to open discussions on the number of buoys and their impact on the pelagic and eco-pelagic systems. The European Union expressed its wish that the FAD working group meet in 2015 at the same time as the data preparatory meeting of the bigeye species group (May 2015). This group should be comprised of scientists, managers and other stakeholders. The aim is to assess the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT, fully understand their impact, identify data-gaps, review the information provided by CPCs and identify management options.

The United States expressed its support for implementation of a working group which brings together managers, scientists and stakeholders to better understand the use of FADs, identify the potential management options and assess their foreseen/expected efficacy in relation to ICCAT species.

Gabon referred to the risk of contradictions and requested completion of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas” and “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Management of the Number of FADs Used By Purse Seiners Amending Recommendation [11-01] on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas” before the working group is addressed.

Côte d’Ivoire expressed its support for the establishment of this working group but warned that it could not afford to limit the use of FADs.

The Chair of Panel 1 provided the following clarification: he thought, unlike Gabon, that the discussions should go ahead without delay.

Mexico requested that the type of information that CPCs must provide within the framework of the working group be specified. In addition, the following questions were asked: how many FADs are deployed and how many are recovered at the end of fishing season. CPCs must be informed about what data should be transmitted.

Mexico requested clarification as to whether FADs were withdrawn at the end of the fishing season, considering that if this were not the case, possible environmental impacts would need to be considered.

The European Union responded that in principle this type of information is reported in logbooks.

A revised “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)”, which incorporated the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Management of the Number of FADs Used by Purse Seiners Amending Recommendation [11-01] on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas”, was submitted and approved and it was referred to the Plenary for adoption.

### ***6.3 Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme***

The European Union presented “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)”.

The EU highlighted that the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme is of great importance in improving the database and knowledge as well as reducing uncertainties.

Analogous tagging programmes in the areas of the Indian Ocean (IOTC) have demonstrated their full utility. The European Union is prepared to provide financial support for this project (total amount: €16.87 million over a period of five years), pointing out that it can only cover 80% of costs, i.e. €13.87 million. The European Union added that of the remaining 20%, 10% can be contributions in kind which could take the form of the provision of vessels or material. Uruguay intervened to request further clarification on ways of cooperating. Japan thanked the European Union for its proposal and its generous level of financing. Japan then requested clarification on the complementary financing, i.e. whether this funding could be provided by NGOs or only CPCs. The European Union responded that contributions could be made by CPCs as well as NGOs or intergovernmental organisations.

The United States took the floor and expressed its country's support for this programme and encouraged the other CPCs active in this fishery to contribute. It also requested supplementary information on logistics for providing complementary financing.

Côte d’Ivoire also encouraged CPCs and other sources to contribute. It evoked point 2 of the draft recommendation which allows the provision of in-kind contributions. Ghana highlighted that the tagging programme covered the important species and thanked the European Union. Ghana stated that the tagging programme will enable the removal of some uncertainties. It concluded by proposing the adoption of this proposal.

The European Union indicated that all CPCs and other possible contributors are encouraged to participate in the tropical tuna tagging programme (financial or in-kind participation).

It was noted that the GEF-FAO can finance certain capacity-building actions. The Executive Secretary reminded delegates that a viability study for the AOTTP had been carried out and presented to the SCRS in 2014.

The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Implementation of an Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)” was approved and referred to the Plenary for adoption.

#### **6.4 Multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas**

The Chair reminded that the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas”, submitted by the European Union and Ghana is to replace Recommendations 11-01 and 13-01. Considerable work was undertaken on the text during the Panel and broad consensus should be quickly reached in view of its adoption.

Brazil took the floor to say that it supported the draft but that it wished that the programme only applied to the eastern skipjack stock. The European Union accepted this while regretting this exclusion and hoped that the western skipjack stock would be taken into account one day. Mexico recalled however that the way ICCAT operates is based on a logic of stocks and comprehended Brazil's position, also supported by Ghana. Following a discussion about the dates of the programme, i.e. from 2012 to 2015, it was decided to add that this recommendation should be reviewed in 2015. With these modifications, the draft was approved by consensus and referred to the Plenary for final adoption.

#### **6.5 “Status of the Implementation of ICCAT Regional Observer Program for Bigeye/Yellowfin Tuna ROP-TROP”**

The Secretariat presented the “Status of the Implementation of ICCAT Regional Observer Program for Bigeye/Yellowfin Tuna ROP-TROP” and reminded that this issue was already addressed last year and that this year, two CPCs (Japan and the United States) had expressed their concern by e-mail regarding the non-compliance with Rec. 11-01. Japan, the United States and the European Union took the floor successively to state that no modification proposal had been submitted to the Panel for decision and that they regretted this situation. Japan and the United States reiterated their concern with the process that led to the current situation. The Secretariat then intervened to state that a decision must be taken since it was unable to finance this programme, as provided for in Rec. 11-01.

The Executive Secretary recalled that the contract with the company in charge of the deployment of the ROP TROP under Rec. 11-01 was not renewed in October 2014, which made the ROP-TROP impossible to implement for the 2015 campaign as CPCs were informed by Circular of the Secretariat in September 2014. He also noted that further action on the implementation of the ROP-TROP for future campaigns was linked to the decision of the Commission on the eventual termination of the programme. To avoid non-compliance by vessels under Rec. 11-01 in 2015 and following the adoption of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tuna”, the EU and Ghana committed to continue to provide in 2015 a 100% coverage with national observers trained for the requested tasks for all surface fishing vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing for tropical tunas under the area/time closure, as provided in point 20 in Rec. 11-01.

### **7. Research**

The Chairman addressed the SCRS work plan and gave the floor to Dr. Die, the new Chair of the SCRS. Dr. Die thanked his peers of the SCRS for the trust that they had placed in him.

Dr. Die took stock of the tropical tunas research programme which is based on four main lines of action for 2015:

- To finish the estimate of Ghana's statistics for BET and YFT.
- Bigeye (BET): data preparatory meeting and assessment in 2015.
- First meeting of the FADs WG.
- Update of moratoria assessment.

It was also noted that a data preparatory meeting and an assessment for yellowfin tuna stocks were scheduled in 2016.

Dr. Die underlined the need to complete the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) whose amount totals €16,876,000 and reiterated the need that CPCs contribute to the AOTTP.

Dr. Die then stated the importance of continuing the cooperation between scientists from Ghana and the IRD to adapt software for processing Ghana's statistics.

Dr. Die also mentioned peer-review of work on bigeye tuna. Moreover, he highlighted the interest in the Ad Hoc FAD Working Group being comprised of scientists, managers and other stakeholders. He also reiterated the recommendation of the SCRS to collect economic data on landing prices and to create a historical database with these data.

The decision on the research recommendations and their economic implications were referred to the STACFAD which must take the final decision on the revised list classed by order of priority, compiled by the scientists of the SCRS who participated in the Commission meeting.

As to alternative sources of financing, Ghana stated that the GEF programme is not involved in financing research and statistics related projects. The FAO representative confirmed that GEF-TUNA does not fund research but rather its applications.

## **8. Other matters**

The United States invited CPCs to take note of “Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonise and Guide the Implementation of ICCAT Vessel Listing Requirements” which is a draft for registration of vessels authorised to fish yellowfin and bigeye tuna and its possible link with Recommendation 11-01.

## **9. Adoption of the report and closure**

The Chair thanked the Contracting Parties and adjourned the meeting of Panel 1.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 1 would be adopted by correspondence.



## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan).

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted and is attached at **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Jessie Ritter (United States) was designated Rapporteur of Panel 2.

### **4. Review of Panel 2 membership**

Panel 2 is comprised of 26 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, and Venezuela.

Honduras notified the Commission that it would be withdrawing its membership from Panel 2.

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

Dr. Josu Santiago, Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), made presentations on the North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of albacore tuna and the eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean and the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks. The Executive Summaries for these stocks can be found in Sections 8.4 (Albacore) and 8.5 (East-West Bluefin Tuna) of the 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

Dr. Santiago also presented the SCRS responses to the Commission's requests issued in *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 12-03 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 13-07] and *Recommendation by ICCAT Complementing Recommendation 12-03 which Established a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 13-08].

#### **5.1 Albacore (North Atlantic and Mediterranean)**

##### *5.1.1 Northern Atlantic albacore*

The last assessment for North Atlantic albacore was conducted in June 2013 and included data through 2011. Although the stock remains overfished, most models for North Atlantic albacore show an increasing trend in spawning stock biomass (SSB) since the mid-90s. According to the 2013 assessment, the  $SSB_{2011}$  was 94% of the  $SSB_{MSY}$ , and the 2011 fishing mortality was below  $F_{MSY}$ . Hence, the stock was overfished but overfishing was not occurring. The average catch in the last five years remained around 20,000 t. Biomass projections at the current TAC level of 28,000 t indicated that the stock would rebuild to levels consistent with the Convention objective by 2019 with a 53% probability. If catches remain at the 20,000 t level, the stock would recover faster.

##### *5.1.2 Mediterranean albacore*

The available information on the status of the Mediterranean albacore stock was based on the 2011 stock assessment, which used data up through 2010. In 2014, the catch series were revisited and compared with additional sources of information. Reported landings of Mediterranean albacore in 2013 were 1,675 t, substantially lower than over the last decade. The SCRS Chair explained that the driftnet fishery is no longer operating, which contributed to the decline in overall landings.

The limited available information on Mediterranean albacore showed a relatively stable pattern of albacore biomass over the recent past, but lack of data continues to present a serious problem and impedes the ability of the SCRS to provide quantitative management advice. The SCRS Chair urged CPCs to improve data collection and reporting on Mediterranean albacore, which would allow the SCRS to conduct more quantitative stock assessment. In face of the high uncertainty related to the status of the stock, the SCRS also recommended that the Commission adopt management measures to limit increases in catch and effort directed at Mediterranean albacore.

## **5.2 Bluefin tuna**

In 2014, the SCRS updated the 2012 assessments of both stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna. The updates incorporated catch, effort, and size statistics through 2013, and the SCRS reviewed fishery indicators, historical data, and some new information. The SCRS Chair emphasized that, in spite of improvements in data quality over the past few years, several of the data limitations that have plagued previous assessments remained, particularly with regard to the eastern stock.

The SCRS Chair also commented on major trends over the last decade, noting the shift toward targeting larger bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock for fattening and/or farming facilities. He emphasized that the implementation of data collection efforts using stereoscopic cameras is critical for collecting reliable information on size and number of fish transferred to cages.

It was noted that bluefin tuna would next be assessed in 2016 where additional data on stock structure and mixing gathered through the GBYP and complementary research would be integrated and used in assessing both stocks. In addition, new assessment methodologies are expected to be employed.

### *5.2.1 East Atlantic and Mediterranean*

Since 2008, a rebuilding plan and enforcement controls have been in place for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, which resulted in a marked decrease in catches. From 2010 through 2013, the Commission established annual TACs for the stock between 12,900 t and 13,500 t. The SCRS noted that encouraging trends in the fishery indicators in recent years are likely a result of such management measures.

The 2014 assessment results indicated an increase in spawning stock biomass (SSB). However, projections were impaired by several sources of uncertainty that were not fully quantified, and SCRS was unable to determine the speed or magnitude of the increase. Specifically, additional information is still needed on key modeling parameters such as bluefin current and future recruitment levels, and overall stock structure. As in previous assessments, unquantified uncertainties could not be incorporated in the development of the Kobe matrices that reflect the assessment results.

Given the uncertainties associated with the assessment, the SCRS was unable to recommend an upper limit for the TAC. Instead, the SCRS noted that maintaining the current TAC, or moderately and gradually increasing it in steps (e.g., over 2 or 3 years) under the current management scheme, should not undermine the success of the rebuilding plan. It also noted that a gradual increase in catch to the level of the most precautionary MSY estimate would allow the population to increase even in the most conservative scenario (i.e., the low recruitment scenario).

### *5.2.2 West Atlantic*

Since 1998, the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock has been managed under a 20-year rebuilding program designed to achieve  $SSB_{MSY}$  with a 50% or greater probability (i.e., by 2019). Based on the results of earlier stock assessments and the management advice from the SCRS, the TAC for western Atlantic bluefin was reduced to 1,750 t for 2011 and for 2012, and maintained at that level for 2013 and for 2014.

The 2014 assessment for western Atlantic bluefin tuna updated indices of abundance through 2013. Compared to the 2012 assessment, the 2014 assessment estimated higher levels of SSB for years dating back to the late 1990s, due in large part to a rapid increase in one index (Gulf of St. Lawrence), and corrections made to account for regulatory changes in another (Gulf of Mexico longline index).

The SCRS Chair emphasized that productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery is linked to the eastern fishery, due to stock mixing; however, the degree of mixing was a considerable source of uncertainty in the assessment. The SCRS also continued to grapple with two different hypotheses regarding the stock-recruitment relationship (high vs. low recruitment potential scenarios), which ultimately affects the level of the estimated management benchmarks. Under either the high or the low recruitment potential scenario, overfishing is no longer occurring. Under the low recruitment potential scenario, the stock is above the  $SSB_{MSY}$  level with a very high probability, and catches of 2,500 t or lower will maintain SSB above  $SSB_{MSY}$ . However, under the high recruitment potential scenario, the stock remains overfished, and it will not rebuild by 2019 even with no catch. Despite considerable uncertainty about the long-term productivity of the stock, the SCRS estimates that under either recruitment scenario, catches of less than 2,250 t would allow the spawning biomass to be at or above current levels by 2019 with 50% probability, and the SCRS advised that this level of catch should not be exceeded. It also noted that maintaining catches at current levels of 1,750 t would be expected to allow the spawning stock biomass to increase more quickly, which may help resolve the issue of low vs. high recruitment potential.

With regard to the SCRS conclusion that catches of 2,250 t or less would result in the spawning stock in 2019 being at or above the 2013 level under either scenario, one CPC underscored that, as this conclusion is based at the 50% probability level, it would be just as likely that the spawning stock size would be lower in 2019. The same CPC asked if catches of this level would be expected to produce some declines in spawning stock size between now and 2019. The SCRS Chair confirmed this.

A CPC noted that the SCRS stated in its report that the combination of the recent reduction in fishing mortality and strong 2003 year-class has contributed to the more rapid increase in the spawning stock biomass in recent years, indicating that catch levels similar to the current TAC would allow the 2003 year-class to continue to enhance the stock productivity. The CPC asked if there is evidence of any strong year-classes after 2003. The SCRS Chair noted that the SCRS has no evidence of a recent year-class as strong as the 2003-year class.

One CPC asked the SCRS Chair to discuss some recent evidence in favor of the low recruitment potential hypothesis. The Chair explained that, although a preliminary analysis conducted after the assessment meeting indicated an improved fit for the low recruitment scenario, the SCRS has insufficient evidence to favor either recruitment scenario over the other.

Additionally, the SCRS stressed the importance of increased research and data collection to help answer questions regarding recruitment potential and mixing. The SCRS continues to suggest that any scientific research quota be included in a TAC that is set consistent with the scientific advice.

### ***5.3 Answers from the SCRS to Commission requests***

The SCRS Chair addressed the SCRS responses to the following requests by the Commission:

*1) Review the technical specifications of the use of stereoscopic cameras systems as defined in Rec. [13-08].*

The response to this item is contained in item 18.2 of the 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

*2) Continue to explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging and evaluate the bluefin tuna pilot studies to estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging using stereoscopic systems, Rec. [13-07] paragraph 88.*

The response to this item is contained in item 18.3 of the 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

*3) Evaluate the bluefin tuna national observer programmes conducted by CPCs to report to the Commission and to provide advice on future improvements, Rec. [13-07] paragraph 90.*

The response to this item is contained in item 18.4 of the 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

4) *Provide updated BFT growth rates tables based on the information from BCDs and other submitted data, Rec. [13-07], paragraph 98.*

The response to this item is contained in item 18.5 of the 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

5) *Provide answers to the requests from the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment.*

Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), Co-Chair of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment, summarized the outcomes of the Group's second meeting. Ms. Lapointe noted that the purpose of the meeting was to review research plans presented by the CPCs, which included proposals aimed at developing fishery-independent stock abundance indices and improving existing fishery-dependent indices for western bluefin tuna.

Additional information related to the SCRS response to requests from the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment is provided in item 18.6 of the 2014 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 [Ref. 01-25]**

The Chairman opened the floor for discussion of management measures on Panel 2 stocks.

### **6.1 North Atlantic and Mediterranean albacore**

No new measures were proposed for North Atlantic or Mediterranean albacore stocks.

### **6.2 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna**

The European Union tabled a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean", an amendment to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna recovery plan [Rec. 13-07], which proposed an increase in TAC close to 20% each year over a three-year period from 2015-2017, resulting in a TAC of 23,155 t for 2017 (a level corresponding to the most precautionary MSY estimate, as indicated in the 2014 stock assessment). The proposal called for the TAC to be reviewed annually in light of the SCRS advice. The European Union described this stepped increase in TAC as gradual and moderate, in line with scientific advice, and suggested that it would provide predictability to CPCs in their fishing strategies and facilitate stability in the market. This draft recommendation also included new text designed to streamline and simplify control measures while maintaining their scope and integrity. No change was proposed to the allocation key.

Some CPCs stated their preference for a larger quota increase in the first year, rather than an incremental annual 20% increase. Other CPCs argued that an annual increase of 20% could not be considered "modest and gradual," noting that over three years, the cumulative effect would be an increase of approximately 73% from 2013 levels. These CPCs urged a more precautionary approach, recalling the uncertainties inherent in the 2014 assessment, and the significant probability that even conservative measures could fail to meet the  $SSB_{MSY}$  target.

Several CPCs questioned the appropriateness of a three-year measure when the next bluefin tuna assessment is scheduled for 2016. The European Union explained that it proposed a three-year measure to allow time, after the 2016 stock assessment, for the development of a long-term management strategy for the stock that would be based on new scientific advice.

A number of CPCs expressed concern over their quota allocations and suggested that the improved stock status presents an ideal opportunity to remedy the allocation concerns of recent years. Algeria asked for the Commission to prioritize restoration of historic allocations in the 2014 measure. Turkey presented the position paper "Allocation of fishing possibilities for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT)" explaining their request for an increase in quota allocation from 4.15% to 7.73%, consistent with the scheme established in 1998 that used catch figures from reference years 1993-94 to determine allocation (attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**).

Albania and Mauritania requested quota for use in scientific research. For the third year in a row, Libya requested that the Commission consider their request to use their 2011 underharvest attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**. Syria, while not present at the meeting, submitted a statement requesting an increase in quota as well as the ability to carry over unused quota from the years 2012-2014 to 2015 and 2016 (attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**).

Some CPCs suggested that the allocation key should be revisited entirely, taking in account the socio-economic needs of developing states. Another CPC noted that in determining allocations, the Commission should consider not only the sacrifices made by CPCs over the course of rebuilding, but also their individual contributions to stock recovery and scientific research.

The Chair summarized his efforts to consult with individual CPCs and presented a revised "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean", with changes to paragraphs 5, 5bis, and the preambular text. He noted that most CPCs supported the proposed TAC and wished to maintain the current allocation key for 2015-2017. At the same time, the Chair acknowledged the need to address special cases and remain within the TAC. This proposal presented a quota table that, when combined with provisions to address special allocation issues, totaled TAC levels of 16,142 t for 2015; 19,296 t for 2016; and 23,155 t for 2017.

Turkey regretfully observed that it found the allocation scheme unacceptable and expressed its intention to object to the recommendation and set an autonomous quota corresponding to 7.73% of the TAC, on the basis of the 1993-1994 reference years. At the same time, Turkey committed to continue managing its fishing and farming operations in compliance with other aspects of the recommendation. Turkey's statement regarding its intention to object, submitted for the record, is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

Egypt noted that although they are not fully satisfied, they could accept the proposal so that the Commission's work would not be hindered.

Tunisia expressed concern that the proposal did not adequately take into account the needs of developing coastal States.

Tunisia thanked the European Union and the Panel Chair for the efforts deployed in the preparation of a new version of the draft recommendation. While Tunisia did not intend to object to the draft, it recalled that the regime which characterises the functioning and management method of ICCAT since its inception is based on fundamental principles which include the principle of equity. The illustration of the application of this principle is seen through certain provisions of its statute and the management rules that have been adopted. For illustrative purposes, Tunisia cited three cases: the method of calculating contributions to the ICCAT budget which is fixed essentially by taking into account the degree of development of the different CPCs; the granting of quotas based on an objective criterion i.e. historical catches; and the adoption in 2001 of allocation criteria which contain a number of aspects whose application gives rise to an equitable distribution of resources.

Tunisia was of the opinion that certain ICCAT decision making mechanisms have begun in recent years to deviate from this line of conduct and that this is reflected in the spirit of some measures including the decrease across the board in eastern bluefin tuna quotas through application of a single rate which does not make any distinction between countries in the development categories A, B, C and D; the general reduction in the fishing effort with a uniform rate which does not take into account the needs of developing countries and the increase in the irrational reduction of certain quotas. Tunisia stated that the decision making process seems to exacerbate this, as discerned from the proposal for the new measure which conflicts with the principles of equity cited above. Indeed, the Tunisian delegation considers that any generalised reduction of quotas accompanied by an irrational downwards revision of the allocation key is a measure that is contrary to the relevant ICCAT rules. It also considers that continued solidarity with all CPCs in their common work at the service of the ICCAT objectives is a legal and moral obligation at the same time. However, Tunisia cannot lend its support to measures which conflict with the established principles and which in addition entail persistent and highly negative consequences for the interests of the country at a time when it is undergoing a historic period characterised from all angles by a highly fragile situation and in particular from a socio-economic standpoint.

Algeria expressed willingness to be flexible in accepting a gradual reinstatement of their historical share of 5.073%, but noted concern that the amount in the quota table for Algeria does not even reach half of their historical quota. It was clarified that the 200 t, 250 t, and 300 t for Algeria in 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively, is intended to apply in addition to the annual quotas for Algeria in the table. Algeria did not block consensus, but stated that their comments did not prejudice any decision they might make in terms of official objection or other action. A written statement was submitted by Algeria (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**).

Morocco expressed concern with the destabilization of the allocation key, and suggested that a more rapid increase in the TAC (an additional 4,000 t in 2015 and 2016) could accommodate those seeking to increase their fishing opportunities without affecting the key.

Libya expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal, which allowed it to utilize only 50 t of underharvest each year. Libya proposed additional text for the measure that would allow it to continue applying carryover beyond 2017. Instead, the proposal was amended with the following text: “The increase of this carryover will be considered at the 2017 Commission meeting.” Libya was not satisfied with this text and expressed a reservation to the measure.

Norway recalled the reallocation that occurred in 2010 and its decision at the time to lodge an objection over the lack of transparency in the process. Norway fully supported the reinstatement of Algeria’s historical share, but expressed concern that under the current proposal only certain parties’ shares would be reduced to restore Algeria’s quota to historical levels. Norway noted its grave concern that despite its efforts to conserve the stock and support scientific research, its share is lower than that of non-coastal States. Norway expressed a reservation for the record.

Iceland also noted its disagreement with the approach used to allocate fishing opportunities. Iceland noted that, in effect, the allocation key had not been kept intact, as it was affected by other decisions related to the special circumstances of some CPCs. Iceland expressed a reservation for the record.

Korea explained that a sanction had been imposed on its one vessel that had been fishing for bluefin tuna. Korea noted its intention to transfer its 2015 quota to Egypt. In future years, Korea may authorize one of its own purse seine vessels to access its quota.

The European Union clarified that the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean” reflected the Chair’s efforts to reach a compromise, as many parties are forgoing expected increases in fishing opportunities. The European Union reiterated that the allocation key had not been modified in this proposal and that adoption of the current proposal would not prejudice future discussions of allocation.

Chinese Taipei expressed its gladness to see the recovery of the eastern bluefin tuna, noting that its earlier sacrifices of taking a voluntary regulation to prohibit its vessels from fishing the stock has made a contribution to rebuilding this resource. The Chair noted that Chinese Taipei and Albania are discussing a potential quota transfer and this issue may be revisited at the next annual meeting in 2015.

Further adjustments to the control measures were discussed by Turkey, Tunisia, the European Union, and Morocco in a small working group and presented to Panel 2 for inclusion in the final measure. With these amendments, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* was adopted (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 14-04]**), while noting reservations expressed by Turkey, Algeria, Norway, Iceland, and Libya.

CIPS provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**. PEW also provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**.

### 6.3 Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

The United States tabled a draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program to amend the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [Rec 13-09]. In the initial proposal, a TAC level was not specified, as CPCs were still engaged in discussions on this point. Additional language in the proposal addressed research needs that had been identified by the SCRS, and reflected the collaborative work regarding indices of abundance agreed on at the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment (**ANNEX 4.6**). This proposal also requested that the SCRS identify existing fisheries for which biological sampling rates should be increased to improve the data available for the next stock assessment.

Following informal consultation, the United States introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program” on behalf of Canada, Japan, and the United States. This proposal specified an annual TAC of 2,000 t for 2015 and 2016, which is within the range of scientific advice, is consistent with the rebuilding program, and allows for continued growth in SSB under both recruitment scenarios. The European Union and Morocco noted the uncertainties associated with the scientific advice and expressed the view that while a TAC of 2,000 t is in line with scientific advice, maintaining the TAC at 1,750 t could lead to a more rapid recovery and help to resolve the question of stock/recruitment relationship more quickly. One western CPC highlighted the importance of continued research to identify critical spawning grounds. Several CPCs expressed support for the scientific work – in particular, related to mixing – that is already underway in preparation for the next assessment. The *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* was adopted by consensus and is attached as **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 14-05]**.

