

**ANNEX 1**

**EXTRACTS OF SECTION 5 FROM ANNUAL REPORTS**

**ALBANIA**

No technical difficulties encountered in implementation and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

BFT farming activities were initiated in 2021 – Albania had adopted all pertinent ICCAT Recommendations into its local legislation mechanism and CPC Albania applied its best efforts to ensure correct governance in this new sector in the knowledge that, where necessary, it will have the support of the Secretariat.

Thanks to the help and readiness of Secretariat and Compliance Committee, Albania has realized in appropriate time the reporting requirements to ICCAT.

This year, regarding the tables Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3 we will be able to transmit in time the data online through IOMS platform.

**ALGERIA**

Pour mettre en œuvre et répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT, l'Algérie a mis en place des systèmes et des programmes de suivi, d'observation, d'inspection et de collecte pour pouvoir répondre aux exigences et transmettre toutes les informations sollicitées par l'ICCAT.

L'Algérie mène un travail continu afin d'adapter ces programmes pour pouvoir répondre aux exigences de l'ICCAT.

Il est à signaler, la difficulté concernant l'obligation de soumettre des données concernant les pêcheries non existantes en Algérie et dans certains cas l'exigence ne peut s'appliquer.

Et aussi, la difficulté à embarquer des observateurs scientifiques à bord des navires palangriers ciblant l'espadon, vu l'étroitesse des embarcations artisanales non pontées.

**BARBADOS**

Implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures have in the past been stymied by inadequate legislation. The 2023 Fisheries Management Regulations and additional related subsidiary legislation will facilitate, by force of law, prompt implementation of a number of measures that will markedly improve Barbados' compliance with ICCAT recommendations and generally improve the management of local fisheries. The proposed suite of legislation currently being drafted viz. the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development Act (SFMDA), and the Sustainable Fisheries Management and Development (Seafood Markets and Businesses) Act, along with supporting regulations including the 2023 Fisheries Management Regulations, will redound to an even more comprehensive and holistic regulatory framework. This in conjunction with the noted improvements in the data collection and MSC frameworks, will redound to greatly enhanced holistic management of all Barbados fisheries.

## **BRAZIL**

Brazil has taken necessary efforts and steps to collect and report data to the extent possible to ensure ICCAT's compliance requirements. This was possible mainly due to scientific and government projects such as PROTUNA Project, Ecomescatum Project and Blue Shark Project to address the necessary needs with support of the fishing sector.

## **CABO VERDE**

The main problem facing our management and research system is the insufficient availability of financial resources for all operational costs. The implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures requires permanent monitoring, so we continue to count on ICCAT support through training actions regarding the various obligations in terms of conservation. The main problems encountered are as follows:

- There is great difficulty in coordination between the administration, surveillance, research, and operators. This creates enormous problems in obtaining data and information to comply with ICCAT obligations positively.
- Financial resources are limited to support and improve statistical and scientific data collection, as well as to strengthen the surveillance system.

Cabo Verde will keep counting on technical and financial support from ICCAT to improve the statistical programs and the biological sampling plan to have better data with the species that we already follow and also to start monitoring other species of interest to ICCAT.

## **CANADA**

Canada did not have any difficulty in the submission of the annual report for the 2022-2023 reporting year.

## **CHINA**

Currently no such case. China will record and advise in a timely manner in future once encountered.

## **CHINESE TAPEI**

To meet the reporting requirements established by ICCAT for species encountered as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries and "Recommendation on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries" (Rec. 11-10) which requires CPCs to provide bycatch and discard data, Chinese Taipei has taken necessary steps to collect and report these data to the extent possible. However, it should be noted that since some of bycatches are required to be released alive or discarded dead without being taken onboard, measuring weight and length of them turns out to