It was agreed that a third meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment would be held to consider the topics specified in the Appendix of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.6**), which are reproduced below, taking into consideration the input provided by the SCRS in Section 18.6 of its 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS):

- A range of potential interim target reference points based on levels expressed in the percentage of currently estimated spawning stock biomass taking into account relevant factors including, but not limited to, the estimated speed of increase of the spawning stock biomass, levels of recent recruitment, and the level corresponding to a biomass enabling the SCRS to determine if there is an applicable recruitment scenario for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock;
- A Strategy Matrix to achieve these interim target reference points;
- A limit reference point, taking into account the historically lowest level of spawning stock biomass; and
- A Strategy Matrix to avoid dropping below the interim limit reference point.

There was broad support for integrating this work with the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and it was agreed that this meeting should be held back-to-back with the SWGSM meeting in 2015.

Observers from Pew Environment Group and Ecology Action Centre provided statements, attached as **Appendices 8 and 9 to ANNEX 9**.

## 7. Research

The SCRS provided an update on the activities of the Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Program (GBYP), which was initiated in 2010. Four phases of the program have been completed, with activities including aerial surveys, data recovery, biological and genetic sampling, tagging, and model development. The Phase 5 (2014) plan budget and activities were reviewed. Additional information about the activities carried out in 2014 and future plans for the GBYP are contained in the 2014 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (Appendix 5).

Dr. Antonio Di Natale (GBYP Coordinator) explained the ongoing difficulties with securing adequate and stable funding for the GBYP program. The SCRS has suggested revising and extending the current plan for GBYP to allow enough time for establishment of fishery-independent indices and development of a new modeling approach. Additionally, the SCRS urged CPCs to ensure the presence of their national scientists at 2015 meetings where GBYP data will be evaluated by the SCRS in preparation for the bluefin tuna stock assessment in 2016. One CPC questioned the cost effectiveness of using external experts on the GBYP Steering Committee, and the Executive Secretary replied that using external experts was a recommendation of the SCRS scientists. The Chair asked the Secretariat to examine these expenses further.

The ICCAT Secretariat introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Scientific Quota for the Funding of the Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)”, nearly identical to one presented in 2012, for establishment of a bluefin tuna scientific research quota in the amount of 300 t per year through 2017. It was explained that this quota could be auctioned off to provide dedicated funding in support of the GBYP.

A number of CPCs expressed support for this proposal, with some noting that the recent improvements in the eastern stock status could more easily accommodate the additional quota. Other parties had questions regarding the intended split of the research quota between the eastern and western stocks, and the auction mechanisms and management. Norway suggested that the 300 t be distributed proportionately between the two stocks, and that any research quota should be included within the final TAC versus on top of it. The European Union suggested a more strategic approach for identifying alternative stable funding mechanisms. Consensus was not reached. However, CPCs generally agreed on the critical importance of the program and shared the concern regarding the funding constraints. The Panel 2 Chair urged CPCs to continue to work together to identify other funding sources for this program.

Finally, the SCRS presented 2015 work plans for albacore and bluefin tuna, along with research recommendations for the coming year. The Panel endorsed the recommendations by the SCRS.

## **8. Other matters**

The Panel endorsed the renewal of the contract with the MRAG/Cofrepeche consortium for implementation of the Bluefin Tuna Regional Observer Program (ROP-BFT). Several parties noted their disappointment at the very low number of CPCs that participated on the Selection Committee for the ROP-BFT contract.

## **9. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 2 would be adopted by correspondence.

The 2014 meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned.



## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Panel 3 Chair, Ms. Siphokazi (Mpozi) Ndudane (South Africa).

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted by the Panel members and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

### **3. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 3.

### **4. Review of Panel 3 membership**

Panel 3 currently comprises 14 members as follows: Belize, Brazil, European Union, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America and Uruguay.

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

Relevant information is contained in the 2014 SCRS Report. A stock assessment was carried out for both North and South Atlantic albacore in 2013; the stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore was carried out in 2011; no new assessment was carried out on any albacore stock in 2014. The SCRS Chair, Dr. Josu Santiago, reviewed the current state of the stocks covered by this Panel, based on the outcomes of the last meeting of the SCRS held in October 2014. He noted that the albacore catches in the ICCAT Convention area are about 20% of the world albacore catch.

#### **5.1 South Atlantic albacore**

The SCRS Chair informed the Panel that a stock assessment of South Atlantic albacore had been conducted in 2013 and no new assessment is available. Reported catches in 2013 were 19,148 t, well below the TAC of 24,000 t. This recent decline of the catch level is caused by the shifting of fishing effort by the Chinese Taipei fleet which is now targeting other species; therefore, albacore catches are mostly by-catch. 67% of catches are obtained by LL, while 27% are provided by BB. Projections at a level consistent with the 2013 TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green area of the Kobe plot would be higher than 50% only after 2020. Similar probabilities could be achieved earlier with lower TAC values. Likewise, lower TAC values would provide higher probabilities of being in the green area by 2020. However, larger TACs would not provide larger than 50% probability in the timeframe analyzed. Projections at  $F_{MSY}$ , without considering implementation errors, suggested that the stock biomass would not rebuild with a probability higher than 50% before 2026. Similar probabilities (higher than 50%) of rebuilding could be obtained from 2017 when projected at  $0.95 \cdot F_{RMS}$ . The SCRS opinion is that the South Atlantic albacore stock is probably around  $SSB_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$ , but projections at a level consistent with 2012-2013 TAC showed that possibilities of being in the green area of the Kobe matrix would exceed 50% only after 2020. With catches around 20,000 t, probabilities of 50% would be exceeded by 2015 and probabilities of 60% would be exceeded by 2018. Lower catch levels would increase the probabilities within these timeframes, while catches over the present TAC will not permit the rebuilding of the stock with at least 50% probability over the projection timeframe.

#### **5.2 Southern bluefin tuna**

This stock is currently managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

The SCRS report had no comments from the participants.

**6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]**

The Philippines presented a document concerning the payback of the over-harvested quantity of 143 t in 2012 (South Atlantic albacore stock) and then introduced the document which concerns the payback of the over-harvesting quantity of 345 t in 2013, ensuring that the Philippines will take all necessary measures for avoiding similar over-harvesting situations in the future. The Delegation informed the members of Panel 3 that Philippines will impose a fine of about €7,000 on each vessel infringing the catch limit. Furthermore, he informed that the Philippines catch in 2014 accounts so far for only 18 t of South Atlantic albacore.

Brazil required more time for considering the two documents presented by the Philippines.

Japan noted that the payback proposed by the Philippines will be higher than required and they invited the Philippines to closely check the figure they provided.

The United States asked that these figures be cross-checked with the compliance tables, in order to have consistent figures.

The Philippines presented four different scenarios for payback, explained the various options and related limits or advantages.

After discussion, Brazil, Uruguay, South Africa and Namibia expressed their preference for the “Plan D” option proposed by the Philippines. The payback plan endorsed is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**.

The Chair introduced the discussion about the underage and the carry-over of this underage in the following year.

The ICCAT Secretariat informed the Chair of Panel 3 about the communication received from Namibia, South Africa and Chinese Taipei for the carry-over of underage quantities in 2013 to be used in 2015. This communication is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9**.

The Philippines informed that they will use a carry-over of any underage up to 2015, within the limit of 25% set by para 4b of Rec. 13-06.

Japan pointed out that according to Rec. 13-06, para 4b, a CPC shall inform about underage but without asking for any adoption of this decision.

Brazil noted the need to get full information about the carry-over.

South Africa noted the need to clarify the carry-over procedure.

Namibia and Uruguay informed about their intention to use the carry-over for 2013 underage. Furthermore, Uruguay requested that Chinese Taipei should work for clarifying possible discrepancy in their landings of South Atlantic albacore in Uruguayan ports, maybe caused by incertitude about the name of a vessel.

Chinese Taipei noted that according to their evidence there is not any discrepancy in their landing data and, in any case, the use of any underage is just information for the Commission.

The Panel discussed with the ICCAT Secretariat if the carry-over of any underage should be included in COC tables and, due to different views about the interpretation of para 4b of Rec. 13-06 it was decided to discuss this matter in a side meeting with the participation of all members of Panel 3.

Following a Panel 3 Meeting that was held on 14 November 2014 during the 19th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), it was agreed that countries that intend to transfer their 2013 underages should convene a meeting with the intention of:

1. Ascertaining the final list of CPCs intending to transfer their 2013 underages;
2. Estimating the amount of Southern albacore required by the identified CPCs; and
3. Providing a schedule of the portion of the underage to be rolled over.

A meeting was convened on 14 November 2014 subsequent to the Panel 3 meeting, voluntarily chaired by South Africa and the following CPCs in attendance expressed their intention to transfer their 2013 underages: Belize, Brazil, Chinese Taipei, European Union, Namibia, South Africa, UK-St. Helena and Uruguay. The requests are shown in **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9**.

The required amount of fish that was requested by the CPCs to be rolled over in line with Clause 4(a) of Recommendation 13-06 is 7485 t. This is in excess of 4852 t of available fish. This necessitated evocation of Clause 4(c) which reads that if total underage exceeds total available underage then available underage is to be split pro rata as shown below.

<b>ICCAT 2013 - South Atlantic Underages per Rec. 13-06</b>	
<i>Pro rata split of available underage for CPCs that applied</i>	
2013 TAC	24,000 t
Landings per 2014 SCRS report	19,148 t
Underage available	<b>4,852 t</b>

Per Clause 4(a) a CPC may apply for 25% of original TAC.

Per Clause 4(c) if total underage exceeds total available underage then available underage is to be split pro rata.

Total requested underage = 7485 t, which therefore exceeds, and therefore 4(c) applies.

A computation was done and the following apportionments in **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9** were agreed on in line with Clause 4(c).

After further informal discussions, the revised schedule of CPCs requesting 2013 underages as per 2012 allocations and their apportionments was referred to the Plenary for final approval (see **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9**).

## **7. Research**

The SCRS Chair reported the recommendations provided by the Albacore Species Group and endorsed by the SCRS. The main objective will be to prepare for future assessments, by reducing uncertainty around datasets and biological parameters on one hand, and developing robust management procedures that cope with the uncertainty that remains. Research recommendations include also studies on the effects of environmental parameters on CPUE trends and the characterisation of the nature and quantification of possible mixing rates between the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean.

## **8. Other matters**

Chinese Taipei reported the low catches of South Atlantic albacore obtained by the fleet in 2013, which were considerably below the catch limit, and they will use the difference of 3,250 t in 2015. The discussion on this matter was shown as **Appendix 11 and 12 to ANNEX 9**.

## **9. Adoption of the Report and adjournment**

The 2014 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 3 by correspondence.

## ***REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4***

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), opened the meeting.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**) was adopted without changes.

### **3. Appointment of the Rapporteur**

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 4.

### **4. Review of panel membership**

Panel 4 was comprised of the following 33 members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Japan, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, People's Republic of China, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Korea, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Honduras requested to be a member of Panel 4. The Chair welcomed the new Member.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics**

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr. Josu Santiago, presented the report of the SCRS on Panel 4 species: swordfish, marlins, sailfish, small tunas, and sharks.

#### ***5.1 Swordfish***

The last assessment for North and South Atlantic swordfish was conducted in 2013 and for Mediterranean swordfish in 2014. The total swordfish catch in the ICCAT area represents 34% of the swordfish world production. A large majority of the catches in all areas is obtained by longlines.

##### ***5.1.1 North Atlantic swordfish***

In 2013, the estimated catch including dead discards was 11,920 t, a quantity lower than the TAC (13,700 tons). The SCRS Chair noted that this stock is "data rich". The SCRS explored various alternatives in 2013 and all signals were consistent independently from the methodology, indicating that the stock is at or above  $B_{MSY}$ , fishing mortality has been below  $F_{MSY}$  since 2005, and the current TAC of 13,700 provides an 83% probability of maintaining the stock biomass above  $B_{MSY}$ . The estimated relative biomass trend has shown a consistent increase since 2000. The SCRS found that a TAC of about 15,000 t would reduce the probability of maintaining the stock at or above  $B_{MSY}$  to 50% or lower. Results from the 2013 assessment indicated that there is greater than 90% probability that the northern swordfish stock has rebuilt to or above  $B_{MSY}$ . The SCRS Chair indicated that without a more precise direction from the Commission regarding management objectives for this stock, the SCRS cannot provide more detailed advice.

##### ***5.1.2 South Atlantic swordfish***

Recent catches for South Atlantic swordfish, at 7,787 t for 2013, are well below the current TAC. In this case, the quality of the data was lower than those of the northern stock. Additional fishery indicators have been considered in the assessment and, despite the high variability of trends and considering also that the mean weight is higher than in the North Atlantic, the SCRS believes that the stock is not overfished. Due to the uncertainties in stock assessment results, the SCRS recommended a TAC of no more than 15,000 t.

### 5.1.3 Mediterranean swordfish

The Chair of the SCRS noted that very little quantitative information was available for this stock, even with some CPCs having improved their reporting in recent years. The reported catch in 2013 was 9,155 t, the lowest since 1983. The Chair of the SCRS noted that 2013 catches were reported after the assessment carried out in 2014, where a level of 12,000 t was considered. During the assessment, the main fishing country (EU-Italy) informed that a new type of deep LL had been progressively introduced in recent times, rendering the CPUE series not necessarily comparable due to the implications for selectivity. The majority of catches (from 50 to 70% in number and 25 to 30% in weight) are still of small swordfish (less than three years old) and the SCRS expressed concern that this would further reduce the biomass. No trend was detected among all CPUE series (both for LL and GILL), or in the mean size, over the last 20 years.

Two different methods were used for the assessment: production models (both ASPIC and BSP) and age structured analysis (XSA). All models indicated that the stock had declined in the 1980s and has been stable or slightly increasing since then but disagree regarding stock status. Besides the high uncertainties in the results, the SCRS considered that this stock is overfished and the current fishing mortality about twice  $F_{MSY}$  according to XSA. It must be noted that a higher level of current catches was used during the assessment biasing the results and therefore SSB levels might be higher than those estimated. Overall results suggest that fishing mortality needs to be reduced to move the stock towards the Convention objective of biomass levels that support MSY. As a possible effect of current regulations, reported catches have decreased significantly from the 2000s' level: catches in 2012 and 2013 correspond to the minimum values of the last three decades. Reported catches of juvenile SWO (<90 cm LJFL) have also decreased on average 54% in the last two years compared to the past decade (2000s). The SCRS recommended maintaining the current management measures, until additional data will permit to evaluate if they are sufficient to allow the stock to rebuild. The SCRS also recommended to strictly monitor the fishery including discards and to consider the implications of potential excess capacity (due to the discrepancy between ICCAT Records of Vessels and active vessels).

## 5.2 Marlins

### 5.2.1 Blue marlin

Blue marlin was assessed in 2011. Provisional reported catch in 2013 was 1,098 t, a reduction from 2012. While the quantity of reported "unclassified billfish" has been reduced, only a few CPCs reported dead discards and the SCRS Chair emphasized the need for this information. Furthermore, the SCRS Chair emphasized the need for data from non-industrial fleets such as artisanal and recreational boats. The stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. The SCRS considered Rec. 12-04 and the TAC of 2,000 t and expressed its concerns about the effectiveness of such measures taking into account that most likely there is severe under reporting. The SCRS indicated that technological improvements, such as the use non-offset circle hooks, may reduce by-catch and decrease post-release mortality, being more efficient and enforceable than time or area closures. The SCRS recommended that reducing fishing mortality from non-industrial fisheries should be considered.

### 5.2.2 White marlin

White marlin was assessed in 2012. In 2013, provisional reported catches were at a level of 415 t, higher than those in 2012 and exceeding the catch limit of 400 t set by Rec. 12-04. The SCRS Chair noted that few CPCs report dead discards and that there were many uncertainties in the data, even if data reporting is improving. The SCRS considered various scenarios and found that there had been a relatively stable trend in catch per unit effort for the species since 1991. The 2012 assessment showed that the stock was overfished, but that overfishing was, most likely, no longer occurring. However, the outlook for this stock remains uncertain because of the possibility that reported catches are less than the realized catches, and therefore underestimate fishing mortality and because of the lack of certainty in the productivity of the stock. With catches at or below 400 t, the stock will likely increase in size, but rebuilding in the next ten years is very unlikely. The SCRS recommended that measures be taken to ensure monitoring of dead discards and live releases to better estimate true mortality and that catches do not exceed current levels. The SCRS also suggested that the use of non-offset circle hooks may be useful to reduce fishing mortality.

### 5.2.3 Sailfish

Sailfish stocks were last assessed in 2009. Total reported catches in 2013 were 412 t for the western Atlantic and 1,090 t in the eastern Atlantic, taken mostly by coastal fisheries. Considering that they were historically reported together with spearfish *Tetrapturus* spp., there is a great deal of uncertainty in the assessment results. The models suggest that overfishing is occurring, being probably more severe in the eastern stock. The SCRS recommended that catches be reduced in the eastern stock and be kept stable in the western one, and that all CPCs report catches and dead discards. The SCRS also suggested that the use of circle hooks may be useful in increasing survival and catch-and-release strategy in sport fishery. The SCRS proposed a new assessment to be held in 2016 instead of in 2015.

### 5.3 Small tunas

The SCRS Chair stressed again the importance of small tunas from a socio-economic perspective, as they are an important catch for many small-scale and artisanal fisheries. Provisional reported catches of accumulated small tunas (more than 14 species) in 2013 were at 100,328 t. A considerable improvement of available information was noticed in the last SCRS meeting, where 5 scientific documents were presented, mostly thanks to the current research program for data recovery for small tunas (SMTYP). However, information on biology and fisheries is still insufficient in many areas and, currently, it is not possible to conduct stock assessments for any species among the small tunas. In the absence of stock assessments, the SCRS had no management recommendations, but appealed for cooperation with regional organizations and countries to improve ICCAT's knowledge of these species. The SMTYP should continue its work. A SMT data preparatory meeting is scheduled for 2015.

### 5.4 Sharks

In 2012, the SCRS conducted an ecological risk assessment (ERA) for 16 species of sharks (20 stocks), as it had been done in 2008 and 2010. This assessment took various elements of productivity and vulnerability into account. For this purpose, the SCRS held an intersessional meeting to review available information on the biology of shark species. In 2012, the SCRS also carried out an assessment for the shortfin mako shark. There were several small changes in the results of the ERA, with porbeagle sharks exhibiting the largest change, now ranking fourth on the list (previously seventh and tenth, respectively). Many aspects of shark biology are poorly understood or unknown. The Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) is currently under development.

#### 5.4.1 Blue shark

Total reported catches in 2013 were 56,552 t. The results of the last assessment in 2008 showed that the biomass was above  $MSY$  and fishing mortality was below  $F_{MSY}$  for both the North and South Atlantic stocks. A new assessment is proposed for 2015.

#### 5.4.2 Shortfin mako

Reported catches for Atlantic shortfin mako in 2013 were 5,543 t. An assessment of North and South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks was conducted in 2012. The assessment suggested that the stocks were not overfished and overfishing was not occurring, although uncertainties have been noted. Many biological parameters are still unknown. For these reasons, the fishing mortality of this species should not be increased. The SCRS noted that reporting had increased. A new assessment is proposed for 2019.

#### 5.4.3 Porbeagle

Reported catches of porbeagle to ICCAT in 2013 were 188 t. The southern stocks have very limited data, but for the southwestern stock biomass is probably below  $B_{MSY}$  and fishing mortality above  $F_{MSY}$ . Both the northeast and northwest stocks are below  $B_{MSY}$ , fishing mortality is very close to or exceeds  $F_{MSY}$  for the northeast stock, while fishing mortality is less than  $F_{MSY}$  for the northwest stock. The SCRS recommended a precautionary approach and called for additional data. The SCRS Chair also recommended collaboration with other RFMOs in the area to improve the status of stocks. Fishing should not exceed current levels, porbeagles retrieved alive should be released alive and new fisheries should be prevented.

#### 5.4.4 Other shark species

Reported catches of other shark species in 2013 were 11,180 t. The vulnerability rank of each species was estimated by ERA in 2012.

#### 5.5 SCRS responses to Commission's request

The Chair of the SCRS informed about the response of the Committee to the Commission's request (18.9 Definition of the SCRS Plan for future sea turtle impact analysis Rec. 13-11 para 4). The full detailed responses are included in the SCRS report.

The SCRS agreed on a plan to continue to assess the impact on sea turtles of ICCAT fisheries. The plan includes: 1. Completing the draft data collection form and getting the support for its adoption; 2. Updating EFFDis for LL and other gears; 3. Comparing by-catch rates to spatial distribution of effort by major gear types; 4. Developing "best practice" guidance for the extrapolation of total by-catch; 5. Continuing to evaluate approaches used to conduct impact assessments for by-catch species; 6. Continuing to evaluate by-catches mitigation techniques; 7. Collecting and reviewing data for future impact assessments, specifically on: a) By-catch rates; b) Total extrapolated by-catch; c) Post-release mortality and methods of estimation; d) Size composition.

The Sub-Committee will continue to advise the Commission when new information becomes available with regard to the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles.

#### 5.6 General comments

The SCRS Chair indicated that different methodologies are used by the Committee to assess the different stocks and that these also included some fishery independent indices. The SCRS Chair highlighted that many CPCs provided fishery indicators for stock assessment purposes. He indicated that the quantity of fishery indicators made available to the SCRS is directly proportional to the quality of the stock assessment. For sharks, the SCRS recommends to adopt precautionary management measures (particularly for those stocks having the greatest biological vulnerability or which are data-poor), recommending also to adopt species-specific measures whenever possible. He also reminded CPCs of the obligation to provide catch statistics for ICCAT fisheries, including purse-seine fishery, artisanal and recreational fisheries, and invited them to provide data from non-ICCAT fisheries, as well, in order to support the work of the SCRS. The harmonization of sharks data collection form among different RFMOs is also recommended, to the extent possible. The SCRS informed that the joint work with the ICES WG on Elasmobranch Fish will be continued. The SCRS welcomed the Rec. 13-10 for the collection of biological samples by scientific observers.

Japan pointed out that the situation of the Mediterranean swordfish stock is one of the worst among all ICCAT stocks, even having a lower catch level but with a very high fishing mortality. He warned that the management recommendations adopted so far for this stock were not in line with the precautionary approaches adopted for other stocks.

The Chair of the SCRS responded that the Mediterranean swordfish stock is showing a high productivity and stable trends in recent years, but the understanding of this stock might be improved with future analyses and more data.

Japan also remarked that Japan seems to be the main fishing CPC for porbeagle shark even if this is not a target species for its LL fishery targeting bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean. Japan noted that the bluefin tuna fishing season is minimum and therefore if porbeagle catches are increasing this may mean that there is a parallel increasing of the availability of this species.

The Chair of the SCRS responded that the information available does not allow to comment on whether Japan's increase in porbeagle catches is a result of increased availability in the fishery.

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities***

The Chair informed that several documents and proposals had been presented to Panel 4 and that the documents to be discussed were “Development or Fishing/Management Plans For North Atlantic Swordfish”, Information in relation to Reports on Shark and Other By-Catch Species, a letter from CITES on management of rays and sharks, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, CITES informative document and “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Porbeagle Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, as well as an opening statement from Oceana to Panel 4 (**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9**). He then asked the ICCAT Secretariat to introduce the documents “Development or Fishing/Management Plans for North Atlantic Swordfish” and “Information in Relation to Reports On Shark and Other By-Catch Species”, prepared by it.

### **6.1 Documents introduced by the Secretariat**

Initially, the ICCAT Secretariat presented the document “Development or Fishing/Management Plans for North Atlantic Swordfish” concerning all information received so far on fishing and management plans for North Atlantic swordfish, including the plans received from the various CPCs within the time limit for providing them and those outside the time limit which are included in Annex 1 to the same document.

The ICCAT Secretariat introduced subsequently the document “Information in Relation to Reports on Shark and Other By-Catch Species”, concerning all information in relation to reports on sharks and other by-catch species, which included also the responses from all CPCs concerned, the sea-birds mitigation measures, the sea-birds interactions and fate, plus additional information about other by-catch species.

### **6.2 Introduction of proposals**

The Panel Chair listed then the five proposals presented to the Panel, clarifying that two of them would be presented under the “Other matters” session, and invited the Delegates to introduce their documents.

### **6.3 Sharks**

#### **6.3.1 Fins attached**

Brazil introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”, initially co-sponsored by Belize, European Union, Panama, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal and United States of America, and later jointly co-sponsored also by Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago. This proposed recommendation would require the prohibition of the finning of sharks on board, making it mandatory for all sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached. Selling or purchasing shark fins in contravention of this recommendation would also be prohibited. Other provisions included in the proposal were explained by Brazil, which also stressed issues concerning food security and how this recommendation will improve the collection of species specific data.

Japan requested clarification if the proposal was covering also fisheries specifically targeting sharks and the USA clarified that this was not the case.

The EU clarified that by-catch refers to the part of the catch that is not the primary target of the fishing effort. As such, it consists of both fish which is retained and marketed, and that which is discarded or released (incidental by-catch).

The European Union also informed that NEAFC had adopted a proposal submitted by the EU concerning the obligation to keep the fins attached to the shark body, following the UN resolution on the ban of shark finning. It noted that this obligation was due to the high variability of the correlation in weight between the shark fins and the carcass, which made it almost impossible to have reliable figures. According to the European Union, this control problem, therefore, required the sharks to be landed with the fins attached to the body, even if the industry has different markets for fins and carcasses.



Japan noted the problems created by para 9 of the proposal, because it excluded the application of the envisaged measures to fisheries targeting sharks. Furthermore, it argued that, for practical reasons, the proposed measure should be limited to vessels having storage for fresh or chilled fish, excluding those having freezing storage. Consequently, Japan requests the modification of para 2, adding: “except when sharks are stored on board in a frozen style”, further modifying para 4 accordingly.

Norway supported the proposal, which was, according to it, in line with the recommendation adopted by the NEAFC. Norway also explained that, according to the Norwegian domestic regulation, sharks fished alive shall be released alive at sea, and those which are dead shall be landed but cannot be sold by the fishermen. They are sold at the market by the authorities and the money obtained by these fish goes directly to fishery control bodies, thus discouraging shark fishing. Finally, Norway stated that provisions set by paras 3 and 4 should be revised.

The People’s Republic of China expressed a position in agreement with the one of Japan, furthermore noting that no evidence of any problem on this issue had been included in the SCRS report and that Rec. 04-10 already included the requirement to fully use the shark body. For those reasons, China could not support the proposal.

Korea also supported the interventions of Japan and China, affirming that the issue should be further discussed.

Oceana, on behalf of several NGOs (Pew Environment Group, Defenders of Wildlife, EAC, Ocean Foundation, WWF, etc.), asked for a clear prohibition of shark finning.

After further discussion, the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT” was examined.

Japan expressed its disagreement with the proposal.

Norway referred again to the finning ban adopted by the NEAFC and to the fact that the proposal presented was not the same as that one.

The EU defended the proposal again and asked for further discussions. The statement of the EU is attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9**.

The People’s Republic of China expressed its disagreement about it.

Due to the lack of consensus, the proposal was deferred to the Commission for further discussion.

### 6.3.2 Porbeagle sharks

The European Union introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, which reflected several proposals submitted in previous years, setting full conservation measures for *Lamna nasus* (porbeagle shark), prohibiting, among other provisions, its retaining on board, transshipping, landing, storing, selling or offering for sale any part of its body for ICCAT associated fisheries, excluding only those CPCs whose legislation required that all dead fish be landed, but without any economic profit. Any data should be provided to ICCAT and submitted as Task I and Task II. Furthermore, the EU noted that the porbeagle shark, which has long recovery times, was included in the CITES Appendix II from September 2014.

Subsequently, Canada introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Porbeagle Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, which required the prompt release of any incidental catches of porbeagles that were alive when brought alongside of the vessel. Canada also noted the need to rebuild the porbeagle population.

After further discussions, the European Union affirmed that fundamental discrepancies were still persisting about the text of the two proposals, a view that was also echoed by Canada.

Due to the lack of consensus, the proposals were deferred to the Commission for further discussion.

### 6.3.3 *Shortfin mako*

The United States introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”. The United States noted the SCRS advice that taking into consideration the continued high vulnerability ranking in the ERA, results from the 2012 stock assessment, the associated uncertainty, and relatively low productivity of this species, catches should not be increased.

Norway asked for clarifications and how a by-catch species could be managed on the basis of MSY levels.

Morocco asked for a revision of the text and for clarification about the method used for setting the catch limits, which were included in the proposal.

The United States responded that it is appropriate to ask SCRS for advice relative to MSY and set limits accordingly. The United States provided clarification regarding the proposed catch limits.

The U.S. proposal was then jointly co-sponsored by the Republic of Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal.

The European Union introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries” which reflected the contents of previous proposals presented in 2012 and 2013. The document, among other obligations, set aspirational total catch limits and required a new assessment of the species to be conducted in 2016 at the latest.

Japan noted that the assessment of shortfin mako was set by the SCRS in 2019 and not in 2016.

The Chair of the SCRS reiterated that the assessment for this species was set in 2019, because the workload for 2016 was already too high.

Morocco noted that the proposal did not include any distribution or allocation key for the catch limits.

The EU responded that it was not necessary, at that stage, to have any allocation key in view of the aspirational nature of the catch limit, but that it was essential to improve reporting.

Japan noted that paragraph 1 of Rec. 07-06 was even stronger than the new proposal. The EU clarified that paragraph 1 of the proposal was not replacing the provision set by Rec. 07-06, but that paragraph 1 was a new added provision.

After further side discussion, the Chair noted that the Panel was converging to the updated proposal “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, abandoning the proposal “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”. The updated proposal was now jointly co-sponsored by the European Union, Mauritania, Republic of Guinea, Senegal and United States of America.

Japan renewed the difficulties for endorsing the proposal.

Brazil noted that the proposed catch limits were not based on the last stock assessment for the species and proposed to remove paragraphs 1 and 2.

Norway noted that paragraph 6 should still depend on the Convention amendment; that the NEAFC was managing shark species in North East Atlantic using different approaches than those used by ICCAT; and that a possible conflict of competence could exist.

The European Union agreed with the deletion of the current text in paragraphs 1 and 2 and proposed a new text for substituting them.

Japan noted that it was too late for text changes of that nature at that stage of the meeting and that paragraphs 1 and 2 were preempting any SCRS outcomes. Japan suggested then that points a) and b) of paragraph 6 be replaced by the sentence “all available data shall be evaluated by the Commission”. It was noted that the new text proposed for paragraphs 1 and 2 was unclear and ambiguous and that the current Convention did not provide any mandate for managing sharks. He finally commented that, in any case, the last stock assessment for that species had not shown any urgency.

Norway noted that the Commission should take all necessary measures for the conservation of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

As a way to reach consensus, the Chair proposed to delete Paragraphs 1 and 2 and points a) and b) of paragraph 6.

The United States asked to modify the last paragraph, since Rec. 10-06 should not be repealed, therefore requesting that the reference to it be deleted.

The European Union asked to keep the reference to Rec. 10-06 in paragraph 7.

Japan repeated that the SCRS stock assessment for shortfin mako in 2012 defined that both stocks were healthy even if uncertainties exist.

Ecology Action Centre, on behalf also of Oceana and Defenders of Wildlife, expressed their disappointment with the lack of management and conservation measures on this species by the Commission (**Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9**).

After additional discussion, it was agreed to delete paragraphs 1 and 2, to add at the end of paragraph 6 the sentence “on appropriate management measures”, deleting points a) and b) of the same paragraph, and to delete the reference to Rec. 10-06 in paragraph 7.

The revised proposal was adopted by the Panel by consensus and it was referred to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 14-06]**).

#### **6.4 Other species**

The United States briefly introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Monitoring and Avoiding Cetacean Interactions in ICCAT Fisheries” (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4**) noting that the referred proposal was very similar to what had already been adopted by other RFMOs and that it was very important to collect data on these interactions. Several delegations expressed support for this measure.

Japan expressed its lack of support for the proposal.

After a brief discussion, the United States, noting the lack of consensus, stated that the proposal would be tabled again at the next Commission meeting.

Japan invited the United States to provide data and evidence on this matter to the SCRS for evaluation, in advance.

Mexico noted that the Art. 1 of the referred proposal, the way it was drafted, would result in an actual ban of the purse-seine fishing associated with dolphins, without any evidence of problems. Furthermore, it warned that the proposal did not prevent any incidental mortality of cetacean species.

Due to the lack of consensus, the proposal was deferred to the Commission for further discussion.

## **7. Research**

### **7.1 SCRS activities and work plan**

The SCRS Chair reported on the two research programs carried out for istiophorides (IERPB) and for small tunas (SMTYP), including also other aspects of the SCRS work. He informed that the project on istiophorides, which included various research subjects in 2014, would also continue in the following year. The program included the monitoring and characterization of catches in Brazil and Venezuela, review of statistics in Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Senegal and Cuba, biological sampling in Bermuda and Venezuela, and genetic sampling in Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. For 2015 the program includes the collection of genetic and biological sampling and monitoring with observers; the budget required is €40,000.

The research program on small tunas, which was carried out successfully in several areas, providing many data and including historical series (Task I and Task II), providing also a bibliography and biological data on small tuna species, would be also continued in 2015, for the collection of historical Task I and Task II series in the Mediterranean and in the Western Atlantic and for supporting the biological sampling of the four main species (Atlantic bonito, little tunny, king mackerel and frigate tuna). The budget required for 2015 is €105,000.

The SCRS work plan included the assessment of blue shark in 2015, the assessment of sailfish in 2016, the data preparatory meeting and assessment of North Atlantic, South Atlantic and Mediterranean swordfish and blue marlin in 2017, the assessment of porbeagle shark (to be conducted together with ICES) in 2017 and the assessment of shortfin mako shark in 2019. In 2018 the SCRS is planning to evaluate the possibility of conducting the assessment of sharks species other than the three already mentioned. For small tunas, data preparatory meetings are planned for 2015, 2017 and 2019, while a stock assessment session is set for 2020.

## **7.2 SCRS research recommendations**

The SCRS Chair presented the following recommendations:

*Swordfish:* The SCRS recommended the development of methods to evaluate CPUE indices by using simulations and cross validation of detailed data, the evaluation of the impact of management on CPUE series, the evaluation of stock mixing and boundary area in the Mediterranean, and further studies on gear selectivity and design for minimizing age-0 catch of Mediterranean swordfish.

*Billfish:* The SCRS recommended the continuation of the research program, a workshop for developing standardized CPUE indices for artisanal fisheries in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal, and for improving the participation of CPCs' national scientists in ICCAT billfish workgroup meetings.

*Small tunas:* The SCRS recommended continuing the SMTYP, while an inter-sessional meeting should be held in 2015, needing a large participation of scientists.

*Sharks:* The SCRS recommended the Shark Research and Data Collection Program (SRDCP) for two years, having a cost of about €135,000 in year 1, and inviting an external expert for providing support for the implementation of the SS3 in the stock assessment of blue shark planned for 2015 and having an estimated cost of €12,000. The SCRS recommended also to invite ICES WGEF, GFCM, West African SRFC and SEAFO to provide data for and participate in the next 2015 blue shark stock assessment.

Furthermore, the SCRS recommended a workshop on by-catch species to be done by the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems and proposed to request funding from ABNJ Tuna Project, and the enhancement of Ecosystem Approach to Fishery Management (EAFM), using the opportunity offered by the ABNJ Tuna Project. In addition, the Sub-committee on Ecosystems should develop a strategic research plan in accordance with the SCRS Strategic Plan and present the conceptual management objectives on the EBFM developed by the SCRS to the 2015 meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM).

Canada asked for clarifications about the North Atlantic swordfish and specifically about the limit reference points and MSE.

The Chair of the SCRS confirmed that the plan was to move the swordfish assessment to 2017. Furthermore, he clarified other work related to the development of harvest control rules and MSE was underway as well.

## **8. Other matters**

CITES introduced the documents containing the letter from CITES on management of sharks and rays and the CITES informative document, informing about the inclusion of some species of pelagic sharks in CITES Appendix II and, therefore, about the consequent obligations established by the Convention for their trade and certification. In this context, it pointed out the need to have effective cooperation with ICCAT.

Uruguay asked if CITES did ask for information about the status of this species from ICCAT before including them in Appendix II.

Mexico requested CITES to inform about which kind of support would be provided to ICCAT CPCs for enforcing these rules. At the same time, Mexico noted that CITES did not have any specific group for marine species with interest for fisheries.

Japan noted that ICCAT had already adopted and enforced several measures for species that were then included in CITES and that a cooperation could be established for the porbeagle shark.

The ICCAT Secretariat clarified that a general cooperation with CITES had existed since 2010, that directives had been enforced since 2012, that an ICCAT expert participated as an observer at a CITES meeting of experts on sharks in 2013, but that CITES had never formally asked for a cooperation on the shark species which were now included in Appendix II.

CITES responded that ICCAT was consulted, that support for the enforcement of CITES rules would be provided by NGOs or the European Union to individual countries and that meetings had already been held with several countries. CITES also confirmed that they did not have so far any group specifically dealing with species having a fishery interest.

Defenders of Wildlife, on behalf of several NGOs, welcomed the protection measures by CITES of some pelagic shark species, but that they would like to support also further measures on individual shark species such as porbeagle and shortfin mako, providing support to the EU and USA proposals as a matter of priority.

### **9. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed to adopt Report of Panel 4 by correspondence.

The 2014 meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

## Panel Agendas

### ***Panel 1***

1. Opening of the meeting
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*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

### ***Panel 2***

1. Opening of the meeting
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### ***Panel 3***

1. Opening of the meeting
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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*
7. Research
8. Other matters
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### ***Panel 4***

1. Opening of the meeting
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*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9****Statement by Turkey to Panel 2*****The allocation of fishing possibilities for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT)***

As a respectful member of ICCAT since 2003, Turkey is a coastal State with high amount of historical catch of eastern Atlantic Bluefin tuna – over 5,000 metric tons in the late 1990s – and a country embracing spawning areas and habitats of this specie in its waters. For about 10,000 years bonitos and bluefin tuna have been living in Turkish waters. Writers of old have reported on the bonitos and bluefin tunas in the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. The name Golden Horn (Halic) actually comes from the large numbers of these fish that are present in these habitats.

Turkish fishermen traditionally, historically and habitually used to fish bluefin tuna and today are still dependent socially and economically on the exploitation of bluefin tuna stocks in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

For the first time in 1998, owing to the increasing fishing, fattening and farming activities particularly from the second half of the 1990s, total allowable quota measures were set to restrict eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing. In this context, CPCs were required to take the necessary measures to prevent any catch by vessels under their jurisdiction in 1995 in excess of the level of catch in 1993 or 1994. From the year 1995, CPCs were required to reduce by 25% (or as low an amount as may be specified by the SCRS) their catches from the aforementioned catch levels by the end of 1998 (Rec. 94-11).

Following this, TACs and an allocation scheme were established for 1999 and 2000 with the decision adopted in 1998. It was decided that in order to establish an allocation of fishing possibilities, the catches of years 1993 and 1994 (whichever is higher) be used as reference (Rec. 98-05 and Rec. 00-09).

During that period some CPCs lodged objections to the quota allocated by ICCAT. A certain amount of quota (which was well below the amount of total catch of non-member countries) was also allocated for the non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that caught bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period starting in 1993. From the year 2001, it was observed that the self-declared quotas pronounced by the objecting CPCs under the framework of their national management regimes had been adopted much the same by the Commission. On the other hand, it was observed that cooperating and non-Contracting Parties in that period were given a far lower quota than they should have been.

During the Dublin meeting in 2002, Turkey called on all parties to comply with the decisions taken in 1998 to not exceed the catch levels of 1993-1994. In the same meeting, Turkey also asked for proper application of the rule for allocation of quotas, which should be determined on the basis of the catch figures of the CPCs for the reference years 1993 and 1994. In fact, according to catch figures presented by countries, Turkey ranked 4th in terms of catch levels for these years with 3084 and 3466 metric tons respectively. Unfortunately, the catch figures for Turkey for these years were not taken into consideration during the quota allocations.

Following its membership to ICCAT in July 2003, Turkey's 1993-1994 catch figures adopted by SCRS were unfairly ignored by ICCAT in the course of quota allocation in 2007. Thus, Turkey lodged a formal objection to the allocation scheme established by ICCAT that is still valid since the special meeting of Panel 2 in Tokyo in 2007.

From the early 2000s, particularly during the period 2007-2012, as a consequence of the deteriorated stock status in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, there was a significant decrease in reported catch following more restrictive and declining TACs from 2008. The situation has always been shown reason obstructively against fulfilling the rightful demand and expectation of Turkey for an increase in her quota share. Despite our objection to the allocation scheme, showing great patience, Turkey has never exceeded the unfair level of quota allocated by ICCAT. Turkey's main intention was to contribute the utmost to the management and conservation efforts made by ICCAT.

Turkey has made a great sacrifice within the context of ICCAT's "Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean" through its substantial capacity reduction. Consequently, the total number of BFT catching vessels authorized to fish decreased tenfold in the period 2008-2012. Moreover, based on new quota allocation and reduced number of fishing vessels, "over capacity" of the Turkish BFT fleet has been eliminated without any special compensation to the fishermen and their families. In summary, Turkey's total capacity reduction has corresponded to about 90% in total, from the beginning of the capacity reduction measures set by ICCAT in 2009. Correspondingly, the peak catch of 5,988 metric tons in 1998 was gradually reduced and reached, with a tenfold reduction, to 419 metric tons in 2010.

Besides, during the CITES Conference in 2010, the proposal intending to ban trade in bluefin tuna caused Turkey, as a CPC suffering from low quotas, to lose too much time and resources. The aforementioned attempt at CITES has proven to be wrong by the results of current stock assessments. Hence, it is time to make up for the lost time, resources and suffering of Turkish fishermen and families.

Only and exclusively at the time of the Paris meeting in 2010 was note taken of this particular situation and claims by Turkey were recognized for the first time by the Commission, granting a 1% increase in Turkey's share. But still, the aforementioned increase has been quite a lot lower than the level required for Turkey on the basis of reference years 1993 and 1994.

The current state of affairs is that the updated stock assessments in 2013 and 2014 revealed an improved stock status, making it possible to increase TAC within safe limits. After years, bluefin tuna started to show up even in the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea.

In case a substantial TAC increase is adopted by the Commission this year, relief of the unjust treatment against Turkey should be regarded as a priority by the Commission. The time has come to take remedial action to compensate Turkey's losses which have arisen from unjust and inequitable allocation since the very beginning of the allocation process for E-BFT.

At this stage, Turkey should not be expected to bear this unjust discrimination any more with respect to E-BFT quota allocations.

As a reliable, credible and prestigious organization in performing its duties and responsibilities, ICCAT is expected to apply just the same principles and procedures for allocations to each and every CPC having similar situations in a non-discriminatory manner as is required.

It is obvious that Turkey's share is well below the level deserved when allocations in the region are considered.

We believe it is high time to compensate this unfair situation of quota allocations. Unless such remedial action is taken, quota allocation will continue to be arbitrary, and where ICCAT rules and principles are ignored, this will lead to an inextricable situation.

Turkey is currently given a quota corresponding to 4.15% of the total BFT catch, while a just and equitable application of the said criteria should result in 7.73% of the total BFT catch.

Turkey is not asking for a privilege or special treatment for quota allocation. Turkey seeks non-discriminatory and just treatment, through proper implementation of a principle that was already set out in 1998.

We hereby declare that unless Turkey's long standing request to the Commission which is intended to increase Turkey's quota share is not fulfilled yet again, Turkey is determined to take all necessary actions deemed appropriate on the basis of ICCAT Recommendations 94-11, 98-5 and 00-9. In this context, Turkey would comply with the original rule established by ICCAT intended for the first time catch quota allocations in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries.



**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9****Statement by Libya to Panel 2*****A proposal concerning follow-up to article No. 10 - REC. 13-07***

After the havoc and suffering resulting from the political events of 2011, the suspension of tuna fishing activities in that year which caused severe damages to the fishing industry, and led to the need for serious investment and effort by the fishing community to start rebuilding the local fishing industry, Libya presented a request to recoup its foregone 2011 BFT quota over a period of three years to the 18th Special Meeting of this Commission held in 2012.

Indeed Article 10 of Recommendation 12-03 stated that “the request of Libya to carry over unused 2011 quota will be considered in 2013”.

The 23rd Regular Meeting of the Commission held in 2013 in Recommendation 13-07 once again stated “the request of Libya to carry over unused 2011 quota will be considered in 2014”.

Three years have now gone by and in the light of the recent indications by the SCRS regarding the positive indications of the rebuilding of the BFT stock in the eastern Mediterranean and the justified request of the fishing industry to recoup what was denied to it by circumstances beyond its control, Libya once again brings this issue to the attention of this Meeting to re-address the statement in the previous drafts to read as follows:

Taking into consideration the request of Libya to be accorded the forfeited 2011 BFT quota, said unused 2011 quota will be recouped over a period of three years starting in 2015.

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9****Statement by Syria to Panel 2**

Referring to the 19th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which will be held at Fiera di Genova, Italy from 10 to 17 November, 2014, we would like to inform you that due to exceptional circumstances in Syria, we could not attend this meeting.

We would like to mention the following:

1. Syrian Arab Republic will catch the allocated quota of bluefin tuna for 2015, in addition to unused quotas of 2012, 2013 and 2014 (we should be grateful if our request was discussed and considered in the meeting).
2. We transferred US\$23,440 to your account, which represents Syria's contribution to the ICCAT budget for 2014 and the arrears for previous years (2011- 2013).
3. We kindly request you to increase Syria's quota of bluefin tuna, and to allocate to Syria quotas for other species of tuna.

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**

**Statement by Turkey to Panel 2**

Turkey would like to express its frustration and objection to the allocation scheme given in paragraph 5 of draft “Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean”. This unacceptable allocation scheme has ruled out not only the historical fishing rights of Turkey but also our good will and intention to cooperate within this organization in an efficient and constructive manner. Turkey will not allow or tolerate any longer such an unfair and inequitable attempt undertaken and dominated by some parties to predestinate the future and livelihood of Turkish fishermen and their families unfavorably.

Under these circumstances, the Republic of Turkey has been left with no option but to set bluefin tuna catch limits from 2015 up to the 7.73% of the TAC on the basis of catch figures for the reference years 1993 and 1994 in line with the allocation criterion already determined by ICCAT. This decision shall also be communicated through official channels. With this decision, Turkey would be in full compliance with the original rule established by ICCAT which has not been applied to Turkey until now, inadmissibly.

Turkey will continue to manage all bluefin tuna fishing and farming activities within the scope of aforementioned catch limits in line with the provisions of ICCAT’s applicable management and conservation regime.

Lastly, Turkey will continue to properly implement the rules of ICCAT same as it ever was. In this respect, Turkey will not block the progress on the draft Recommendation proposal.

**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**

**Statement by Algeria to Panel 2**

Before 2010, Algeria, like the rest of the members of the Organisation, benefited from a bluefin tuna quota, which had invariably been 5.073% of the TAC.

In 2010, a serious blunder was committed by the Organisation, in the sense that some parties were allowed to undermine the principle of inviolability of acquired rights of nations, in force in all international organisations, by sharing out four fifths of Algeria's historical quota, which suddenly left Algeria with a reduced quota of 1.073%.

From 2010, considerable efforts were made by Algeria to highlight within our Organisation the seriousness of this precedent. Consequently, and thanks to this collective awareness, the wrong caused to Algeria was recognised and explicitly reflected in two ICCAT Recommendations: 13-07 and 12-03, whose paragraphs 10 explicitly stipulate:

10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 above, and taking into account the historical allocation for this stock, Algeria is granted an extra and temporary allocation of 100 t/year for the years 2013 and 2014 prior to any future revisions. The re-establishment of the historical allocation of Algeria will be considered as a priority in future revisions of the TAC and the allocation. All relevant provisions of this Recommendation apply to such allocation.

In addition, Algeria, at this ICCAT meeting, will accept nothing less, for the country and for the credibility of our Organisation, than strict compliance with these provisions which constitute a very clear commitment. If this is not the case, the delegation of Algeria will have no choice but to pursue all available legal channels to express its opposition and reflect its objection as formally as possible.

The delegation of Algeria is counting on the understanding and spirit of responsibility of all parties and trusts that it will never again need to exercise its right to object, convinced that such situations are not the kind that enhance the prestige of our Organisation, at a time when we are all working to restore the image of ICCAT.

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9****Statement by CIPS to Panel 2**

The international confederation of sport fishing (CIPS) has always followed recommendations from ICCAT particularly the ones concerned with bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean swordfish.

It should be noted that CIPS was the first NGO to warn the scientist committee of ICCAT about the situation of bluefin tuna stocks (eastern Atlantic).

Today, bluefin tuna resources are recovering thanks to the efforts of each person involved, but strong constraints are still in place and lead to the development of illegal fishing.

Measures linked to sport and recreational fishing are necessary to solve this problem. This decision shall be taken by all Contracting Parties.

- a) One catch per year minimum, respecting the legal length and opening/closing dates, shall be given to authorized boat.
- b) Specific quotas shall be allocated by ICCAT to sport and recreational fishing. Most often, professionals who fish before our members exceed the allowed quantities, charging the planned quota of our sport and recreational fishery (this is not so for some Contracting Parties).
- c) The number of boats allowed to practice bluefin tuna and swordfish fishing shall be reduced (around 10,000 boats for Spain, France and Italy). Authorizations have been delivered by governments to boats not equipped for this kind of fishing leading potentially to accidents (already happened). We propose, as it is done by professional fishery, this reduction to be proportioned fairly considering age of the request and navigation category.
- d) A part of the general bluefin tuna quota given to sport and recreational fishing shall allow, as it is done for artisanal professional fishing (local fishery), to catch fish with a length over 105 cm (at tail extremity). Indeed, during deep-sea drag fishing, few catches are taken at the length of 115 cm (at the interior of fish's tail).
- e) A quota taken from general sport and recreational fishery shall be given to sport federations for international, national and traditional events.
- f) No catches can be sold. The fishery is used as personal consumption or given to community services.

The sport and recreational fishery is a heavy socio-economic vector. A lot of countries succeed in developing the fishery creating numerous jobs and growing tourism. Today, keeping measures not in line with what shall be done, we are going in the wrong direction.

A commission has been created at ICCAT concerning this fishery, only one meeting has been held in Brasil, we cannot ignore sport and recreational fishery. We hardly wish the above mentioned problems to be discussed in a future meeting that could be fixed at the 19th extraordinary meeting of Genova.

All these proposals could solve in the short term the problems experienced by sport and recreational fishery. If fish resources evolve positively as it is the case today, we shall define new quota.

We would like our demand to be examined by Panel 2 and we are ready and available to explain our position if this is necessary.

### Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 2

There is finally good news for Atlantic bluefin tuna – the science-based management measures developed by Panel 2 over the last five years are working. The 2014 stock assessment update indicates growth in both populations, particularly in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. This Panel and bluefin tuna stakeholders should be proud of the progress made.

However, there is still considerable uncertainty regarding the degree of rebuilding, and this is not the time to change course by prematurely increasing quotas and jeopardizing the uncertain population increase. Maintaining the current quotas on both sides of the Atlantic will allow continued population growth until a new and improved stock assessment is available in 2016, which will provide more accurate and robust information about stock status along with advice on the appropriate quota levels that will ensure full recovery of the species.

We urge the members of Panel 2 to continue their strong stewardship of the Atlantic bluefin tuna resource by following the most prudent and responsible science-based course:

#### 1. Maintain the western Atlantic bluefin tuna quota at 1,750 t for 2015 and 2016, in line with the scientific advice:

- The 2014 assessment update found that the population is still at just 55% of the already-depleted 1970 level, regardless of which stock-recruitment relationship is used.
- There is a strong likelihood that the estimate of the western spawning stock biomass is artificially high. The SCRS states that factors other than actual population growth could have contributed to the estimates of increased biomass, including increased abundance of eastern bluefin in the West Atlantic as the eastern stock rebuilds (i.e., mixing) and changes in management and fishing patterns in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL) that may have caused that index of abundance to no longer be “biologically plausible.” Removing the GSL index from the assessment leads to a 33% reduction in the population estimate, and even just splitting it to account for the temporal change in management leads to a similarly less optimistic perception of stock status.
- Maintaining the quota at 1,750 t is already a moderate management approach. The updated SCRS management advice states that maintaining the western quota at the current level of 1,750 t is “expected to allow the population to increase more quickly” and may allow scientists to discern the more realistic recruitment scenario. The SCRS also states that there is a 50% chance that a quota of “less than 2,250 t” would maintain or increase the current population levels by the 2019 rebuilding deadline, meaning that there is also a 50% likelihood that the population would decline at this increased quota level. Further, under either quota level, the assessment suggests that the population will actually decline in the short-term and that the quota would have to be reduced to 750 t to prevent such a decline.

In light of the SCRS advice and the clear need to support continued population growth, any quota above 1,750 t would lead to an unacceptably high risk that progress could be reversed, which would undermine the Panel 2-developed recovery program. For the last three decades, nearly every time there have been estimates of measurable growth in the western population, ICCAT has increased the quota, driving the stock back down and condemning it to continued low abundance. We strongly urge Panel 2 to not make that same mistake this year. Otherwise, in just five years, ICCAT could be facing its first ever recovery plan failure.

#### 2. Maintain the eastern bluefin tuna quota at 13,400 t for 2015 and 2016, in line with the lower bound of the scientific advice:

- The 2014 assessment update shows population growth within all scenarios analyzed. However, even with this growth, under one of the three recruitment scenarios used by the SCRS, the population is still just 55 to 67 percent of the recovery target.

- The SCRS repeatedly cites a high level of uncertainty in the 2014 assessment update, even higher than the uncertainty related to the 2012 assessment results: “Although the situation has improved regarding recent catch, there are still uncertainties about the speed and magnitude of the SSB increase, key modeling parameters for bluefin tuna productivity, the current and future recruitment levels, the stock structure within the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic stock and the level of IUU catch...”
- Given this uncertainty, the SCRS was not able to provide clear scientific advice on a safe level of quota increase for the next two years. While scientists agreed that “maintaining current TAC or moderately and gradually increasing over recent TACs under the current management scheme should not undermine the success of the rebuilding plan,” they could not reach agreement “about the upper limit for such an increase that would not jeopardize the recovery of the stock.” At the same time, they were also “not able to reach a consensus on the number of steps to complete the rebuilding plan, or on the management strategies.”
- A recent paper published in the scientific literature by four of the leading SCRS bluefin scientists, which describes the sources and implications of uncertainty in the 2012 eastern bluefin assessment, recommends that “management decisions (when they appear to be successful) should be kept constant until the recovery is achieved.” The current quota is successful since it is allowing population growth, and it should be maintained until full population recovery is confirmed by the SCRS\*.
- Recent gains in the eastern population may be in jeopardy if fishery managers do not put effective controls in place, namely a robust electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation system (eBCD) to deter illegal fishing and reduce the chance that actual catch will exceed quotas in the future.

With no clear scientific advice on a safe level of quota increase for 2015, and given the lack of a comprehensive eBCD system, the most prudent management response is to maintain the quota at the current level, in line with the more precautionary bound of the scientific advice. Panel 2 should focus its effort over the next two years leading up to the 2016 stock assessment on developing a “new phase to the current recovery plan,” per the SCRS advice, including through development of a harvest control rule informed by management strategy evaluation.

### **3. Include any scientific research quotas within the allocation of the science-based total allowable catch (TAC):**

Projections of various quota levels assume that all mortality is accounted for within the projected quota, whether it be commercial, recreational, dead discards, or research-related. In the 2014 SCRS Executive Summary for western bluefin tuna, the SCRS states that “Should the Commission decide to have a scientific research quota...then that quota should be included within a TAC that is consistent with the scientific advice...” This advice is clear and unequivocal and should be followed for all ICCAT stocks, regardless of the purpose of the research quota. The use of a scientific research quota as a funding source for the critically important Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) is valid, but that research quota must be included within the science-based eastern TAC to ensure that it helps, rather than harms, the populations’ recovery.

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\* JM Fromentin, S Bonhommeau, H Arrizabalaga, LT Kell. 2014. The spectre of uncertainty in management of exploited fish stocks: The illustrative case of Atlantic bluefin tuna. *Marine Policy* 47:8-14.

**Statement by Ecology Action Centre to Panel 2**

Ecology Action Centre is a membership-based, civil society organization that represents the interests of the public. We know that the public cares deeply about the long-term management of our common and public resources. They remain concerned about bluefin tuna management. While the issues surrounding western bluefin tuna *are* nuanced, the public does understand that it is too soon to increase the pressure on their bluefin, a population that was identified by a Canadian scientific body as endangered just two years ago.

During the plenary session yesterday, we heard about the unfavorable performance review in years past, and the public's poor perception of the Commission and its work. We celebrate signs of recovery of western and eastern bluefin tuna and the hard work by CPCs. But, just as the reputation of ICCAT is turning a corner, now is *not* the time to reverse these positive trends and once again make risky decisions regarding the management of a public resource.

Despite the proclamations of the Commission and Panel 2 Chairs regarding increased transparency, we are surprised and concerned by the lack of transparency in quota negotiations this year. When negotiations all occur behind closed doors, it compromises the legitimacy of the process that the Commission is trying so hard to prove is effective. The members of our civil society deserve to know what negotiations and decisions are being made on their behalf, which requires discussion to be conducted transparently.

To this end, when deciding on the quota for western Atlantic bluefin tuna, the action to take this year is simple: Keep doing what you have been doing in recent years. It's working. A quota at the existing level of 1750 t can allow the population to continue to recover. It has taken a number of years and a lot of hard work and sacrifice to repair the reputation of ICCAT and the trajectory of western bluefin tuna. Things are finally starting to look better, and we urge parties not to risk all of these gains by returning to risky management that favors short-term economic gains over the long-term health of the bluefin population so that we, and the public, can take pride in work of the Commission.

## Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

## Philippines' payback plan (Plan D)

Payback for 2012 overcatch	143
Payback for 2013 overcatch	345
Total overcatches	488

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total payback
Payback per year	120	100	100	100	68	488
Remaining balance	368	268	168	68	0	
Assumptions: Annual catch limit remains at 140 t for 2014 to 2016. The catch limit remains the same for the succeeding years.						

## Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

## Requests to transfer the balance of uncaught 2013 southern albacore allocation

*Namibia*

Namibia, pursuant to Recommendation 13-06 paragraph 4b, would hereby like to inform the Commission of its intention to carry-over its underage of its annual quota for 2013 in the adjustment year 2015.

*South Africa*

1. According to Recommendation 13-06 clause 4, “Any unused portion or excess of the individual annual catch limits may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective catch limit during or before the adjustment year”. Clause 4 further states that “Underages of the annual quota may be added to the respective quota for each CPC, to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota”.
2. In line with Recommendation 13-06 clause 4(b), South Africa would like to notify the Commission of their request to transfer the 2013 underage to the amount of 1250 t which is equivalent to 25% of our 2013 allocation of 10 000 t shared with Namibia to be caught and landed during 2015.
3. In the event more underages are requested from the Commission by other CPCs than the remainder of what is available in terms of the current TAC (24 000 t), South Africa is amenable to a *pro rata* allocation of the available TAC among those CPCs requesting complementation of their quotas, in the proportion of their original quotas.

*Chinese Taipei*

Chinese Taipei would like to inform Panel 3 that Chinese Taipei intends to use the 2013 underage of southern albacore catch in 2015. Based on the catch report, the provisional catches of southern albacore was 8,591 t in 2013, and hence the underage will be 4481 t. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4a) of Rec. 13-06, CPCs may carry over up to 25% of their initial quota from 2013 to 2015.

Hence, Chinese Taipei intends to carry over an underage of 3250 t to 2015, and requests that this be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

**A schedule of CPCs requesting 2013 underages as per 2012 allocations and their apportionments**

**Table 1.** A Schedule of CPCs requesting 2013 underages as per 2012 allocations and their apportionments.

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Original TAC per 2013 table</i>	<i>25.00%</i>	<i>4852</i>
Namibia	5000	1250.00	810.29
South Africa	5000	1250.00	810.29
Brazil	3500	875.00	567.20
Uruguay	1500	375.00	243.09
Chinese Taipei	13000	3250.00	2106.75
Angola		0.00	0.00
Belize	300	75.00	48.62
China		0.00	0.00
Cote d'Ivoire		0.00	0.00
Curaçao		0.00	0.00
EU	1540	385.00	249.57
Japan		0.00	0.00
Korea		0.00	0.00
Philippines		0.00	0.00
St. Vincent & Grenadines		0.00	0.00
UK-St Helena	100	25.00	16.21
Vanuatu		0.00	0.00
	<b>29940</b>	<b>7485</b>	<b>4852</b>



**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9****Oceana statement to Panel 4**

A broad array of challenges faces Panel 4 at this 19th Special Meeting of the Commission. Among the most pressing issues, Oceana would like to emphasise the need to improve management of two types of fish for which the science has clearly identified problems and where management by ICCAT is blatantly lacking: Mediterranean swordfish and sharks. Mediterranean swordfish has been overfished for more than a decade, yet there is no real plan for its recovery. Sharks accounted for 12% of all catches reported to ICCAT in 2013, and yet most sharks are without any management under ICCAT – illegal shark finning continues, commercially-caught species are fished without limits, and some highly threatened shark species continue to be fished and landed.

Oceana urges ICCAT CPCs to apply, for once, precautionary management to all species under ICCAT's purview, including critically needed measures for both Mediterranean swordfish and sharks.

**Mediterranean swordfish**

The 2014 assessment of Mediterranean swordfish showed, as has each assessment since 2003, that this stock is overfished and subject to continued overfishing. Fishing mortality is twice the estimated  $F_{MSY}$  and biomass is 70% lower than estimated  $B_{MSY}$  levels, with current exploitation levels capable of producing a rapid stock decline. Despite these clear warning signs, the stock remains mismanaged; the few management measures put in place to date are inadequate to allow the stock to recover, and not all of these measures are enforced. The SCRS has not produced any significant management recommendations for rebuilding the stock to MSY levels, nor has ICCAT requested the SCRS to do so.

Oceana calls on ICCAT CPCs to address overfishing of Mediterranean swordfish by:

- Adopting a recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish with a clear management target to restore the stock to MSY levels within a given period.
- Requesting the SCRS to conduct a new stock assessment in 2015, based around the recovery target, including providing specific advice on management scenarios and recommendations to achieve it.
- Balancing fleet capacity with fishing possibilities within MSY.

**Sharks**

During the last two years, ICCAT has not agreed any significant new management measures for sharks. With many shark species of interest to ICCAT considered threatened or nearly threatened, and increasing global attention on the need for cooperative management and conservation of sharks, it is clearly long overdue for ICCAT to demonstrate that it can manage its shark fisheries responsibly.

Oceana calls on ICCAT Contracting Parties to take immediate management action on three major aspects of shark management:

***1. Require sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached, thereby closing long-standing loopholes in the ICCAT ban on shark finning***

In 2004, ICCAT adopted Rec. 04-10 in an attempt to prohibit the wasteful practice of shark finning, but this recommendation includes loopholes allow illegal finning to continue. Incentives for finning remain, particularly for species prohibited for retention, or whose meat has low commercial value.

Fisheries scientists recommend that the most effective approach to banning shark finning is to land sharks with their fins still naturally attached. A growing number of ICCAT CPCs are already adopting 'fins-attached' policies, including major shark fishing CPCs that together account for more than 75% of shark catches reported to ICCAT – suggesting that fins-attached is a feasible option for implementation across the Convention area.

By requiring sharks to be landed with their fins attached, ICCAT would finally implement an enforceable ban on shark finning, would aid collection of key species-specific data on shark catches, and would help to enforce prohibitions on threatened species whose fins are valuable in trade. ICCAT should not permit a small minority of CPCs to once again block this measure from being adopted.

**2. Set science-based, precautionary catch limits for major commercially fished shark species in ICCAT fisheries, such as shortfin mako**

Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) was identified by the SCRS as the second most vulnerable shark species to overfishing by longliners, and is listed by the IUCN as Vulnerable in the Atlantic Ocean and Critically Endangered in the Mediterranean Sea. Its capture, retention, and trade have been prohibited under the Barcelona Convention and GFCM, but shortfin mako remains unmanaged by ICCAT, despite the fact that 22 CPCs currently report catching this species.

The last stock assessment of shortfin mako in 2012 produced very uncertain results, and the SCRS recommendation is straightforward: catches of shortfin makos should not be permitted to increase until more reliable stock assessment results are available.

**3. Prohibit the retention, landing, and trade of highly threatened species, such as porbeagles**

Porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) are critically endangered in the Mediterranean and North-East Atlantic, and endangered in the North-West Atlantic. The joint ICCAT/ICES porbeagle assessment in 2009 concluded that stocks were so depleted that recovery would take decades, under if there were no longer any catches.

Some nations and international bodies have already implemented conservation measures for porbeagle within the ICCAT Convention area. Retention, landing, and/or directed fisheries are prohibited by the EU, Uruguay, and NEAFC. In the Mediterranean, retention, landing, and trade are prohibited under the Barcelona Convention and GFCM. Globally, a CITES Appendix II listing of porbeagle entered into effect in September 2014, thereby requiring controls on international trade.

Within ICCAT, however, no management measures have yet been adopted for porbeagle, even though five years have now passed since the porbeagle assessment was carried out.

**Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9**

**Statement by the European Union on the fins attached draft recommendation<sup>1</sup> to Panel 4**

The European Union is very pleased to see increasing support in ICCAT for the "fins attached" proposal which has been co-sponsored by 15 CPCs this year. The European Union would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to all Delegations that have provided support for this proposal. However we are disappointed that again it was not possible to endorse this proposal at a moment when another RFMO was able to take this important step.

Last week, the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) adopted, at the initiative of the EU, a recommendation banning the finning practices for sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by NEAFC. This is clearly an important milestone in the way to ensure sustainability for sharks at the international level.

The EU considers that it is high time that ICCAT follows the call of the UN GA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries and takes concrete measures to prohibit fisheries conducted solely for the purpose of harvesting shark fins and to require that all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached.

Sharks are very much associated to ICCAT fisheries<sup>2</sup>. Hence adopting a fins naturally attached policy in ICCAT would have a significant impact on the conservation of sharks.

We know that some CPCs use a fins-to-carcass weight ratio at landing for control purposes. However, recent scientific evidence clearly indicates that the fins-to-carcass weight ratio varies widely among species and therefore this ratio is not sufficient to prevent that sharks carcasses are discarded for the purpose of keeping only fins onboard.

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<sup>1</sup> Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT. Proposal by Belize, Brazil, European Union, Ghana, Panama, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, Guatemala, Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon.

<sup>2</sup> In the context of ICCAT fisheries by-catch could refer to that *part of the catch which is not the primary target of the fishing effort*. It consists of both fish which is retained and marketed and that which is discarded or released (incidental by-catch).

We also recognise that implementing a fins attached policy requires considerable efforts from the industry. But at the same time the EU would like to stress that many CPCs, including the EU, have already undertaken such efforts.

Having said this, the EU remains committed to working with all parties to rally full support for this measure in the future.

#### **Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9**

##### **Joint statement by Ecology Action Centre, Defenders of Wildlife, Pew Charitable Trusts, Humane Society International, Oceana and WWF to Panel 4**

The proper management of sharks by ICCAT is of great importance, due to their inherent vulnerability to overexploitation and the high numbers that are caught in ICCAT fisheries.

We warmly welcome the progress made by the future of the ICCAT Working Group, particularly with regard to sharks. It is essential that ICCAT formally includes shark species caught in ICCAT fisheries in the amended convention. The list of sharks included in the SCRS recommendation provides a good basis to further progress this work. We also welcome the fact that the Fins Naturally Attached proposal is receiving growing political support, and hope to be able to welcome its adoption later this week. However it is essential to take action on individual shark species as well.

Porbeagle sharks are critically endangered in the Convention area. We note that the ICES advice for the North-East Atlantic stock in 2014 recommended on the basis of the precautionary approach that no fishing for porbeagle should be permitted and that landings of porbeagle should not be allowed. We therefore welcome the fact that the EU has put forward a proposal on this basis.

Over 5,000 metric tons of shortfin mako have been reported to have been caught annually in ICCAT fisheries in recent years, yet the Atlantic shortfin mako stocks are still not subject to ICCAT management. The SCRS has repeatedly recommended that the fishing mortality of shortfin mako sharks not be increased, but no action has been taken by the Commission. The proposals by the United States and the EU offer a path toward the sustainable management of mako sharks by limiting catches to their current level.

Action on sharks is urgently needed this year. We recommend that the Commission, as a matter of priority, agrees on strong measures to safeguard porbeagle and shortfin mako sharks, along with moving forward the Fins Naturally Attached proposal. We encourage other CPCs to actively support these proposals.

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) was opened on Wednesday, 12 November 2014 by the Chairman, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States).

### 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Justin Turple (Canada) was appointed to serve as Rapporteur.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda had been circulated prior to the 2014 meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC).

The Chairman proposed the reinsertion of *Actions taken on collection of shark data* as agenda item 5.4. This item was included on the 2014 annotated agenda and has been on the COC agenda in previous years.

It was further proposed by the Chairman that the review of shark measure implementation pursuant to [Rec. 12-05] and proposed by the European Union be undertaken under this item as well as in the CPC-by-CPC review, as appropriate. To facilitate this review, the Secretariat prepared “Information received in accordance with Rec. 12-05”, which summarizes CPC responses to the requirement in [Rec. 12-05] to report on implementation of ICCAT shark measures in 2013.

The Committee agreed with these changes and the revised agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

The Chairman then briefly outlined his approach to completing the work specified in the agenda. There would be a general discussion on issues presented under agenda items 4 and 5, and then the Committee would proceed with individual CPC reviews under 4/5 in the context of review of the “Compliance summary tables”. To the extent appropriate, the Chairman recommended that issues of individual CPCs be raised during the CPC-by-CPC review.

The Chairman noted that he would convene a “Friends of the Chair” group to assist in making recommendations for actions to address situations of non-compliance. As in past meetings, the small group would reflect the geographical distribution of ICCAT CPCs. The Committee approved the convening of the group. Representatives from the following CPCs participated in the group: Canada, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Kingdom of Morocco and Uruguay.

### 4. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from 2013 meeting

The Chairman initiated a general discussion about the responses to letters of identification and letters of concern issued by the COC Chairman to some CPCs after the 2013 ICCAT meeting, which were collated by the Secretariat in “Responses from Contracting Parties to letters of concern and letters of identification received before 10 October 2014”.

In 2013, three CPCs were identified under [Rec. 06-13]. A response was received from only one CPC, which was after the deadline. 18 CPCs received letters of concern. Responses to the letters of concern were received from eleven CPCs, and two of these were received after the deadline. Three additional letters were received the week leading up to the meeting.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of timeliness and completeness in responding to letters as responsive actions by the concerned CPCs will advance the work of the Compliance Committee, the SCRS and the Commission. Improvements in response rates were noted from past years. Also, the Chairman clarified that a letter of concern is not necessarily a preliminary step towards identification under [Rec. 06-13], but a means to continue the work of the Compliance Committee when resolution of a particular issue is not possible during the annual meeting.

The Chairman proposed that specific CPC issues addressed by the responses would be taken up under Agenda Item 5 in conjunction with examination of the Compliance Summary Tables.

## **5. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements**

### ***5.1 Compliance tables***

The Chairman noted that under [Rec. 11-11], Compliance Reporting Tables must be submitted by CPCs by September 15 and are the primary means of evaluating each CPC's compliance with catch and size limits and for ensuring transparency in adjusting quotas and applying payback rules. At the annual meeting, the Compliance Committee reviews the tables and adjusts as necessary to resolve any discrepancies to ensure it reflects the proper application of ICCAT rules, and presents to the Commission for its endorsement and inclusion in the meeting report.

The Chairman observed that as of the September 15 deadline, 13 CPCs had not provided compliance tables and two CPCs provided tables late. The Chairman and Secretariat provided explanation, as requested from the floor, concerning formatting changes from previous years. The Chairman assured all CPCs that the tables would be updated to include CPC revisions and corrections received.

One specific issue raised by the European Union sought clarification on the "Compliance tables received in 2014" that indicates a problem due to a high percentage of minimum size bluefin tuna. The EU stated it was their belief that there was a mistake in the data that suggests they have exceeded the limit. The Chairman confirmed that the Compliance Committee took note of this amendment and that the revised tables would reflect the corrections submitted by the EU.

The Committee adopted all compliance tables at the meeting, with the exception of the table for Southern Albacore, which could not be adopted pending discussions in Panel 3 of the payback plan submitted by the Philippines (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**), as well as the final adjusted quotas on the basis of 2013 underages (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9**). It was agreed that the revised table would be adopted by correspondence following approval of the above mentioned documents by Panel 3.

The compliance tables are attached to this report as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

### ***5.2 CPC Annual Reports, statistical data summaries, compliance summaries***

Annual Reports submitted by the CPCs were compiled by the Secretariat into a document. The Chairman recalled the *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* (Ref. 12-13). This format was designed to assist the Secretariat in processing information, streamline reporting by CPCs, and facilitate review of compliance by the Compliance Committee.

The Chairman commended CPCs that used the proper format, as this presentation greatly aids the work of the Commission. However, the Chairman lamented that only 50% of CPCs used the correct format. Many CPCs continued to submit information in old formats, did not submit any Part II of the Annual Report, or did not submit any Annual Reports. Such deficiencies severely impede the Compliance Committee's ability to conduct meaningful review of CPC implementation of ICCAT requirements as well as the ability of the SCRS and other relevant subcommittees to carry out actions that require such information. The Chairman reminded CPCs that even if they do not have a directed or by-catch fishery for a particular fishery, submissions of annual reports are still required.

The Chairman also noted that during other sessions of the Commission's 2014 meeting, it has been observed that ICCAT reporting requirements, including annual report forms, could be further streamlined by eliminating redundant reporting requirements (such as multiple requirements to provide the same Task 1 data). This would help reduce the reporting burden on CPCs and processing burden on the Secretariat, and would reduce the amount of information that the Compliance Committee must review to assess member compliance. The Chairman indicated his intent to raise this issue under agenda item 9, Recommendations by the Commission to Improve Compliance, with a view to furthering such initiatives.

The Chairman drew attention to statistical data summaries that were presented in the "Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2014".

In this report, the Secretariat noted the improvements in terms of data submission using the ICCAT electronic forms. However, the statistical work requested of the Secretariat in recent years, together with the lack of adherence to deadlines established for data submission, have constituted an enormous amount of work for the Secretariat, which is not sustainable.

Adverse trends identified by the Secretariat included loss of detail in time/space stratification, effort classification, and species composition. Additionally, FAD management plans are required under [Rec. 11-01], but only four were received.

Lastly, the Committee made use of the "Compliance summary tables", prepared by the Secretariat, to conduct a CPC-by-CPC review of all issues of non-compliance that could be identified from the reports and information that had been submitted to the Secretariat. Explanations about investigations and responsive actions taken by each CPC were recorded in the "Compliance summary tables", reflected in **Appendix 3 to Annex 10**.

As a preliminary matter, the Chairman opened the floor for discussion of cross-cutting or systemic issues of CPC compliance that warranted consideration prior to the CPC-by-CPC review.

The primary issue highlighted was the number of infractions recorded in observer reports concerning failure of vessels to keep bound logbooks, which are required under certain ICCAT recommendations including [Rec. 03-13] and [Rec. 13-07], paragraph 67, in case of bluefin the vessel masters shall keep a bound or electronic logbook. Japan indicated it understood that a ring binder is acceptable. A number of other CPCs indicated disagreement and expressed concern that use of a ring binder could allow for falsification of logbook entries by making removal of pages or insertion of revisions easier and thereby undermine the purpose of the logbook. Philippines noted that the IOTC had conducted a workshop on logbooks and recommended that ICCAT consider the deliberations of that body to aid its implementation of this requirement.

The Chairman also noted that a number of CPCs that harvest swordfish had not submitted swordfish fishery development management plans. The Chairman understands this is required for north Atlantic swordfish regardless of the size of the fishery. One CPC expressed a contrary view that the requirement does not apply in their case, as they do not have a directed fishery and the quota is an allowance for bycatch in what is primarily a southern Atlantic fishery.

### ***5.3 Inspection and observer reports***

Summary information on inspection reports from the deployment of vessels under the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection [Rec. 12-03, Annex 8] was compiled by the Secretariat. The Chairman noted the types of infringements cited in the inspection reports, including bluefin tuna catch without authorizations, poor quality of video records of transfers, incomplete logbooks, inoperable VMS, discrepancies in the estimation of live catch and irregularities in completing BCDs. Under the terms of the program, flag CPCs were notified of the inspections in order to conduct investigations and take follow-up action if required.

Summary information on reports from the deployment of observers under the Regional Observer Program for bluefin tuna [Rec. 12-03, Annex 7] was compiled by the Secretariat. The Chairman noted the types of possible infringements recorded in the observer reports, including failure to record tuna mortalities occurring in transfers, discrepancies in estimating the amounts transferred, issues with video quality/accessibility, incomplete BCDs and logbook entries, and transfers at sea. Flag CPCs received copies of the reports in order to conduct investigations and take follow-up actions if required.

The Chairman drew attention to the “Secretariat report to the Compliance Committee”, which summarizes submissions relating to the implementation of [Rec. 12-07] *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port*. This measure requires CPCs to submit to ICCAT lists of ports in which landings by foreign flagged vessels are authorized. Seventeen CPCs did not submit this information, which makes it difficult for the Secretariat to determine applicability and for the Secretariat to assess compliance. The Chairman requested that CPCs that have not yet submitted this information to do so, even if the CPC does not allow foreign flagged fishing vessels entry into any of its ports. Additionally, pursuant to [Rec. 12-07], Morocco, the EU, and Namibia submitted inspection reports, including 11 reporting alleged infringements.

#### **5.4 Actions taken on collection of shark data**

The Chairman noted that in 2012, ICCAT adopted *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management* [Rec. 12-05] as a means to improve the Commission’s ability to review the implementation of and compliance with seven ICCAT shark measures by requiring CPCs to report steps taken to implement these measures by 2013. However, the review envisaged for 2013 did not take place, and therefore such a review was requested in 2014.

To facilitate this review, all CPC reports pursuant to [Rec. 12-05] on implementation of shark measures were compiled by the Secretariat in “Information received in accordance with Rec. 12-05”. Seven CPCs reported that this requirement was not applicable, and 13 CPCs provided no response to this reporting requirement. The Chairman observed that the lack of any response to this reporting requirement in the Annual Report can likely be attributed in part to the fact that a number of CPCs did not follow the Annual Report format that includes the form for reporting this information, which underscores the importance of the Annual Report format to ensuring that CPCs report data necessary for the Commission to carry out its work.

A number of CPCs expressed concern that some CPCs reported that shark the measures are not applicable to them. The EU, United States, and Japan all specifically implored all parties to submit outstanding reports and/or data.

#### **5.5 Other relevant information**

##### *Information submitted by non-governmental organizations*

The Chairman summarized the document “Report submitted by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in accordance with Rec. 08-09”, which contained one submission received in accordance with Recommendation 08-09 from the non-governmental organization Oceana regarding three cases of alleged potential non-compliance. The first concerned alleged use of identities of ICCAT vessels by vessels listed on another RFMO’s IUU list. The second and third concern alleged use of driftnets to fish for swordfish in the Mediterranean. CPC written responses to the allegations were also included in the document referred to above. The Chairman recommended that CPCs present any responses to these allegations in the context of the CPC-by-CPC review, with time for the observer delegation to intervene following the CPC review.

##### *Bycatch*

“Information in relation to reports on shark and other by-catch species” contained information on seabird bycatch, included reports from ten CPCs on seabird interactions and mitigation measures, and summarized CPC reporting status regarding implementation of ICCAT [Rec. 10-09] concerning sea turtles and ICCAT [Rec. 11-10] on collection of data on bycatch and discards.

##### *Access Agreements*

Reports on Access Agreements were summarized and made available as Table 12 to the “Secretariat report to the Compliance Committee”. The Secretariat flagged specific reporting deficiencies on Access Agreements where one CPC has reported an access with another CPC that did not report such an agreement. It was noted that sometimes these are private agreements and one CPC has chosen to report and the other has not, consistent with terms of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements* [Rec. 11-16]. The EU noted that its agreements did not appear in Annex but that such information is on their website. One CPC intervened to request that the EU provide this information in full to the Secretariat so it can be included in the report rather than as a web link to an EU site, which will improve transparency.

*Chartering*

Paragraph 13 of Recommendation 13-14 requires parties to notify the Executive Secretary of chartering arrangements (including their terms and duration) at the time the arrangement is made. Compliance with Recommendation 13-14 was addressed in the “Secretariat report to the Permanent Working Group for the improvement of ICCAT statistics and conservation measures (PWG)”. The United States intervened to express concern about notification of the arrangement being submitted late or even after the agreement had actually ended. This is contrary to measure’s provisions and the transparency they are intended to achieve.

*Implementation of Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in case of Non-fulfilment of Reporting Obligations [Rec. 11-15]*

Recommendation 11-15 provides that “CPCs that do not report Task I data, including zero catches, for one or more species for a given year, in accordance with SCRS data reporting requirements, shall be prohibited from retaining such species as of the year following the lack or incomplete reporting until such data have been received by the ICCAT Secretariat.”

The Chairman recommended that a draft resolution by the United States and the EU containing guidelines for the implementation of this measure is discussed under agenda item 10 (“Other Matters”). Regarding the substance of the proposal, the Chairman highlighted that the text reflected guidelines that the Compliance Committee and PA2 agreed, at their joint meeting in Seville in 2012, to apply on a provisional basis.

The Chairman summarized the “Secretariat report on the implementation of Recommendation 11-15”. This report presented Task 1 reporting status in a manner that will greatly improve the Compliance Committee’s ability to apply to apply [Rec. 11-15] consistent with its requirements. At the 2013 meeting, the first year of application of [Rec. 11-15], the Compliance Committee was unable to fully apply this measure because the chart made available to the Compliance Committee that presented Task 1 reporting information did not present the information in a way that enabled Compliance Committee to determine if a blank meant that zero catches were reported, or that no Task 1 data was submitted for the species. As a result, application of the measure was limited in application to CPCs that provided no Task 1 data for any species.

A number of CPCs expressed concern about the number blanks in the “Secretariat report for the implementation of Recommendation 11-15”, indicating many instances of CPC non-reporting of Task 1 data. One CPC also expressed concern that highlighting in the table instances where the CPC did not report data this year for species for which they had reported in previous years could incorrectly suggest that the CPC was failing to report actual catches in this reporting year. A number of CPCs also noted that they did not report for certain species because they have no fishery for that species. The Chairman and the Secretariat responded that under the terms of [Rec. 11-15], reporting of zero catches is required in such circumstances.

As an interim step to facilitate CPC reporting of zero catches so that the prohibitions under [Rec. 11-15] are not applied in such cases, the Chairman proposed that this year, CPCs could provide confirmation of zero catches by filling out blanks in the “Secretariat report for the implementation of Recommendation 11-15” at the meeting, or via correspondence by December 15. The Chairman emphasized that this should not be seen as a precedent for implementation in future years, and that following the annual meeting CPCs should also report such catches (including relevant zero catches) to the Task 1 database to ensure this information is reflected in data relied upon by the SCRS. In the longer term, the Chairman highlighted the need for ICCAT to consider other ways for CPCs to indicate zero catch for specific purposes of [Rec. 11-15]. It was noted that paragraph 2 on the United States’ and EU’s proposed guidelines on the implementation of [Rec. 11-15] contains a request for the Commission that the Secretariat work with the SCRS to develop a more efficient means by which to report data for the purposes of [Rec. 11-15].



One CPC noted that [Rec. 11-15] seeks to ensure not only that data on all species is provided, but that such data is complete. The Chairman concurred that completeness is addressed in the measure, but that the Compliance Committee was not in a position at this meeting to make determinations on completeness of Task 1 data as this information was not provided in the report in the “Secretariat report for the implementation of Recommendation 11-15”, and the Commission had not yet identified how this aspect of the recommendation would be implemented. The Chairman also noted that Task 1 reporting information had not been presented to the Compliance Committee on a stock level, therefore the Compliance Committee was only in a position at this meeting to apply the measure to countries that did not provide any catch report on a particular species. The Chairman suggested that implementing at the stock level and with respect to completeness could be taken on at future meetings as part of a progressive implementation of [Rec. 11-15]. The Chairman also committed to work with the Secretariat over the inter-sessional period to further refine how CPC Task 1 reporting status is presented to the Compliance Committee.

Honduras submitted a statement to the Compliance Committee (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**).

#### *Observer interventions*

Pew stressed the importance of compliance and the ability of this body to enforce management measures. It shares concern expressed by one CPC about reports of shark catch for species that are subject to zero retention requirements. Pew also expressed concern about regional observer program reports and compliance summary tables that indicate non-compliance, which must be followed by consequences from CPCs. When capacity issues are the problem, ICCAT should be providing assistance.

A representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization described the FAO’s Common Oceans Program - Tuna Project, highlighting opportunities for collaboration with ICCAT to improve compliance with ICCAT requirements and in other ways that can assist ICCAT and its CPCs to fulfill the Convention’s objectives.

### **6. Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs arising from Items 4 and 5**

The Chairman reported that the practice of constituting small Friends of Chair group represented by geographical area to review the “Compliance summary tables” and develop recommended actions was continued, and was very helpful. The Friends of the Chair met two times, consistent with past practice, and provided guidance to ensure a fair process and evaluation.

The Chairman provided an overview of how the group came to its recommendations on what actions should be taken with respect to each CPC to address issues of non-compliance. As a general rule, the group recommended that CPCs that submitted significantly incomplete or no data or used the improper forms receive letters of concern. Instances of multiplicity of non-compliance or recurrence over a number of years were also influential in considerations where a letter of concern has been recommended.

The COC adopted the “List of actions recommended by Friends of the Compliance Committee Chair in response to issues of non-compliance by ICCAT CPCs”, included in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**, which reflects Compliance Committee actions to address compliance issues, as amended by the Compliance Committee. The Compliance Committee determined to take no action in the case of 27 CPCs and to send letters of concern to 26. Most letter of concern issues involved data and reporting deficiencies. In addition, the COC lifted identifications of 3 CPCs. No CPCs were identified this year. In all, the Chairman observed that this outcome represents improved compliance by many ICCAT CPCs.

### **7. Review of information relating to NCPs and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Chairman introduced the “Secretariat report to the Compliance Committee”, which contained correspondence with non-CPCs (NCPs). Cambodia did not respond to continued ICCAT inquiries about fishing activity for ICCAT species. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to reach out again to Cambodia.

The Compliance Committee also took note of catches by non-CPCs in the report submitted by CARICOM, and recommended that the Commission extend a letter of invitation to Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia to participate as CPCs in future meetings, while noting significant catches of ICCAT species such as billfish and yellowfin in the case of some of these NCPs.

## **8. Review of requests for cooperating status**

[Rec. 03-20] requires an initial application for cooperating status and an annual review for those previously recognized as cooperators, and provides for the renewal of such status unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, including reporting requirements. The “Secretariat report to the Compliance Committee” and the Secretariat’s document “Compliance summary tables” reviewed the issues, if any, related to the current group of Cooperating non-contracting parties.

The Compliance Committee recommended, and the Commission approved, renewal of cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, El Salvador\*, Suriname, and reinstated this status for Guyana.

## **9. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance**

The COC Chairman recommended that the Compliance Committee and the Commission consider working with FAO/GEF on mechanisms to improve compliance by CPCs, and that the streamlining of ICCAT recommendations and reporting requirements discussed in STACFAD will help improve CPC compliance and Compliance Committee review.

## **10. Other matters**

The Compliance Committee could not reach consensus on a resolution containing guidelines on implementation of [Rec. 11-15], which was deferred to the 2015 meeting. However, the Compliance Committee and the Commission endorsed paragraph 2 of that proposal recommending that the Secretariat, as a matter of priority, with SCRS input and guidance, develop instructions to facilitate CPC reporting of zero catches and make adjustments to ICCAT Task I data reporting forms as necessary, that will enable efficient and clear CPC reporting of such zero catches.

Canada drew attention to information in the “Report submitted by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in accordance with Rec. 08-09” regarding two IUU-listed vessels using legitimate IMO registration numbers of other vessels. ICCAT has a mandate to investigate this matter further. Canada suggested that the issue of vessels fraudulently using registration numbers of other vessels, and the specific case of such actions by vessels “Snake” and “Viking”, be taken up by the PWG, including considering possible listing as IUU fishing vessels by ICCAT.

## **11. Adoption of Report and Adjournment**

The Chairman thanked the delegates for their efforts in the difficult but necessary work of the Compliance Committee. Improvements to the ICCAT compliance evaluation process have been made possible because of the hard work of the CPC delegates and this has strengthened the Commission for the benefit of all CPCs.

Compliance tables were approved, except in case of southern albacore, which was deferred for adoption by correspondence through the inter-sessional adoption of the meeting report, as discussion of that matter had not yet concluded in PA3.

The Chairman and the delegates acknowledged the efforts of Secretariat staff in the assembly of information to support the Committee and the skill of interpreters and translators in facilitating communication on highly technical issues, and thanked the rapporteur.

The Compliance Committee was adjourned.

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\* El Salvador subsequently became a Contracting Party to ICCAT on 5 December 2014.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10****Agenda**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from 2013 meeting.
5. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements
  - 5.1 Compliance tables
  - 5.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries Compliance summaries
  - 5.3 Inspection and observer report
  - 5.4 Other relevant information
6. Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs arising from Items 4 and 5
7. Review of information relating to NCPs and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of requests for cooperating status
9. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

**Compliance Tables Adopted in 2014**  
(Compliance in 2013, reported in 2014)

**NORTH ALBACORE** (All quantities are in metric tons)

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TAC	30200.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	5.90	4.30	20.30	22.20	244.10	245.70	179.70	177.80	250.00	250.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	416.00	351.00	155.00	230.00	-166.00	-101.00	125.00	50.00	250.00	200.00	280.00	280.00	418.00	
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	14.30	28.00	34.00	31.90	235.70	222.00	216.00	218.10	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	150.00	101.00	21.00	81.08	100.00	149.00	229.00	168.92	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	200.00	200.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	53.40	0.00	145.87	0.00	196.60	250.00	104.13	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
EU	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	15316.60	16413.48	21935.47	18607.00	12600.20	11503.32	5003.66	8323.13	27916.80	27916.80	26939.13	26939.13	26534.96	26939.13
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	250.00	250.00	250.00	249.73	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
JAPAN	516.79	478.68	638.88	553.26		483.42	285.30	1822.10	239.90	33.37	193.38	-1183.22	313.36	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	201.00	101.00	191.00	184.40	49.00	149.00	59.00	65.60	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	215.60
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	200.00	199.80	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
ST V & G.	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	157.90	329.10	304.50	286.00	192.10	20.90	16.40	-69.60	350.00	350.00	320.90	216.40	130.40	
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	17.10	23.00	46.80	66.70	232.90	227.00	203.20	183.30	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.35	0.76	0.20	0.30	249.60	249.24	249.80	249.70	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
USA	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	314.56	422.37	417.70	599.30	344.19	236.38	241.05	59.45	658.75	658.75	658.75	658.75	586.45	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	191.73	197.41	171.92	257.60	58.27	52.59	78.08	-7.60	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	288.00	247.40	312.00	180.70	-559.50	-556.90	-680.90	-549.60	-271.50	-309.50	-306.90	-368.90	-299.60	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	1587.00	1367.00	1180.00	2393.63	2402.60	2622.60	2609.62	1395.99	3989.60	3989.60	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	
TOTAL CATCH						19197.26	19871.32	26757.86											
Recommendation n°	09-05	09-05	11-04	11-04	13-05									07-02	09-05	09-05	09-05	11-04	13-05

BELIZE: Payback proposal from 2012 to 2014. Also received a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei for 2012-2013 (200 t transfer each year). As well as 200 t in 2014, 2015 and 2016 [Rec. 13-05].

EU: Shall transfer 20 t from its quota to Venezuela in 2014 [Rec. 13-05].

JAPAN: Is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch (2.2% in 2008, 3.2% in 2009 and 3.7% in 2010).

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2014 adjusted quota is 3789.62 t (=3271.7+3271.7\*25%-100-200) due to the underage of 2012 exceeding 25% of 2014 catch quota and transfer of 100 t to St. V&G and 200 t to Belize.

## SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial quota /catch limit					Reference years	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota (only applicable in case of overharvest)										
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average 1992-1996	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015					
TAC	29900	29900	24000	24000	24000																				
ANGOLA					50.00		0.00	0.00	168.00																
BRAZIL				3500.00	2160.00		270.80	1269.00	1856.58	1743.00				1757.00				3500.00	2060.00	2160.00					
NAMIBIA	TAC share 26336.30	TAC share 26336.30	TAC share 21000.00	10000.00	3600.00		1792.00	3791.00	2265.00	990.00	17208.73	21509.00	20330.58												
S. AFRICA				4400.00		4146.93	3380.00	3553.00	3526.10																
URUGUAY				1200.00	440.00	24.00	37.00	12.00	209.00																
CH. TAIPEI				13000.00	9400.00	10975.00	13032.00	12812.00	8519.00							4481.00									12650.00
BELIZE	360.00	360.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	327.00	303.00	364.00	171.00	87.00	204.00	-4.00	129.00	163.00					250.00	325.00					
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	80.05	61.02	65.12	0.00	19.95	38.98	34.88	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a						
CÔTE D'IVOIRE			100.00	100.00	100.00		43.40	0.00	50.00	0.00															
CURAÇAO					50.00					0.00															
EU	1914.70	1914.70	1540.00	1540.00	1470.00	1740.60	1170.60	410.16	521.99	455.00	1170.60	1129.84	1018.01	1085.00											
JAPAN	315.53	275.06	415.68	342.28			1217.83	1776.40	3550.60	1725.40	-902.30	-1501.34	-3134.92	-1383.12	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	1605.00						
KOREA	100.00	100.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	9.00	39.00	29.00	98.00	33.22	-63.00	8.00	52.00	116.78	63.00	-24.00	37.00	150.00	150.00	140.00					
PANAMA	119.90	119.90	100.00	100.00	25.00	109.00	1.00	0.00	12.00	3.00	118.90	100.00	88.00	97.00											
PHILIPPINES	100.00	100.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	0.00	95.00	96.00	293.00	495.00	5.00	4.00	-143.00	-345.00					20.00	40.00					
STV & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		47.10	94.00	92.10	97.40	52.90	6.00	7.90	2.60											
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	40.00	3.00	120.00	2.00	2.00	97.00	-20.00	78.00	98.00				80.00	100.00	125.00					
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.95	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a						
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		93.83	86.04	35.11	53.11	6.17	13.96	64.89	46.89		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00						
TOTAL CATCH							20322.49	24564.65																	
Rec. number	07-03	07-03	11-05	11-05	13-06										07-03	07-03	07-03	11-05	11-05	13-06					

BRAZIL: Rec. 11-05 establishes a TAC of 21,000 t and an individual catch limit of 3,500 t for Brazil.

BRAZIL: Transfer of 100 t to Japan from August 2014.

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: Agreed the transfer of 100 t from Brazil to Japan in 2014; the adjusted quota includes the transfer in 2014 of 50 t from Namibia and of 100 t from Uruguay.

NAMIBIA: Japan has agreed the transfer of 50 t from Namibia to Japan in 2014.

NAMIBIA: In 2014 South Africa shall transfer 250 t to Namibia.

PHILIPPINES: Multiyear payback plan agreed at 2014 Annual meeting attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**.

SOUTH AFRICA: Individual catch limit combined with Namibia of 10,000 t [Rec. 11-05].

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa transfers 250 t of its 2014 southern Atlantic albacore quota to Namibia as a once-off transfer [Rec. 13-06].

UK-OT: Intends to carry over 25% of its 2013 TAC forward to 2015 as underage.

URUGUAY: Notified to the Secretariat a transfer in 2014 of 100 t of its quota to Japan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 12,650 t (=9400+13000x25%) due to the underage of 2013 (4,481 t) exceeding 25% of 2013 catch quota.

**NORTH SWORDFISH**

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TAC	14000	13700	13700	13700	13700														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	12.70	25.60	21.00	16.10	54.80	41.90	46.50	48.30	67.50	67.50	67.50	64.40	64.40	67.50
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	106.00	184.00	141.00	142.00	89.00	11.00	75.00	63.00	195.00	195.00	216.00	205.00	270.00	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00	75.00		75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	50.00	50.00
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1345.60	1550.60	1488.50	1505.50	122.90	45.30	59.60	64.30	1477.80	1595.90	1548.10	1569.80	1966.30	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	74.00	74.70	59.00	95.95	5.00	5.30	46.30	4.05	79.00	80.00	105.30	100.00	100.00	100.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	29.94	0.00	6.60	1.37	24.12	46.80	68.40	73.63	54.06	46.80	75.00	75.00		
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5187.80	6110.68	6604.08	5567.90	3447.90	2886.22	1793.42	2829.60	8635.70	8996.90	8397.50	8397.50	7927.50	8397.50
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	89.80	0.60	0.00	17.85	30.90	79.40	100.00	82.15	120.70	80.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	681.31	669.20	437.50	405.20	1915.43	2038.23	2357.73	2709.53	2596.74	2707.43	2795.23	3114.73	3441.53	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.40	-159.50	-109.50	10.00	-4.40	-159.50	-109.50	10.00	60.00	50.00	45.60
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	963.00	781.00	770.00	1062.00	312.00	381.00	492.50	0.50	1275.00	1162.00	1262.50	1062.50	1062.50	
MAURITANIA					100.00														
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	35.00	37.00	40.00	32.00	165.00	246.50	260.00	268.00	283.50	283.50	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.50	25.00	25.00	37.50	34.50	37.50	37.50	37.50		
SENEGAL	400.00	400.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	11.00	43.00	30.10	43.20	389.00	557.00	344.90	387.92	600.00	600.00	375.00	431.12	485.00	
ST V & G.	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	17.00	10.70	8.30	4.21	98.50	101.80	104.20	108.29	115.50	112.50	112.50	112.50		
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	21.30	15.60	14.10	15.90	166.20	171.90	98.40	96.60	187.50	187.50	112.50	112.50		
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	4.20	6.55	1.40	14.40	28.30	45.95	51.10	38.10	32.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	2412.10	2773.70	3610.00	2955.00	3448.40	3086.80	1123.75	1778.75	5860.50	5860.50	4733.75	4733.75	4858.75	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	10.05	18.49	15.48	1.75	20.95	12.51	15.52	29.25	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	24.00	18.00	24.95	24.10	135.00	109.50	102.55	103.40	127.50	127.50	127.50	127.50	127.50	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	88.00	192.00	166.00	114.82	317.00	213.00	204.00	255.18	384.82	405.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	
Recommendation n°	09-02	10-02	11-02	11-02	13-02									06-02	10-02	11-02	11-02	11-02	11-02
DISCARDS																			
CANADA							7.80	111.00											
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL CATCH																			

BELIZE: Transfer of 75 t from Trinidad and Tobago [Rec. 11-02].

BRAZIL: According to [Rec. 13-02], for the year 2014, transfer of 25 t to Mauritania.

CANADA: Includes a 125 t transfer from Senegal, 35 t transfers from both Japan and Chinese Taipei for 2014 (as per Rec. 13-02) as well as 470 t transfer from the EU, and the underage from 2013 (64.3 t). In addition, 2012 discards have been taken off 2014 quota.

CHINA: In 2012 and 2013, transfers from Philippines (25 t) have been authorised [Rec. 11-02].

EU: Allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

EU: Quota transfer in 2014 to Canada of 470 t.

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: Adjusted quota in 2012 and 2013 can exclude 50 t transferred to Morocco and 35 t transferred to Canada [Rec. 11-02 and Rec. 13-02].

SENEGAL: Transfer of quota in 2014 of 125 t to Canada and of 25 t to Mauritania.

USA: 2014 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2014 adjusted quota is 370 t (=270+270\*50%-35) due to the underage of 2012 exceeding 50% of 2014 catch limit and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

MAURITANIA: From Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 100 t per year; Mauritania has not yet reported any catch in 2014.

## SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TAC	17000	15000	15000	15000	15000														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00														
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	121.00	206.00	197.00	136.00	66.50	-56.00	-40.50	-11.00	187.50	150.00	156.50	125.00	205.00	128.50
BRAZIL	3666.00	3785.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	2925.60	3033.00	2832.60	1312.30	3100.40	2585.00	2999.90	4597.70	6026.00	5618.00	5832.50	5910.00	5910.00	5910.00
CHINA	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	294.00	247.51	315.50	195.96	99.00	114.49	61.99	67.04	393.00	362.00	377.49	263.00	324.99	330.04
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	163.71	145.44	81.76	108.98	23.79	3.35	105.74	78.52	187.50	148.79	187.50	187.50		
EU	5282.00	5082.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	6083.30	4962.50	5061.40	4308.60	555.10	356.00	317.70	871.40	6638.40	5318.50	5379.10	5180.00	5141.70	5695.40
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	116.00	60.40	54.00	37.00	-90.00	-50.4	-4.14	50.72	26.00	10.00	49.86	87.72	49.30	
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	1213.74	1276.30	840.70	788.10	437.26	-425.30	447.56	-362.40	1651.00	851.00	1288.26	425.70	1298.56	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	47.30	19.50	69.50	8.00	10.70	19.50	69.50	50.00	58.00	50.00	52.70
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	526.50	348.10	404.70	421.80	791.50	1027.40	1276.75	1330.20	1318.00	1375.50	1681.45	1752.00		
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	13.00	51.00	51.00	44.00	38.00	24.00	24.00	31.00	47.00	75.00	75.00	74.00	74.00	
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	193.00	0.00			-93.00	100.00								
SENEGAL	389.00	401.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	180.00	222.00	161.83	178.40	282.00	395.00	463.67	400.60	462.00	617.00	625.50	579.00	500.75	402.90
SOUTH AFRICA	932.00	962.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	144.70	96.57	50.20	171.40	1387.30	1465.43	1550.80	1429.60	1532.00	1562.00	1601.00	1601.00		
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	37.50	37.50	37.50	32.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	
URUGUAY	1165.00	1204.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	222.00	179.00	40.00	103.50	1693.00	1784.00	2104.00	1774.50	1915.00	1954.00	2144.00	1878.00		
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.06	99.75	99.75	100.00	99.94	100.00	99.75	100.00	100.00	99.94	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	2.23	0.89	2.74	0.10	17.77	28.11	26.26	28.90	20.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	410.00	424.00	379.00	582.10	84.00	119.00	199.00	75.90	494.00	543.00	578.00	658.00	534.90	
TOTAL						12609.03	11252.71	10514.43											
Rec. n°	06-03	12-01	12-01	12-01	13-03									06-03	06-03	12-01	12-01	12-01	12-01

BELIZE: Received a 25 t transfer of S-SWO from USA 50 t from Brazil and 50 t from Uruguay. Payback proposal from Belize from 2013 to 2014.

BELIZE: Payback proposal from 2014 to 2015 (refer to doc. COC-304-2013 Annex).

BRAZIL: Allocates 100 t in 2014 to Japan.

EU: Allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

SOUTH AFRICA: Will transfer 600 t of its uncaught quota of 2010 to 2013 providing an adjusted quota of 1601 t for 2013.

USA: Adjusted quota for 2014 reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) under [Rec. 12-01].

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2014 adjusted quota includes 75.9 t of 2013 underage.

**EAST BLUEFIN**

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
TAC	13500	12900	12900	13400	13400														
ALBANIA	33.83	32.3	32.3	33.58	33.58		0.00		8.59		32.30		24.99	33.83	32.30	0.00	33.58	33.58	
ALGERIE	684.90	138.46	138.46	143.83	143.83	0.00	0.00	69.00	243.80	684.90	138.46	69.46	0	684.90	228.46	138.46	243.83	243.83	
CHINA	38.48	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	38.20	35.93	36.04	38.14	0.28	0.84	0.73	0.05	38.48	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	
CROATIA	393.50	376.01	376.01	390.59		388.60	375.00	373.79	389.00	4.90	1.00	2.22	1.59	393.50	376.01	376.01	390.59		
EGYPT	50.00	64.58	64.58	67.08	67.08	n.a	64.58	64.25	77.10		0.00	0.33	-0.02	50.00	64.58	64.58	77.08	77.08	
EU	7604.38	7266.41	7266.41	7548.06	7938.65	6053.56	5656.45	5715.60	7841.00*	1032.82	99.96	40.81	97.65*	7086.38	5756.41	5756.41	7548.06	7938.65	
ICELAND	31.20	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	0.00	2.35	5.07	3.80	31.20	76.46	24.75	27.17	31.20	78.81	29.82	30.97	30.97	
JAPAN	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1139.28	1088.82	1092.60	1128.97	8.77	8.21	4.43	10.58	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	
KOREA	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.00	0.00	77.04	80.50	81.14	77.53	0.49	0.03	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	
LIBYA	580.15	902.66	902.66	937.65	937.65	645.30	0.00	761.26	933.20	79.85	902.66	141.40	4.45	725.15	902.66	902.66	937.65	937.65	
MAROC	1279.96	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1554.00	1236.94	1223.00	1269.90	52.96	1.39	0.07	0.57	1606.96	1238.33	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	
NORWAY	31.20	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	31.20	29.82	29.82	30.66	31.20	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	
SYRIA	33.83	32.33	32.33	33.58	33.58	34.00				-0.17				33.83	82.05	0.00	0.00	33.58	
TUNISIE	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057.00	1057.00	1043.58	851.48	1017.40	1056.60	65.93	8.70	0.16	0.40	1109.51	860.18	1017.56	1057.00	1057.00	
TURKEY	419.06	535.89	535.89	556.66	556.66	409.49	527.53	535.55	551.45	9.57	8.36	0.34	5.21	419.06	535.89	535.89	556.66	556.66	
CH. TAIPEI	41.60	39.75	39.75	41.29	41.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.60	106.05	39.75	31.29	41.60	106.05	39.75	31.29	31.29	
TOTAL CATCH						11306.01	9839.08	10970.60											
Rec. number	09-06	10-04	10-04	12-03	13-07									08-05	09-06	10-04	12-03	13-07	

ALBANIA: In accordance with paragraph 9 of [Rec. 10-04], Albania was not allowed to engage in bluefin tuna fishing during 2012 fishing season.

EU: \*Catches and balance for 2013 include EU-Croatia 2013 figures (389.00+7452.00=7841.00/catches; 1.59 + 96.06=97.65/balance).

ICELAND: Informed that the unused Icelandic quota went until 2013 to the EU. Iceland was informed by the Secretariat that [Rec. 01-12] does not allow quota transfer unless authorised by the Commission.

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

SYRIA: In accordance with paragraph 9 of [Rec. 10-04], Syria was not allowed to engage in bluefin tuna fishing during 2012 fishing season.

TURKEY: Turkey has lodged a formal objection to [Rec. 13-07] and, consistent with [Res. 12-11], has submitted measures to be taken.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2014 adjusted quota is 31.29 t (=41.29-10) due to the transfer of 10 t to Egypt.



## WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/limit					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TAC	1800	1750	1750	1750	1750														
CANADA	495.00	396.66	396.66	396.66	396.66	512.90	483.30	487.40	480.40	5.70	5.60	1.40	4.10	518.60	488.90	488.80	484.50	487.30	487.26
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	8.08	0.40	0.00	0.31	9.82	7.60	8.00	7.69	17.90	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
JAPAN	311.02	301.64	301.64	301.64	301.64	425.18	303.95	303.60	306.26	6.73	4.42	2.48	1.86	431.91	308.37	306.06	304.12	303.50	
MEXICO	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	14.00	14.00	50.60	22.00	42.00	36.50	80.90	67.40	56.00	50.50	131.50	175.90		
UK-OT	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.26	0.40	0.80	43.53	47.27	7.60	7.20	43.53	47.53	8.00	8.00	8.00	
USA	977.40	948.70	948.70	948.70	948.70	952.64	904.70	919.00	658.90	304.56	138.87	124.57	384.67	1257.20	1043.57	1043.57	1043.57	1043.57	
<b>TOTAL LANDING</b>						<b>1912.80</b>	<b>1706.61</b>	<b>1761.00</b>	<b>1468.67</b>										
<i>Discards</i>																			
CANADA	n.a																		
JAPAN	n.a	n.a				n.a				n.a				n.a	n.a				
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
<i>Rec. number</i>	08-04	10-03	10-03	12-02	13-09									08-04	08-04	10-03	10-03	12-02	13-09

CANADA: Adjusted quota for 2014 includes initial quota, 2013 balance as well as 86.5 t transfer from Mexico as per [Rec. 13-09].

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

MEXICO: Maximum carry forward of 47.5 t (50% of allocation) in 2009 and 2010 [Rec. 08-04]. Up to 100% of initial quota (95 t) permitted for carry forward in 2011-2013 (Rec. 10-03 and 12-02).

MEXICO: 2010 adjusted quota after transfer up to 86.5 t to Canada (for 2011), from 2010 underage [Rec 10-03]. (Initial 95 t + 47.5 t carry forward - 86.5 t transfer).

MEXICO: 2011 adjusted quota after transfer up to 86.5 t to Canada (for 2012), from 2011 underage. [Rec. 10-03]. (Initial 95 t + 42 t carry forward - 86.5 t transfer).

MEXICO: Adjusted quota before transfer up to 86.5 t to Canada (from 2013, adjusted quota [Rec 12-02], paragraph 6d) of Mexico reported catches.

MEXICO: Request to transfer 86.5 t to Canada (paragraph 19, [Rec. 12-02]).

USA: Catches include landings and dead discards.

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**BIGEYE**

YEAR	Initial catch limit					Reference years		Current catches				Balance				Adjusted catch limits					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Average (91-92)	1999 (SCRS 2000)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TAC	85000	85000	85000	85000	85000																
ANGOLA						0.00	0.00	410.00	320.00	4069.00											
BARBADOS						0.00	0.00	11.70	7.10	14.80	11.10										
BELIZE						0.00	0.00	249.00	1218.00	1242.00	1336.00										
BRAZIL						570.00	2024.00	1151.10	1799.20	1399.70	819.70										
CANADA						46.50	263.00	102.80	136.90	166.40	197.30										
CAP VERT						128.00	1.00	1164.00	1037.00	713.00	1333.00										
CHINA	5900	5572	5572	5572	5572.00	0.00	7347.00	5489.00	3720.78	3231.00	2371.30	4181.00	4851.22	6942.00	6130.70	9670.00	8572.00	10342.00	8502.00	10173.60	10173.60
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	0.00	659.70	47.10	506.58	635.40										
EU	24000.00	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	26672.00	21970.00	18269.40	23526.39	20798.23	18652.00	10430.60	6340.61	9068.77	10815.10	28700.00	29867.00	29867.00	29467.10	29467.10	29467.10
FRANCE (P & M)						0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.31										
GABON						0.00	184.00														
GHANA	5000.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	3478.00	11460.00	6769.00	4440.00	2913.80	2786.00	-13366.00	-13074.00	1983.20	3637.20	-6587.00	-8634.00	4897.00	6423.20		
GUATEMALA						0.00	0.00	1011.00	281.90	261.70	163.10										
JAPAN	25000.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	32539.00	23690.00	12919.83	11930.00	15971.90	13831.40	16780.17	14964.30	11652.40	13792.90	29700.00	26894.30	27624.30	27624.30	27624.30	27624.30
KOREA		1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	834.00	124.00	2646.00	2762.00	1908.00	1150.90	254.00	21.00	76.00	881.10	2900.00	2783.00	1984.00	2039.00	2357.90	
MAROC						0.00	700.00	276.00	300.00	300.00	308.00										
MEXICO						0.00	6.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
NAMIBIA						0.00	423.00	71.50	207.70	918.40	129.59										
PANAMA	3500.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	8724.50	26.00	1399.00	3461.55	1994.00	2774.00	2101.00	-155.55	2206.45	532.00	3500.00	3306.00	4200.45	3306.00	4297.80	
PHILIPPINES		1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	0.00	943.00	1399.00	1266.00	531.00	1323.00	584.00	717.00	1452.00	660.00						2578.00
RUSSIA						0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
SAO TOME & P						0.00	0.00	97.00													
SENEGAL						7.00	0.00	844.00	239.00	225.00	639.00										
SOUTH AFRICA						57.50	41.00	144.80	152.50	47.20	293.80	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
St. V. & GR.						0.50		395.90	37.00	24.70	15.03										
TRINIDAD & T.						131.50	19.00	39.80	33.50	33.30	36.60										
UK-OT						6.50	8.00	11.20	189.05	51.30	25.70										
URUGUAY						38.00	59.00	23.00	15.00	2.00	29.90										
USA						893.50	1261.00	571.31	722.11	867.50	880.40										
VANUATU						0.00	0.00	41.60	35.16	22.84	8.82										
VENEZUELA						373.20	128.00	85.00	263.80	97.70	93.70										
CURACAO						0.00	0.00	2688.00	3441.40	2890.00	1964.00										
CH. TAIPEI	16500.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	12698.00	16837.00	13189.00	13732.00	10805.00	10315.55	8261.00	6525.90	9382.90	9872.35	21450.00	20257.90	20187.90	20187.90	20187.90	20187.90
GUYANA																					
TOTAL CATCH								72133.14	75323.14	72007.05											
Rec. number	09-01	10-01	11-01	11-01	11-01											08-01	08-01	10-01	11-01	11-01	11-01

GHANA: In 2012-2015, annual transfer of China (70 t), Korea (20 t), Ch. Taipei (70 t) and Japan (70 t) have been authorised [Rec. 11-01].

GHANA: Committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t per year.

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: Adjusted quota of Japan in 2012 excludes 3,000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 11-01].

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2014 adjusted quota is 20187.9t (=15583+15583\*30%-70) due to the underage of 2012 exceeding 30% of 2014 catch limit and a transfer of 70 t to Ghana.

**BLUE MARLIN**

	Landings limit					Reference years		Current landings				Balance				Adjusted landings*		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	1996	1999	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
						(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+P	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS
				2000.00	2000.00													
<b>BELIZE</b>										47.00	19.00			-47.00	-9.00			
<b>BRAZIL</b>	254.40	254.40	254.40	190.00	190.00	308.00	509.00	130.10	63.35	48.37	16.50							
<b>CHINA</b>	100.50	100.50	100.50	45.00	45.00	62	201	77.00	99.50	35.00	44.85	23.50	1.00	65.50	0.15	45.00		
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>				150.00	150.00			42.67	42.08	22.76	26.32	-42.67	-42.08	-22.76	123.68			
<b>EU</b>	103.00	103.00	103.00	480.00	480.00	206.00	200.00	146.80	69.70	88.30	357.07	-43.80	33.30	14.70	122.93	528.00		
<b>GHANA</b>				250.00	250.00			116.00	332.00	234.00	163.00				87.00			
<b>JAPAN</b>	839.50	839.50	839.50	390.00	390.00	1679.00	790.00	425.99	478.00	156.50		413.51	361.50	683.00				
<b>KOREA</b>	72.00	72.00	72.00	35.00	35.00	144.00	0.00	55.00	57.00	34.00	23.77	17.00	15.00	38.00	11.23	42.00		
<b>MEXICO</b>	17.50	17.50	17.50	70.00	70.00	13.00	35.00	88.00	67.00	105.00	85.00	-70.50	-49.50	-87.50	-15.00			
<b>S. TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>				45.00	45.00			72.00	72.00									
<b>SÉNÉGAL</b>				60.00	60.00			13.00		10.00	21.84				38.16			
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.20	0.10	TBC	-0.50	-0.20	-0.10	TBC			
<b>T &amp; TOBAGO</b>	9.90	9.90	9.90	20.00	20.00	13.90	19.70	21.50	25.10	45.00	47.60	-12.10	-15.20	-35.10	-27.60			
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	30.40	30.40	30.40	100.00	100.00	60.74	29.99	42.00	32.98	50.38	47.56	-11.60	-2.58	-19.98	52.44	110.00		
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	330.00	330.00	330.00	150.00	150.00	660.00	486.00	153.00	199.00	133.00	77.84	177.00	131.00	197.00	72.16	165.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>								1383.06	1527.71	1009.31								
<b>USA(# of fish bum+whm)</b>	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			100.00	106.00	97.00	105.00	150.00	144.00	153.00	145.00			
<i>Rec. number</i>	06-09	06-09	11-07	12-04	12-04											12-04	12-04	12-04

\* As of entry into force of [Rec. 12-04].

TBC = To Be Confirmed.

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

USA: Total for 2013 includes 55 BUM, 49 WHM, and 1 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 165 t=(150+150\*10%) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 10% of 2015 catch limit.

**WHITE MARLIN**

	<i>Landings limit</i>					<i>Reference years</i>		<i>Current landings</i>				<i>Balance</i>				<i>Adjusted landings*</i>		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	1996	1999	2010	2011	2012	2013	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
				400.00	400.00													
						<i>PS+LL</i>	<i>PS+LL</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>	<i>LL+PS</i>
<b>BARBADOS</b>				10.00	10.00			<b>3.00</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>				<b>5.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>		
<b>BRAZIL</b>	51.81	51.81	51.81	50.00	50.00	70.00	158.00	<b>34.97</b>	<b>59.66</b>	<b>70.79</b>	<b>31.00</b>							
<b>CANADA</b>	2.60	2.60	2.60	10.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	<b>1.90</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0.70</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>7.30</b>			
<b>CHINA</b>	9.9	9.9	9.9	10	10.00	9	30	<b>8.00</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>9.69</b>	<b>7.88</b>	<b>12.00</b>		
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	2.31	2.31	2.31	10.00	10.00	1.00	7.00	<b>7.17</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>-4.86</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>9.37</b>			
<b>EU</b>	46.50	46.50	46.50	50.00	50.00	148.00	127.00	<b>29.20</b>	<b>22.40</b>	<b>58.40</b>	<b>47.50</b>	<b>17.30</b>	<b>24.10</b>	<b>-11.90</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>55.00</b>		
<b>JAPAN</b>	37.00	37.00	37.00	35.00	35.00	112.00	40.00	<b>40.78</b>	<b>27.90</b>	<b>27.70</b>	24.00	<b>-3.78</b>	<b>9.10</b>	<b>9.30</b>	11.00			
<b>KOREA</b>	19.50	19.50	19.50	20.00	20.00	59.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>24.00</b>		
<b>MEXICO</b>	3.63	3.63	3.63	25.00	25.00	0.00	11.00	<b>20.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>36.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>-16.37</b>	<b>-24.37</b>	<b>-32.37</b>	<b>-5.00</b>			
<b>S. TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>				20.00	20.00			38.00										
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>				2.00	2.00													
<b>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</b>	4.30	4.30	4.30	15.00	15.00	8.20	13.00	<b>14.80</b>	<b>14.50</b>	<b>38.50</b>	<b>32.50</b>	<b>-10.50</b>	<b>-10.20</b>	<b>-34.20</b>	<b>-17.50</b>			
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	50.04	50.04	50.04	50.00	50.00	152.00	43.00	<b>46.00</b>	<b>40.81</b>	<b>63.52</b>	<b>44.30</b>	<b>4.04</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>-13.48</b>	<b>5.70</b>	<b>55.00</b>		
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	186.80	186.80	186.80	50.00	50.00	586.00	465.00	<b>20.00</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>6.72</b>	<b>166.80</b>	<b>158.80</b>	<b>171.80</b>	<b>43.28</b>	<b>55.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>263.82</b>	<b>225.32</b>	<b>316.42</b>								
<b>USA (# of fish bum+whm)</b>	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			<b>100.00</b>	<b>106.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>144.00</b>	<b>153.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>			
<i>Recommendation number</i>	06-09	06-09	06-09	12-04	12-04											12-04	12-04	12-04

\* As of entry into force of [Rec.12-04].

TBC = To Be Confirmed

JAPAN: All 2013 figures are provisional.

USA: Total for 2013 includes 55 BUM, 49 WHM, and 1 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 55 t=(50+50\*10%) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 10% of 2015 catch limit.

Compliance with size limits in 2013									
Species	SWO		BFT						
	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E	AT.E	AT.E	Med	Adriatic	Med	AT.W
Area	11-02		12-03 For BB, TROL; <17 m	12-03 For BB, TROL; >17 m	12-03 All other gears	12-03 Coastal artisanal fisheries	12-03 Catches taken for farming purposes	12-03. All other gears	12-02 all gears
Min Weight (kg)	25 or 15		6.4	8	30	8	8	30	30
Min Size (cm)	125 or 119		--	--	--		--	--	115
Tolerance (% of total)	15% 125 cm - 0% 119		Up to 7% of quota with max. of 100t	0%	Max. 5% between 10- 30 kg	No more than 2% of quota for fresh fish	No more than 90% of quota	5% tolerance between 10-30kg of landing	Not more than 10% of total quota
Albania									
<b>Algeria</b>							0%		0%
Angola									
<b>Barbados</b>	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
<b>Belize</b>	0.97%	0.84%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Brazil									
<b>Canada</b>	<1%								<1%
Cap Vert									
<b>China</b>	0	0	n.a	n.a	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Côte d'Ivoire									
Croatia									
Egypt									
<b>EU</b>	<b>3.77</b>	<b>0.31</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>1.06</b>	0
<b>France (St.P &amp; M)</b>	0.00%								0.00%
Gabon									
Ghana									
Guatemala									
Guinea Ecuatorial									
Guinée République									
Honduras									
<b>Iceland</b>	n.a.	n.a	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Japan</b>	1,55%	0%	n.a	n.a	0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	0%
<b>Korea</b>	<1%	<1%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0%	n.a
<b>Libya</b>									1.45
<b>Maroc</b>	0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	0%	0%	n.a	n.a	n.a
<b>Mauritanie</b>	<b>0%</b>		<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>				
<b>Mexico</b>			n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0
<b>Namibia</b>		0							
Nicaragua									
<b>Nigeria</b>			n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
<b>Norway</b>					0%				
Panama									
<b>Philippines</b>	n.a.	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
<b>Russia</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sao Tome									
<b>Sénégal</b>	1.50%	5.25%							
Sierra Leone									
South Africa									
St. Vincent & G									
Syria									
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
<b>Tunisie</b>								3%	
<b>Turkey</b>	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	n.a
UK-OT									
<b>USA</b>	<b>1.50%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>							3.3
<b>Uruguay</b>		<b>0.90%</b>							
<b>Vanuatu</b>	0	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Venezuela									
Bolivia									
<b>Chinese Taipei</b>	0.13%(<125) 0%(<119)	0.85%(<125); 0% (<119)	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Curaçao									
El Salvador									
Suriname									

### Compliance Summary Tables

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ALBANIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No annual report submitted.	Not present to respond.	Identify due to lack of reporting and communication. Remind Albania that until such time as Task I submission is received, or zero catch is reported as applicable, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No reporting summary table received with Part II of Annual Report.		Lift identification. Letter of concern regarding incomplete reporting but recognizing improvement.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 12-03 - No weekly or monthly catch reports received; no VMS data received; Rec. 112-20: no BCDs received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-07: monthly catch reports received late.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> E-mail message received as reply to letter of concern			<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to letter of Identification received late, but Task I data for 2011 received and confirmation of null BFT catches for 2012 confirmed in March 2014.		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken by COC</i>
<b>ALGERIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Full investigation was undertaken. Information however was received after fishing season which impacted investigation. National observers deployed on vessels concerned stated discards were normal practice and did not constitute non-compliance. Regarding reported transshipment at sea, it was not possible to establish proof.	No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Attributed incorrect BCD number to use of 3-letter ISO code issue. A full investigation of the ROP PNCs took place. Video evidence shows live fish being thrown back rather than dead discards. There was also a logbook issue - this was simply the logbook number not being clearly visible to the observer. Full details in COC 305.	No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification number.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues: ROP-BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.</b>			<b>Other issues: ROP-BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ANGOLA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I data received late. No Task II data or fleet characteristics received. No summary table of requirements received with Annual report.	Delays caused by reorganisation of national administration. Task I and II in process of being submitted to ICCAT Secretariat. Future submissions will improve.	Maintain identification.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No summary table of requirements received with Annual report.	Until 2012, little attention was paid to data collection as there were no tuna fishing activities. Since that time, prior data submission has been made a requirement to get a license. This has caused discrepancies between newly submitted and older data. Reiterated request for ICCAT assistance/training.	Lift identification in recognition of improvement. Send letter of concern regarding reporting issues and to request information on Access Agreement.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received (BET and ALB-S reported in Task I). Rec. 11-05: Possible overharvest of S. Albacore.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: Rec. 11-16: no information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).			<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 11-16: no information on Access Agreements (reported by Cape Verde). No reply to letter of identification.	No information on Access Agreement.	



	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BARBADOS</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Not present to respond.	No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02 - No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BELIZE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Information submitted relates mainly to high seas fisheries, extent of implementation in national water fisheries unclear.	Confirmed application of ICCAT requirements in national waters.	Letter of concern to request additional information regarding report of port inspector harassment and actions to be taken to address the issue.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-05. Second interim report of S-ALB catches 2013 not received.	Will follow up with their authorities and ICCAT Secretariat on the status of report submission as understood it was already submitted. IUU provisional listing was not undertaken in accordance with ICCAT provisions.	No action necessary.	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 98-08: Very minor delay in submission of N-ALB list.	Delay in N. Albacore was an internal process issue. Will endeavor to improve this in the future. A payback plan for swordfish has been submitted. Drastic reduction in catch and effort expected in 2015. Spanish port infraction described as a logbook that was not bound. Could not reply at this time to reports of inspection interference. Will review and reply at a later time.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of SWO and BUM. Payback plan for SWO submitted.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Continued overharvest of SWO and BUM. Payback plan for SWO		
	<b>Other issues:</b> One vessel on provision IUU list.			<b>Other issues:</b> EU-Spain inspection at port of 2013 concerning a vessel from Belize. ROP_transshipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BRAZIL</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report for SCRS received late. No Annual report Part II received.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part 1 of Annual Report received late (during SCRS) and Part II not complete (no reporting summary table).	Noted that restructuring and election had created some internal delays.	Letter of concern regarding reporting, but noting improvement.
	<b>Conservation and Management measures:</b> Rec. 11-12. Problems with data system resulted in vessels being reported for inclusion more than 30 days retroactive. Rec. 11-05. First preliminary S-ALB catch report received late. Second interim report of S-ALB catches 2013 not received. No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted in 2013 (received in 2012).	Delays a result of internal restructuring. Late reporting will not be repeated. No directed north swordfish fishery, as most SWO taken in South Atlantic, hence no obligation to report development plan.	No action necessary.	<b>Conservation and Management measures:</b> Rec. 13-13: Problems with data system resulted in vessels being reported for inclusion more than 30 days prior to notification. Rec. 11-01 (TROP list) retroactive listing of a vessel. Rec. 13-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.	Stated that they will be seeking clarification on their need to submit a swordfish plan, which they do not fish, at Panel 4. Their swordfish is harvested in the south as bycatch.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received	Noted that restructuring and election had created some internal	
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
CANADA	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 98-08: List of N-ALB vessels received late; Rec.11-20: Wrong unique identification numbering; many BCD are not submitted with complete information.	Delay in vessel list submission as a result of confusions between reporting deadlines in Recs. 09-08 and 11-01. BCDs delays as a result of human errors. Expect implementation of eBCD programme to improve situation. Full implementation of a national electronic tagging system has however allowed prompt follow up with ICCAT Secretariat of missing information.	No action necessary.	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 98-08: List of N-ALB vessels received late; Rec.11-20: wrong unique identification numbering. BCD information concerning catch and trade is not always completed. BCD annual report received late. Late submission of statistical document data reports.	BCD errors related to artisanal harvesters utilizing unused BCD forms from previous years despite being issued current year forms. Will continue to educate artisanal harvesters. Hopeful eBCD implementation will eliminate errors going forward. Committed to meeting vessel submission deadlines in future.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
<b>Other issues:</b>		<b>Other issues:</b>				

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CAPE VERDE</b>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late. No summary table of requirements received for Part II of Annual Report.</p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.</p> <p><b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. Rec. 11-16: No information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).</p>	Undertook to improve reporting and timeliness in future.	Letter of concern regarding no reply to letter of concern and delay in many requirements submissions.	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No reporting summary received with Part II of Annual Report.</p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b></p> <p><b>Other issues:</b></p>		Letter of concern regarding reporting issues but noting improvement from previous years.

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CHINA, People's Rep.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> 1. Further to concerns raised by WWF over Hong Kong imports of BFT in 2012, China reported that in 2012 the Hong Kong SAR imported 92.5 metric tons of Atlantic bluefin tuna, of which 92.4 t were imported from Japan and 0.1 t was imported from U.S. 2. Potential non compliance in ROP.	2. Refer to response to potential non compliance in doc. COC-305/13.	<b>Other issues:</b> NC ROP_Transhipment reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	Noted that they investigated and found that the issue was likely related to language barrier/misunderstanding rather than actual infractions. Further explanation in COC-305.		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I fleet characteristics is missing. Report for SCRS received late.	Vessel list for ICCAT Record submitted.	Letter of concern (has to improve in reporting and report on artisanal fisheries).	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Summary table in part II of Annual Report incomplete.	No further comment.	Letter of concern regarding reporting but noting improvements from previous years.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02 - No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.	Submitted in 2012, but not in 2013. Will rectify non-submission.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of BUM. No information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).	New requirement. Will strive to provide artisanal BUM data. Will follow up and provide information on Access Agreements.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
				<b>Other Issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CURAÇAO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report to SCRS submitted late.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-12: Internal actions report 20m+ received late.	Have informed Commission that procedure to become full member is underway.	Renew cooperating status.	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> Information on time/area closure Gulf of Guinea received late.		



	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EGYPT</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late.	Have made efforts to improve reporting in recent years. Will strive to improve further.	No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part 1 of Annual Report received late (after SCRS).		Letter of concern regarding reporting issues and to request additional information on swordfish fishing.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 12-03: monthly reports received late (all weekly reports received on time).			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-07: Monthly reports received late (all weekly reports received on time). Rec. 13-04: No SWO-MED closure report received, applicability unclear.	Noted difficulty collecting data themselves from artisanal fishers. Feel their reporting has improved overall. Are taking steps to have supporting export authorities report to them on a species by species basis going forward.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> EU reported imports of small quantities of swordfish imported from Egypt in 2013/14, but no Task I for SWO submitted by Egypt.	Delay related to other government authorities collecting the data for little fished species. Explained that they did investigate the potential interference infraction, but no evidence/witness collaboration.	

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EQUATORIAL GUINEA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. Report for SCRS received late. No summary table of requirements received with Annual Report.	According to Annual Report, some tuna species taken by artisanal fleet, but industrial fishery only by foreign flagged vessels.	Letter of concern regarding data reporting. Remind Guinea Equatorial that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No reporting summary table received with Part II of Annual Report.	Noted that they have no actual fleet to collect data from. It is all artisanal fishers. Requested technical/training assistance from ICCAT on data collection and submission.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies, noting request for technical training from ICCAT on data collection and submission.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.	Will follow up, however delays and non submissions as a result of capacity limitations. Have requested ICCAT for support for collection and reporting of data.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 11-16: No information on the Access Agreements reported by Panama and Curaçao.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received. No explanation for non-reporting in 2013.		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) missing for Spain, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Task 2SZ (size data) missing for Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Annual Report part II received late.	Some issues of clarification contributed to reporting delays. Will submit outstanding items as soon as possible.	Letter of concern regarding deficiencies and timeliness in reporting.	<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) missing for Spain, Netherlands and Denmark.	No tuna vessels in Denmark. EU did not send the grouped info for Spain, but can.	No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> In 2013, information for EU Portugal received late. No other swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted in 2013 (received in 2012). Report of SWO_MED closure received late. Rec. 12-03 BFT implementation report received late; Rec. 11-05 Second interim S-ALB report received late.	SWO-MED closure report plan was late due to the late arrival of the results of the control and inspection information, which indeed confirmed an effective closure. Wrong BCD numbering and 5 day delays are in process of being solved. Noted these represented a small proportion of all BCDs submitted.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-13: EU-ESP notification more than 30 days after authorization start date; Rec. 12-03: EU-PRT changes to BFT sent late due to administrative reasons; Rec. 98-08: Delay in submission of N-ALB list (except for EU-UK).	Wrong BCD ID numbers related to ISO code errors. eBCD should fix this. Some late submissions due to minor internal process delays and/or lack of clarity in requirements.	
	Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification numbering by EU-Greece; several non completed BCDs by EU-Italy; several EU Member States send BCDs well after the 5 working days validation; one EU Member State BCD annual report received late.			Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification numbering by EU-Spain; several non completed BCDs sent by EU-France and EU-Italy; EU-Malta and EU-Spain have sent BCDs well after the 5 working days validation. EU-France and EU-Italy statistical documents received late.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of WHM.	Taken as bycatch in longline fisheries, which together with issue of species identification and small quota has lead to an unavoidable overharvest. Nonetheless will continue efforts to improve situation		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		

	<p><b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-03: 1. ROP-BFT: Several PNCs reported by observers. 2. WWF: Potential irregularities in BFT catch and farming reports.</p>	<p>For responses on 1.: Refer to COC-305/13 and on 2.: To COC-307/13. Information on EU Access Agreements is published on webpage. Committed to transparency and hence also intend to publish private agreements. Call on other CPCs to follow suit. WWF investigations were followed up and are ready to further respond if needed. Note BCD data is confidential.</p>		<p><b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 13-07: 1) ROP-BFT: PNCs reported by observers under ROP-BFT. 2) Potential infringements under Annex 8, Rec- 13-07 (2 inspection reports in EU-France, 1 inspection in EU-Italy). 3) Oceana: Potential non compliance of Rec. 03-04 in use of driftnet by EU-Italy.</p>	<p>Investigated in Italy. Impossible to tell from pictures/video if nets on board were drift nets. Could also not confirm swordfish was being targeted at that time. Italy is taking steps regarding driftnet reduction in the Mediterranean.</p>	
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	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>FRANCE (St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon)</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01: List of BET/YFT vessels received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: N-SWO plan received late. Statistical document bi-annual report received late.	Three day delay due to administrative error.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GABON</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received (possibly no catches). No report submitted to SCRS other than catches taken under Access agreements. Annual Report received late.	Absence of Task I and II in 2012 was as a result of no directed fishery in 2012 by national fleet. EU vessels did not fish as agreement was suspended hence again no data to provide. For 2013 data was provided. Report was delayed due to new format.	Letter of concern regarding continued data reporting deficiencies, but noting progress made and encouraging further efforts. Remind Gabon that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual report received. Task I received for foreign flagged vessels. No data for national catches received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting issues.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received (possibly no catches).	No catches to report.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> no Compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. Rec. 11-16: No information on the access agreements reported by Curaçao and Panamá.	Curaçao and Panamá agreements were with private sector and hence not reported by Gabon.		<b>Other issues:</b> no reply to letter of concern received.		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GHANA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Letter of concern regarding analysis of VMS and other control measures to ensure full compliance with all ICCAT conservation and management measures, especially with regard to at-sea transshipment.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01: Vessels list BET/YFT fished previous year received late.	Note tropical tuna fishery is a mixed fishery with licenses issued for calendar year.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of S-SWO.	No overharvest according to data reported and provided in COC-304A (if using non-adjusted quota).		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 08-09: EU allegations on VMS transmission, Access Agreements and transshipments at sea.	Refer to responses by Ghana: In document COC-310/13. Following investigations no transshipment activity was established. Action was taken for alleged VMS violations, nonetheless burden of proof for unauthorised fishing activity was questionable and hence is without foundation.		<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b> Annual Report submitted after SCRS. Task 1 submitted late.		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01: Vessels list BET/YFT fished previous year received late.	Steps will be taken to fix late vessel list submission going forward.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		



	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUINEA (Rep.)</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received.	Have and will continue to make considerable effort to improve.	Letter of concern regarding data reporting. Note some improvement but encourage further efforts. Remind Guinea Republic that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late (during SCRS). No reporting summary table received with Part II.	Stated they are committed to improving efforts and being in compliance in the future.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies but noting improvement, and requesting additional information on Access Agreement reported by Panama and contained in COC-303.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No internal actions report 20m+ received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No internal actions report 20m+ received.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received but not correctly completed.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No information on investigation concerning the vessel "Daniaa" reported since 2008 on IUU list. No information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).	Confirmed that no Access Agreements have been arranged with Panama and Curaçao. IUU Vessel no longer associated with Guinea Republic as struck off registry and company bankrupt.		<b>Other issues:</b> No information on Access Agreement with Panama (reported by Panama).		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>HONDURAS</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No report submitted to SCRS. No Annual Report received.	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification due to lack of response, and request information on catches. Remind Honduras that until such time as Task I submission or confirmation of zero catch is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No report submitted to SCRS. No Annual Report received.	Submitted a statement to ICCAT reporting zero catches of convention species and pledging to supply any other missing data previously identified.	Lift identification. Send letter of concern regarding continued reporting deficiencies, while recognizing improvement from previous year.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.	Pledged to supply any other missing data previously identified.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of identification.		<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of identification received. No explanation of non-reporting in 2013.			

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received after SCRS.	Delay due to an administrative issue.	No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: BCD annual report received late; wrong unique identification number and incomplete information in some BCDs.	BCD numbering issue has been followed up and rectified. Incomplete BCDs due to catches being recorded as bycatch and do not fit well into BCD programme. All catches sold domestically.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 13-07: Transmission of VMS started late.		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>JAPAN</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late. Report on implementation of shark measures received late.	Future submission deadlines will be respected.	Letter of concern regarding observer coverage and late reporting, as well as possible over-harvest of S-ALB.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part 1 of Annual Report received late (during SCRS), without reporting summary.	A changeover of staff led to these late submissions and the missing summary.	Letter of concern regarding logbook issues, while recognizing Japan's constructiveness at the annual meeting on this matter and commitment to find a solution to this issue.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Rec. 11-05. Possible overharvest of S. Albacore.	Catch limit is not binding nonetheless action will be taken to reduce catches in 2014. Unusual high catches were investigated and due to shifting of bycatch to target activities which will be addressed.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Rec. 13-06. Possible overharvest of S. Albacore.	Their season just started in August. This is not the proper time to consider a possible over harvest.	
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-06: Potential non compliance under ROP. Rec. 11-16: No information on Access Agreements (reported by Colombia).	Refer to reply in document COC-305/13. Misunderstood Rec.12-06, as vessels were authorised but individual vessel authorisations were not sent and maintained onboard for inspection by ROP observers. Regarding scientific observer programme, Japan confessed to a 3.5% observer coverage in lieu of required 5% as a result of difficulties in predicting fishing effort. Will change system and increase budget to comply. Non submission of private agreement due to national confidentiality requirements.		<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 11-16: No information on Access Agreements (reported by Colombia). Reply to letter of concern received late. ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	Will endeavor to find a solution to the 3-ring binder/bound logbook issue.	

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>KOREA (Rep.)</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> BCD annual report and SDP data received late. Rec. 12-07, list of authorised ports received late.	Will make efforts to report in due time. Continued action taken to prevent illegal transshipment activities, including restriction of subsidies.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>	ROP - Have supplied a response letter to ICCAT. The vessel in question has been suspended for 60 days of the fishing season. The figure discrepancy was caused by late season catches in one year being actually exported in the following year.	
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-03: Potential non compliance in BFT-ROP.	Explanation given in document COC-305/13.		<b>Other issues:</b> ROP_BFT; ROP-transshipment: PNC reports contained in COC-305. Statistical Document data: 2013 exports of bigeye slightly higher than reported catch figures.		

2014			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>LIBERIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of report received late (joined 2014, no fishing in 2013).		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Liberia joined ICCAT in 2014.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>LIBYA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-03: Potential non compliance in BFT-ROP. One response received after deadline for COC-305.	Refer to responses in document COC-305/13. Have taken immediate actions and reported results. Issues considered minor due to poor video quality, misrecording information in logbook and language issues. All cases followed up with use of stereo-scopical cameras both at sea and at farms in cooperation with EU-Malta. The report of which was sent to SCRS in accordance with Rec.12-03.		<b>Other issues:</b> BFT-ROP: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. Potential infringements under Annex 8, Rec. 13-07 (2 inspections reports by Tunisia: 1 inspection by EU). Oceana: Potential non compliance: IUU vessels.	Reported on investigations conducted, which are summarized in COC-305 and COC-307.	

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>MAURITANIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received late and after SCRS.	Mauritania has no tuna fisheries and therefore no data to report.	Letter of concern requesting clarification of Access Agreements and information on the activities pursuant to these agreements.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No reporting summary table received with Part I or II of Annual Report.	No national fishery for tuna or sharks. Only foreign vessels fishing within Mauritania through Access Agreements.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late with no catches to report.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late (during meeting).	Access Agreements are private agreements rather than national agreements.	
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 11-16: No information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).	Mauritania reported that it has no Access Agreements with these Parties, but with Senegal and EU.		<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received.		



	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late.		Letter of concern regarding the need to implement measures to manage billfish fishery and improve BCD implementation.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec.11-01: BET/YFT previous year list received late. Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification number.	Working to improve the situation regarding incorrect numbering which will be resolved by early 2014.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification number. Statistical document data received late (no imports).	BCD number error likely an ISO number error. Have recently improved internal IT system to better handle date compilation and submission.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of W-BFT. Continuation of overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Working to address the issue through updating national legislation. Firmer measures will be taken in future to improve the situation.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Have achieved meaningful reduction in both species harvest the last 2 years. Have implemented management measures pertaining to observer coverage, release of bycatch, and more that will further reduce harvest.	
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>MOROCCO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> <b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02: N-SWO plan received late. <b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> <b>Other issues:</b>		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> <b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: BCD wrong identification number. <b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> <b>Other issues:</b> ROP_BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. Oceana: Potential non compliance of Rec. 03-04 in use of driftnet.	3-letter ISO code problem, which has been corrected. Looking to eBCD to eliminate problem in the future.	No action.

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NAMIBIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> T1 fleet characteristics received late. Annual Report received after SCRS.		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	In response to CPC inquiry about VMS, confirmed that their VMS has been implemented since report filed.	No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-05: Second interim report of S-ALB catches 2013 not received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2013		2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NICARAGUA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No Annual Report received.	No fleet operating for ICCAT species, only coastal artisanal fishery. Request assistance from Secretariat to improve reporting.	Lift identification and send a letter of concern regarding lack of data reporting and requesting confirmation of zero catches as required by Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received.	Not present.	Letter of concern regarding continued reporting deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received nor written confirmation of 0 catches.		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NIGERIA</b>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II data received. Annual Report received after SCRS and late).</p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables not submitted.</p> <p><b>Other issues:</b> No formal reply to letter of identification but e-mail message attaching Annual Report.</p>	<p>Currently no directed fishing within Nigerian EEZ and no Access Agreements with other countries for ICCAT species. By-catch from the industrial fisheries however are taken, statistics for which have already been forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat relating to 2010-12. Regret late submission of Annual Report. In process of reviewing national procedures to improve reporting of ICCAT obligations.</p>	<p>Lift identification and send letter of concern regarding timeliness and completeness of reporting.</p>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b></p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b></p> <p><b>Other issues:</b></p>		<p>No action.</p>

	2013			2014			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	
<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report to SCRS submitted late.		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action required.	
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-07: Weekly catch reports received late (0 catch). Rec. 11-20: Wrong identification number.			Thought it was not required to send reports of zero catches. Will do so going forward. ISO code error on the BCD item, which has been addressed.
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			Despite late start, transmission did pre-date fishing activity by 15 days.
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> 13-07: Transmission of VMS started late.			

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>PANAMA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I or Task II data and Annual Report received during Commission meeting.	Delays due to internal restructuring programme. Committed to respecting future reporting deadlines.	Letter of concern regarding timeliness of data and other submissions.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received late (during meeting).	Cited government change as an issue that created delays.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies, while noting improvement from previous years.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01 - BET/YFT vessel list received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec.11-01 and 13-01: Information on FADs received late. Rec.12-06: Retroactive reporting of a vessel for the carrier vessel list ( <i>Note: Secretariat seeking clarification as to whether this is allowed under the Rec. </i> ). Rec. 12-07: Foreign vessel allowed to entered port not included on ICCAT Record of authorised ports.	Domestic legislation only permits addition to national vessel lists after annual renewal of fishing licence. The deadline for licence renewal in Panama was after the deadline for vessel list submission to ICCAT. Regarding the port entry issue, observer reported wrong port. The actual port was included on their list of authorized ports.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest in BET.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late (during meeting).		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to letter of concern received late.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual report received after SCRS.		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Letter of concern regarding S-ALB overharvest, recognizing payback plan but requesting information on steps Philippines will be taking to prevent future such overharvests.	
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Rec. 13-06: Overharvest of S-ALB payback plan submitted. Figures on compliance tables require further explanation.			Payback plan provisionally approved. Committed to complying and preventing future over harvests. Significant potential sanctions have been established for vessel masters who violate in the future.
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-06: Potential non compliance.			Refer to response in document COC-305/13.			<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.



	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) missing.		No action necessary, Committee requests missing data to be sent as soon as possible.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) received late. Also received for previous years.	No tuna targeted fishing occurred.	No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SAO TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No Annual Report received.	Delays due to personnel changes in national administration. No targeted industrial fisheries. Data relates to artisanal catches which are difficult to separate by species as required for ICCAT. Will endeavour to improve reporting record.	Letter of concern regarding adequate data collection and reporting. Remind Sao Tome & Principe that until such time as Task I submission is received, fishing for ICCAT species is prohibited in accordance with Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No Annual Report received.	Taking steps to improve internal organization to improve data collection and future compliance. Noted they have an assistance agreement in place with the EU for assistance and training.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies but but noting Sao Tome's commitment at annual meeting to meet future deadlines and to submit past data where possible.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.				
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. Rec.11-16: No information on Access Agreements (reported by Panama and Curaçao).	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. No explanation for non-reporting in 2013.				

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential Issues of non compliance - 2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential Issues of non compliance -2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SENEGAL</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report for SCRS received late.	Statistical data reporting deadlines were respected.	No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies, but recognizing improvement, and to seek additional clarification regarding SWO export - Task 1 discrepancies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted in 2013 (received in 2012).	Nothing new to state, plan is the same as that reported in 2012.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: Rec. 13-02: N-SWO plan received late. Statistical document data report received late.	Apologized for late submission.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> 2013 exports of swordfish significantly higher than reported catches (715 t exported vs. 221 t Task I report).	Have asked their government authority responsible for export data for explanation. Will follow-up with Commission.	

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SIERRA LEONE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No annual report received.	No data to report, no national fisheries. After the conclusion of Access Agreements, future reports will be submitted in a timely manner.	Lift identification and encourage complete reporting on Access Agreements. Request written confirmation that there were 0 catches in 2012, as required by Rec. 11-15.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. Task I for foreign vessels (including previous years) received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received, but no data to report.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No information on Access Agreements reported by Chinese Taipei. No written confirmation of null catches in 2012 (Rec. 11-15).		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late. Part II Annual Report received late.</p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-05 Second interim S.-ALB report received late. Rec. 11-01: List of BET/YFT for previous year received late.</p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.</p> <p><b>Other issues:</b></p>		No action necessary.	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report Part 1 received late. Annual Report Part II received late (during meeting).</p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late, (during meeting).</p> <p><b>Other issues:</b> No information received on Access Agreement with UK-OT (St. Helena). No information on seabird mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Regarding reporting deficiencies, noted significant internal restructuring, committed to fully complying in future.</p> <p>Submitted Access Agreement info Aug 12. Has implemented mitigation measures for sea birds. Working with WWF on awareness campaign as well.</p>	<p>Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies but noting commitment to meet future deadlines.</p>

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ST.VINCENT &amp; THE GRENADINES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics) received late. Annual Report received after SCRS and late.	Not present to respond.	Letter of concern regarding repeat of problems encountered in 2012, encouraging participation in future meetings.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Information submitted relates mainly to high seas fisheries, extent of implementation in national water fisheries unclear.	Confirmed submission applies to national waters as well.	No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.	SWO plan in development. Ready in early 2015.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. Clarification of S-ALB catches needed.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern and no reply to EU 2012 allegations (although requested the Secretariat on 8 March 2013 to re-submit EU documents).			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply (to Secretariat) to EU 2012 allegations. No reply to letter of concern received.	Noted human resource constraints as an issue.	

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SYRIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received. No report submitted to SCRS.	Committed to ICCAT conservation and management measures, nonetheless, ongoing internal situation has led to non respect of ICCAT reporting obligations. Will submit fishing plan for 2014 in a timely manner.	Lift identification and send letter reminding Syria of its reporting obligations. Request confirmation of 0 catch in 2012 and 2013, in accordance with the requirements of 11-15, and remind Syria that failure to report Task 1 or zero catch will result in a prohibition of fishing.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> BFT fishery prohibited in 2012 and 2013.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> BFT fishery prohibited in 2012 and 2013. Rec. 13-07: Late submission of E_BFT catching vessel due to <i>force majeure</i> , but request for Regional Observer received too late to allow fishing in 2014.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply received to letter of identification.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II size data received. Report for SCRS received late. No Annual Report Part II received.	Not present to respond.	Letter of concern regarding lack of fundamental data reporting and encouraging current efforts to improve system.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Statistical data received late. No Part II of Annual Report received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies and continued and increasing billfish overharvests.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No swordfish development/management plan received.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of BUM and WHM.	According to Annual Report, the aggregation of the catches of Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic sailfish by the artisanal fleet in the data collection system, due to both species being commonly known by a single local name, continues to be addressed. Data collectors have been re-trained with respect to species identification and accurate recording of the species names.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of BUM and WHM.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received.		



	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>TUNISIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: BCD unique identification number is not always correct since it sometimes starts by "9" (that corresponds to the eBCD during the transitional phase).			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: BCD wrong identification number.	Has already worked with Secretariat and resolved issue.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-03 1. BFT-ROP observer reports reported PNCs. 2. WWF: Potential irregularities in BFT catch and farming reports.	For 1 and 2: See document COC-305/13 and document COC-309/13 for explanations from Tunisia.		<b>Other issues:</b> <i>Rec. 13-07</i> 1. ROP_BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. 2. Potential infringements under Annex 8, Rec. 13-07 (7 inspections reports by EU).	Reiterated their explanation contained in COC-305.	

2013

2014

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> 1. BFT-ROP observer reports reported PNCs. 2. WWF: Potential irregularities in BFT catch and farming reports.	Refer to document COC-305/13 and document COC-307-A/13 for explanations from Turkey.	No action necessary.	<b>Other issues:</b> VMS: Manual transmission of VMS messages in non-NAF format sent from beginning May 2014 and continuing throughout season. ROP_BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	Investigations have happened in all cases. Results shared with relevant parties. Content that any irregularities were minor - poor camera footage as the camera got wet, technical glitch with VMS transmission.	

	2013			2014			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	
<b>UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No size data for BVI submitted. (Statistics for other OTs complete.)		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: N-SWO plan received late. Wrong BCD number ("UK.BMU 13-03"/received in December 2013). BCD annual report received late.			Thanked Commission for noting their improvement. Will continue to work to improve compliance.
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			
	<b>Other issues:</b> No information on Access Agreements (reported by Chinese Taipei and South Africa).			<b>Other issues:</b>			

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part II of Annual report received late.	Delays largely as a result of recent governmental shut down. Outstanding submissions will be sent.	No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 09-08: List of N-ALB vessels received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01. Very minor delay in submission of BET/YFT vessel list and in N-ALB list.	Due to national holiday.	
	Rec. 11-20: Several models of wrong unique identification number; some re-export certificates received after the 5 working days after validation.	BCDs with incorrect numbering are in the process of being corrected and resubmitted. The 5 day delay for re-export certificates is not required as BFTRCs related to tagged fish consignments.		Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification number for the re-export certificates. Re-export certificates from 2012 received one year later in 2013.	Have been working with the Secretariat to make necessary corrections to identification numbers. Safeguards in place to ensure errors do not happen going forward. Administration error led to re-export error - sent to Secretariat once aware. Was discussed and resolved with Secretariat prior to 2013 ICCAT meeting.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>URUGUAY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Report for SCRS received late. <b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. <b>Other issues:</b>		No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> <b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> <b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. <b>Other issues:</b>		No action required.

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>VANUATU</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task 1 FC (fleet characteristics). Task 2 SZ (size data) submitted late. Part 1 Annual Report received late and after SCRS.	Significant improvements have been made due to recent governmental restructuring.	No action necessary.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part 1 of Annual Report received late (after SCRS).		Letter of concern regarding data deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02: N-SWO management plan received late. Rec. 11-01: List of BET/YFT vessels and previous year received late. Res. 01-20. LSTLV management plan received late.	Quota is only 25 t and is therefore not considered a directed fishery, hence plan is not applicable.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No N-SWO management plan received in 2014.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 08-09: Reply to EU allegations in 2012 received in October 2013.	Refer to reply in document COC 310/2013.		<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action (no letter of concern or identification), but Chair to send letter asking for information on actions to address the over harvest of ALB and BUM, which is decreasing but still occurring.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-02: N-SWO management plan received late.	Delays due to internal reorganisation, and N-SWO only taken as bycatch.	Lift identification and send a letter to encourage proper and timely submission of all reports, and	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec.11-01: List of BET/YFT authorised vessels received late. No list of vessels fishing previous year received.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of N-ALB and BUM.	Delays due to internal reorganisation. Plan developed and 'monitoring committee' established to address	encourage efforts made to reduce overharvests of ALB and BUM. Committee requests a report on the national measures in place aimed at reducing overharvest.	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
<b>Other issues:</b> No reply received to letter of identification.	overharvesting issues. Fishing ban has also been imposed.		<b>Other issues:</b> No information received on national measures to reduce ALB and BUM overharvest, as requested by the Commission.			

	2014		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Zero catches reported. No Annual Report received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>		



	2013			2014		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Cooperation status renewed. Letter of concern over possible at-sea transshipment and IUU activity by Chinese Taipei nationals.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 12-06: Potential non compliance. One vessel on provisional IUU list.	Refer to response in document COC-305/13. Explanation provided but not on action taken.		<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

	2013			2014		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Zero catches reported. Report for SCRS received late. No Annual Report part II received.		Cooperating status renewed.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Zero catches reported. Part 1 of annual report received late (after SCRS).		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2013			2014		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2013</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SURINAME</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II (Catch and effort/size) data submitted - Task I data corresponds to foreign flagged vessels.			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I (only data corresponds to foreign flagged vessels).		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		Cooperating status renewed.	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received (no catches by national flagged vessels).			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

### Statement by Honduras to the Compliance Committee

The delegation of Honduras also wishes to express its thanks to the Government of Italy for all its splendid hospitality, and in particular, the gala dinner held last night.

The aim of this statement is to refer to the compliance situation of the Republic of Honduras with the conservation and management measures established by ICCAT as well as with the reporting obligations which must be satisfied by CPCs.

Honduras wishes to start by showing its appreciation for the support received from ICCAT for participation at this meeting, thus meeting the country's needs which hampered compliance with the mandate of the President of the Republic to ensure proper participation in international bodies and in particular satisfactory compliance with its obligations.

As recognised in document COC-311/14\*, Table 4, ICCAT received official information indicating that there is no active Honduran fleet fishing for species covered by the Convention in the ICCAT area. In addition, the monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms established in the country have not reported any prohibited, incidental or any unauthorised form of catches of these species.

Nevertheless, after recognising the importance of the information transmitted to ICCAT being in the formats for the correct creation of statistics and the record of compliance, we regret the non-compliance on our part described in the different reports prepared by the Secretariat, which point out the lack of transmission of data in the corresponding formats by Honduras, which we recognise to be an important formal obligation.

As to the substantive part, we wish to highlight that Honduras has not facilitated the decrease in effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures since in the periods under review operation of vessels catching species covered by ICCAT has not been authorised, which confirms the zero catches for both 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, nor has fishing been facilitated in any of its phases with vessels under a different flag.

However, Honduras wishes to express its commitment to improving its compliance levels and satisfying the ICCAT formal and substantive requirements, in particular, reporting information in the formats required by the Commission.

Honduras wishes to share with the Group and the Plenary Session that exploitation of some fishing resources covered by ICCAT both in the Exclusive Economic Zone and at high sea is described in the country's development priorities, which will ensure sustainable exploitation of resources in benefit of its people, which in turn will contribute to the national strategy aimed at adjusting the country's production model so as to solve the low levels of economic and social development faced, without affecting the conservation strategies unilaterally adopted by the country for species of interest, as in the case of the establishment of a sharks sanctuary and the consequent prohibition on fishing these resources.

For this reason, Honduras initiated 3 years ago a modernisation process of its legal structure and more recently of its technical structure which will enable the country to adapt its regulatory behaviour to the requirements of modern management of its fisheries, involving the update of its Fisheries Law which is in an advanced stage of approval in the National Congress and adjustment of the institutional response of the State to these obligations.

Consequently and for the purpose of evidencing effective compliance, the delegation of Honduras wishes to highlight the following:

- a) It is hereby reported, and will be reported in writing in the course of the day to the Secretariat, that no catches were recorded for 2012 and 2013, since they do not exist; there were therefore zero catches.
- b) It will immediately proceed to prepare the reports required by ICCAT with the aim of ensuring compliance, which will be consistent with the information already provided of zero catches and no fishing activity of interest in the periods under review.

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\* Secretariat Report for the Implementation of Recommendation 11-15.

- c) It will not authorise fishing for ICCAT resources of interest until proper compliance with local as well as ICCAT regulations can be ensured in the Convention area for the species covered thereunder, which will be appropriately notified to the Secretariat.
- d) The delegation of Honduras thanks in advance the Secretariat for the advice required to optimise compliance levels.

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

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting of the PWG was opened by the Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco).

### 2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Ms. Katie Rose Allen (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with no modifications and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**.

### 4. Consideration of actions referred from the IMM Working Group and inter-sessional meeting of the PWG

The Chair reported the results of the 9th Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) held in May 2014 in Barcelona, noting that a number of proposals from that meeting were referred to the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission for its consideration. Those proposals were discussed under agenda item 5 under the relevant subheadings.

### 5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

#### 5.1 *Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs*

The Secretariat provided an overview of the issues arising in 2013 with respect to CPCs meeting the requirements of the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (BCD) and re-export certifications (BFTRC) (Sections 1 and 2 of “Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures”). The Secretariat outlined several common reporting errors (including wrong BCD numbering, missing vessel ID numbers, missing or illegible data), which have greatly increased the Secretariat’s workload and emphasized that incomplete reporting continues to be an issue. The Secretariat also reiterated its requests to the Commission in order to resolve these issues for the future. It was agreed that all CPCs should make every effort to provide accurate and legible BCDs to the Secretariat.

The PWG took note of the proposal considered at the 2014 IMM inter-sessional meeting to amend and clarify certain aspects of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* (Recommendation 11-20). In addition, the EU presented a draft recommendation to amend Recommendation 11-20 entitled “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program”. The PWG noted that there was not sufficient time to address the various policy matters presented in the two proposals and also that resolution of some of these issues will likely affect development of the eBCD system in the future. It was agreed that work on these issues should continue, in particular at the proposed 2015 inter-sessional meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures.

#### 5.2 *Progress of eBCD*

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG), Neil Ansell (EU), provided an update on the status of the eBCD program development, including a brief report of the Technical Working Group meetings held in 2014. The TWG Chair raised the options available for the financial support of the eBCD system once fully implemented, including user fees, Working Capital Fund supplement, GEF cooperative funding, but it noted that discussion of these options may be premature given the focus on resolving technical issues needed for the system to meet the implementation deadline of March 1, 2015.

The Chair of the TWG also summarized the results of the October 2014 international test of the eBCD system to evaluate the functionality of the system using real-world scenarios. The participating CPCs reported a range of experiences using the system. The TWG noted the ongoing difficulties with the eBCD program based on the testing, and its concern that the development of core functionalities are still pending and will not be available for testing until the end of February 2015 at the earliest. Therefore, the TWG requested the Commission to make a decision pursuant to [Rec. 13-17] given that the system is not ready for full implementation, noting that such a determination would not preclude CPCs from voluntarily using the system.

The PWG took note of the recommendation of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) that the system is still encountering significant technical difficulties based on the results of the coordinated international test that was completed in fall 2014. The PWG also noted that the development of certain core system functionalities is pending and that these functionalities will not be available for testing until sometime in February 2015 at the soonest. In light of this situation, the PWG recommended that the Commission make a determination pursuant to paragraph 5 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* (Recommendation 13-17) that the eBCD system cannot be ready for full implementation by the March 1, 2015 deadline and, therefore, that paper documents can continue to be used until the Commission determines the system can be fully implemented. The PWG stressed, however, that such a determination would not preclude CPCs from voluntarily using the eBCD system or, as feasible, portions of the system, when operational.

The PWG recognized the hard work that has been done by the eBCD TWG to date who should continue their important work and meet prior to March 1, 2015. In that regard, the PWG asked the Secretariat to work with the consortium to ensure continued development, testing, and maintenance of the system as well as CPC support, in line with the tasks requested by the TWG and in accordance with the contract under which the system is being developed, including any extension.

With respect to funding the continued development of the eBCD system, the PWG recalled the effort to get funding to support certain aspects of the eBCD system from the FAO/GEF. It was noted that if this effort was not successful, the program would continue to be funded through ICCAT's Working Capital Fund as agreed in 2013. Notwithstanding, the PWG stressed that the pursuit of funding through FAO/GEF should not delay the development of the eBCD system.

### **5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes**

Given that there were no requests for clarification to the PWG from the Secretariat, the Chair proposed the discussion of the Regional Observer Program for tropical tunas (ROP-TROP) be referred to Panel 1 and the ROP for eastern bluefin tuna (ROP-BFT) be referred to Panel 2 for consideration.

The EU noted the ongoing discussion in ICCAT on the different roles of observers deployed by national programs and regional programs, as scientific and compliance observers, and the concern by some CPCs with the use of national observers for compliance purposes. The European Union suggested that the Commission begin a comprehensive discussion on ICCAT observer programs at the next IMM inter-sessional meeting. The Chair suggested the European Union develop a proposal to support such a discussion.

### **5.4 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements**

The Chair referred to the Secretariat's "Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for Transshipment 2013/14", which provided information on the implementation and results of the program. Chinese Taipei offered a correction to Table 1. No other comments were received on the document.

### **5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements**

The Chair referred to the "Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee" and the requests from the Secretariat in Section 5 of the "Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)". The European Union offered a clarification on the timeline for reporting on the start of chartering arrangement [paragraph 13.a of Rec. 13-14] as referring to the date that fishing under the arrangement starts rather than the date on which it was signed. The EU also suggested that CPCs coordinate and declare consistent information under those agreements before submitting them to the Secretariat. The European Union also noted that the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements" addresses similar issues of potential double reporting.

### ***5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs***

The Chair referred to the vessel sighting reports contained in Annex 1 of the “Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)”. There were no comments on the requirements of the program and the reports were referred to the COC for review.

The United States provided a brief overview of the current status of the draft joint proposal on a Convention-wide high seas boarding and inspection scheme presented by the United States, European Union, and Canada at the 2014 IMM inter-sessional meeting and appended to that meeting report. The proponents noted that, in light of the concerns raised by delegations at the IMM inter-sessional, an alternate approach could be to develop the proposal as a non-binding measure that would serve as a model scheme should ICCAT seek to implement joint inspection schemes on a fishery-by-fishery basis in the future. Some CPCs reiterated their concern with implementing any binding, ICCAT-wide at-sea boarding and inspection schemes, but noted a willingness to discuss alternative approaches once a revised written proposal was available. The Chair requested the sponsors to work together with other members of the Commission to find a way forward for high seas boarding and inspection, and suggested this topic be included on the agenda of any future inter-sessional meetings of the PWG or the IMM working group.

### ***5.7 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures***

The Chair referred to the draft “Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (Rec. 12-07)” submitted by several CPCs, which establishes a Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCSF) to assist developing coastal CPCs to implement [Rec. 12-07]. There was significant support for this proposal from the PWG. After some clarifying revisions were incorporated, the draft recommendation was referred to the Commission for adoption.

### ***5.8 Vessel listing requirements***

The Chair noted the document “Clarification of Rules for Submitting Vessels Lists,” prepared by the Secretariat (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**)\* and suggested the PWG endorse the clarifications provided by the IMM Working Group and summarized in that document.

The Secretariat requested further clarification on whether CPCs were permitted to submit vessels to the eastern bluefin tuna catching vessels list with dates of authorization greater than one year given the requirement and the fact that individual vessel quotas are limited to only one year. The PWG agreed that such authorizations should be limited to 12 months, but may span two calendar years (e.g. August 2014 to August 2015), in which case the quota should be applied to the first calendar year.

Norway asked for clarification on the requirements for reporting incidental bycatch of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and whether all vessels that might have incidental bycatch be listed on the ICCAT vessel record in advance. The Chair confirmed the conclusion reached by the IMM Working Group that once the eBCD system is implemented, vessels reporting incidental bycatch of E-BFT can be entered into the system manually and will receive an ICCAT number. In the meantime, for paper BCDs, the Secretariat will assign bycatch vessels an ICCAT number and keep a separate list of those vessels for future reference. It was agreed that this adjustment should also be included in an updated recommendation to implement the eBCD program.

In response to a request by the Secretariat, the PWG agreed that the Secretariat could remove vessels with expired dates of authorization from the list of authorized eastern BFT catching vessels when the date of authorization has expired, after notifying the flag State (via e-mail or letter) of this intention to avoid any potential administrative mistakes.

The United States introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonize and Guide the Implementation of ICCAT Vessel Listing Requirements” to amend Recs. 13-13 and 11-01 to clarify, harmonize, and guide implementation of ICCAT’s vessel listing requirements. The proposal also repeals the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* (Rec. 98-08). The proposal was agreed and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

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\* This document was subsequently revised by the Secretariat to take into account the decisions of PWG and the Recommendations adopted in 2014. The revised version is the one found in Appendix 2 to Annex 11.



### **5.9 Vessel Monitoring System requirements**

The Chair referred to the joint “Draft Recommendation Amending Recommendation [03-14] by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area” co-proposed by the Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, and the United States.

Following discussion of the technical aspects of the proposal, including the reporting of vessel position by a flag vessel CPC to the coastal State when fishing in waters under the jurisdiction of that coastal State and concerns regarding the proposed two-hour transmission rate for vessels other than longline vessels, the PWG agreed a revised proposal of this document and referred it to the Commission for adoption. It was noted that prior to any future discussions of VMS transmission rates at ICCAT, CPCs should share information on transmission costs and other implementation details so that implications of cost and capacity to handle the increase in data can be taken into account.

### **5.10 Flag State responsibilities**

No comments were offered under this item.

### **5.11 Other issues**

The Chair gave the floor to Pew Charitable Trusts who expressed its support for swift implementation of the electronic BCD system.

## **6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT’s conservation and management measures**

There was no discussion on this agenda item as recommendations to the Commission were considered under previous items.

## **7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list**

The “Provisional IUU List 2014” was presented by the Secretariat. After review by the PWG, this list was adopted (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**).

The United States presented its proposal on a “Draft Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Cross-Listing of Vessels Contained on IUU Vessel Lists of Other Tuna RFMOs on the ICCAT IUU Vessel list in Accordance with Recommendation 11-18”, noting these guidelines had been appended to an earlier PWG report; however, they had not been fully implemented due to confusion on their status. No questions or comments were received and the draft resolution was agreed and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

## **8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above**

There were no other recommendations to the Commission in addition to those summarized in the sections above.

## **9. Other matters**

The PWG took note of an SCRS request to merge forms ST01 (Task I fleet characteristics) and CP38 (Vessels fished previous year) into a single form to enhance efficiency in reporting and processing these data. The document submitted by the SCRS (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**) was adopted.

## **10. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

The PWG adopted its report via correspondence. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of actions referred from the IMM Working Group and intersessional meeting of the PWG.
5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
  - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
  - 5.2 Progress of eBCD
  - 5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes
  - 5.4 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
  - 5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
  - 5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
  - 5.7 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
  - 5.8 Vessel listing requirements
  - 5.9 Vessel Monitoring System requirements
  - 5.10 Flag State responsibilities
  - 5.11 Other issues
6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11****Rules for submitting vessels lists****1. Vessels of 20 meters or greater (general positive list, all species, 20m+), Rec. 13-13/14-10**

Each CPC shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the list of its fishing vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater (referred to as “LSFVs”) that are authorized to operate in the Convention area. The initial list and any subsequent changes shall be submitted electronically in a format provided by the Secretariat [CP01-VessLsts]. This list **shall include** the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number\*
- IMO or LR number (if assigned)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign (if any)
- Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT)\*
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Gear used\*
- Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping. However, in no case shall the authorization period include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the list to the Secretariat.\*

**Note:** This list is not annual, and hence there is no deadline, other than the 45-day rule as noted in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Rec. 13-13 as amended by Rec. 14-10.

If CPCs submit vessels with authorisation dates prior to 45 days before notification, the Secretariat will process these but will bring such submissions to the attention of the Compliance Committee, as being in clear breach of the ICCAT Recommendation.

Rec. 13-13 specifies the information to be submitted. In the event of confidential information being withheld, this should be indicated, with the reason, at the time of submission. Such vessels will be listed and referred to the Compliance Committee to determine if there is a compliance concern. Please note that this cannot relate to basic vessel characteristics, but only to details concerning individuals (e.g. operator/owner details). Vessels submitted without the minimum information indicated by \* will not be included in the Record.

The ICCAT Record of vessels of 20 meters or greater does not include carrier vessels.

**2. Tropical vessels (vessels which fish BET/YFT/SKJ or are used in support of BET/YFT/SKJ fishing operations of 20 m or greater) – TROP, Rec. 14-01**

CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

In addition, CPCs shall submit an inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, main characteristics and the fishing vessels they are associated with.

The same format as 1 [CP01-VessLsts] should be used, but dates should be inserted in both the 20m+ and the TROP columns on form B of CP01.

**Note:** This list is no longer annual, and hence there is no deadline, other than the 45-day rule as noted in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Rec. 13-13 as amended by Rec. 14-10. CPCs shall without delay notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the periods of authorization have expired.

### **3. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing vessels (E-BFT catching vessels), Rec. 14-04**

“Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 18 to 23, when applicable, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.a). For those catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna and not affected by a fishing season, record on the list shall be permitted at the latest 15 days before such authorization enters into force.” [Rec. 14-04, para 52]

The form CP01-VessLsts should be used and the applicable columns under the E-BFT catching vessels section completed. Note if the vessel is 20m or greater, it should **also** be reported for inclusion in that Record, which can be done by completing the dates in the 20m or greater column at the time of reporting for the E-BFT list, or in a separate submission, as preferred.

This is an annual list and authorizations should be limited to not more than 12 months. Such authorisation period may span two calendar years (e.g. August 2014 to July 2015), in which case the quota will be applied to the first calendar year, i.e. the year of BFT quotas' allocation.

Deadlines for receipt:

Fifteen days before fishing season:

- Purse seiners = 12 May 2015;
- Purse seiners Norwegian EEZ = 11 June 2015;
- Longliners except vessels operating in the area West of 10°W and North of 42°N or in Norwegian EEZ = 18 December 2015;
- Longliners operating in the area West of 10°W and North of 42°N or in Norwegian EEZ = 18 July 2015;
- Baitboats and Trollers = 17 June 2015 or as reported in fishing plan;
- Trawlers, sport and recreational vessels = 2 June 2015;
- Other gears = 15 days before authorisation enters into force.

Any changes to the original list must be justified.

**Note:** For by-catch vessels once the eBCD system is implemented, vessels reporting incidental bycatch of E-BFT can be entered into the system manually and will receive an ICCAT number. In the meantime, for paper BCDs, the Secretariat will assign bycatch vessels an ICCAT number and keep a separate list of those vessels for future reference. CPCs may request modification of authorization dates if quota is used before the end of the authorisation period.

### **4. Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna other vessels (E-BFT- Other vessels), Rec. 14-04**

The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 51.b) shall be submitted 15 days before the start of their period of authorization (Rec. 14-04, para 52).

The form CP01-VessLsts should be used and the applicable columns under the E-BFT Other vessels section completed. Note if the vessel is 20m or greater, it should also be reported for inclusion in that Record, which can be done by completing the dates in the 20m or greater column at the time of reporting for the E-BFT list, or in a separate submission, as preferred.

Any changes to the original list must be justified. Lists are annual, the start date should change each year, and vessels whose authorizations have expired should be removed from the list. However, extensions of authorization periods should be accepted at any time before the expiration of the current authorization and for new vessels and the fifteen day in advance rule should apply except for the replacements of authorized vessels.

### **5. Vessels involved in transshipment, Rec. 12-06**

Two different lists are required since the entry into force of Rec. 12-06.

### 5.1 Carrier vessels

“In order for its carrier vessels to be included on the ICCAT Record List of Carrier Vessels, a flag CPC or flag non-Contracting Party (NCP) shall submit each calendar year, electronically, and in the format specified by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, a list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments from LSPLVs in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number (if any)
- IMO number (if any)
- Previous name (if any)
- Previous flag (if any)
- Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
- International radio call sign
- Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
- Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
- Time period authorized for transshipping.”

According to the Recommendation, the list should be sent once a year, but no deadline is stipulated. There is no indication of whether or not retroactive reporting of vessels may be admitted.

Initial lists should be provided by 1 January but changes may be submitted at any time. Additional vessels included on the list should not engage in transshipment activity until they appear on the ICCAT Record. Retroactive reporting may be allowed for carrier vessels, provided that no transshipment takes place until the vessel is on the ICCAT Record.

### 5.2 LSPLVs authorized to transship at sea

“Each flag CPC that authorizes its LSPLVs to transship at sea shall submit each calendar year electronically and in the format specified by the Executive Secretary, the list of its LSPLVs that are authorized to transship at sea.

This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number
- Time period authorized for transshipping at sea
- Flag(s), name(s) and register number(s) of the carrier vessel(s) authorized for use by the LSPLVs.”

The form developed for reporting is CP46-VessTran. No deadline is specified for receipt of information. Vessels should be reported before transshipment takes place; retroactive reporting is not permitted.

## 6. List of vessels authorised to catch Mediterranean swordfish, Rec. 13-04

1. At the latest on the 31 August 2012, and on the 15 January for the following years, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the lists of all fishing vessels authorized to catch swordfish for the current year in the Mediterranean Sea. CPCs shall provide these lists according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
2. Procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area [Rec. 13-13]* shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

**Note:** The earliest authorization period for vessels reported by 15 January deadline is 1 December of the previous year. Changes can be made, as they arise to the list during the year providing they are reported for inclusion in the list within 45 days of authorization [Rec. 14-10, amending Rec. 13-13].

## 7. Changes from BFT-Catching to BFT-Other List

Vessels which were initially reported for BFT-Catching wishing to change their authorisation to BFT-Other Vessels lists may do so as follows:

- 1) The fifteen day prior rule for BFT-Other vessels does not apply to vessels which were previously reported for BFT-Catching list within the relevant deadlines if the BFT catching vessel has not actually carried out or participated in any fishing operations for BFT. Vessels which caught BFT or participated in any fishing operation for BFT wishing to change lists are subject to the fifteen day in advance rule.
- 2) The waiver of the fifteen day prior rule would apply only if the vessel was reported for BFT-Catching list, but not to vessels previously reported for other lists (MED-SWO, carrier, 20m+, TROP).
- 3) The change from BFT-Catching list to BFT-Other list is not retroactive; i.e. the change must be requested before the vessel commences any activity.

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**

**2014 list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area and other areas**

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20040005	Not available	JAPAN - Sighting of tuna longliner in the Convention area, not on ICCAT Record of Vessels	24/08/2004	1788	Unknown	Unknown	BRAVO	NO INFO	T8AN3	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040006	Not available	JAPAN - Reefer company provided documents showing frozen tuna had been transhipped	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	OCEAN DIAMOND	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040007	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)	AT	
20040008	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(INDONESIA)		
20050001	Not available	BRAZIL - Fishing in Brazilian waters with no licence	03/08/2005	1615	Unknown	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	SOUTHERN STAR 136	HSIANG CHANG	NO INFO	KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AT	

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20060001	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - Vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	BIGEYE	NO INFO	FN 003883	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060002	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - Vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	MARIA	NO INFO	FN 003882	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060003	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	NO. 101 GLORIA	GOLDEN LAKE	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060004	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 103	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	



<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060005	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 101	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060007	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	LILA NO. 10	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060008	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No 2 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060009	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	

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<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060010	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060011	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No. 3 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060012	Not available	EU - Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ORIENTE No.7	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20080001	Not available (previously on ICCAT recorded as AT000GUI000002)	Japan - Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota	14/11/2008	COC-311/2008 and Circular 767/10	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QMC	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00039)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (previously British)	SHARON I	MANARA I (previously POSEIDON)	No info	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	OCEAN LION	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090002	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Georgia	YU MAAN WON	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090003	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Unknown	GUNUAR MELYAN 21	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20100004	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 09/03	07/07/2010	E10-2860	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 11			Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.			

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20110003	C-00545	IATTC WCPFC	30/08/2011 14/03/2013	E11-5762 E13-1532	Georgia		Neptune		4LOG	Space Energy Enterprise Company, LTD		Pacific Ocean	LL
20110011		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No. 10	Bhaskara No. 10				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No.9	Bhaskara No. 9				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown		Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
20110014		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Chia Hao No. 66	Chia Hao No. 66	V3IN2	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma alegre, San Francisco, Panamá	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130001	IMO 7355662	WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Georgia		Fu Lien nº 1		4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia			
20130002		WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Chinese Taipei		Yu Fong 168		BJ4786	Chang Lin Pao-Chun	161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei		
20130003		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21		OTS024 or OTS 089	Unknown			

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20130004		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel International LTD			
20130005		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Dragon III			Reino De Mar S.A	125 metros al Oeste de Sardimar cocal de Puntarenas Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130006		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Panamá	Goidau Ruey No. 1	Goidau Ruey 1	HO-2508	Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A	1 Fl, No. 101 Ta-She Road Ta She Hsiang Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130007		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Jyi Lih 88					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130008		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Orca	Orca				Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130009		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Reymar 6	Reymar 6				Pacific Ocean	Longline

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20130010		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Ta Fu 1					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130011		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize, (Costa Rica)	Tching Ye No. 6	Tching Ye No. 6, (El Diria I)	V3GN		Costado Este de UCR El Cocal Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130012	8994295	IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Wen Teng No. 688	Wen Teng No. 688, (Mahkoia Abadi No. 196)	V3TK4		No. 32 Hai Shan 4th Road Hsiao Kang District Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130013		ICCAT	25/11/2013	COC-303/2013 Annex 4; Plenary report Commission 2013	Indonesia	Uknown	Samudera Pasifik No. 18	Kawil No. 03; Lady VI-T-III	YGGY	Bali Ocean Anugrah Linger Indonesia, PT	JL. Ikan Tuna Raya Barat IV, Pel. Benoa-Denpasar		Drifting longline
20140001		IATTC	12/08/2014	E14-06604	Fiji		Xin Shi Ji 16		3DTN	Xin Shi Ji Fisheries Limited	346 Waimanu Road, Suva, Fiji		Longline

Photography available: Serial number 20050001; Photography for Hoom Xuang 11; Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21 and Full Rich are available in, respectively, IOTC Reports IOTC-S14-CoC13-add1 [E]; IOTC-2013-CoC10-07 Rev 1[E] and IOTC-2013-CoC10-08a[E]; Photography for the vessel Wen Teng No. 688 is available at <http://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselDetails.aspx?VesNo=129&Lang=en>



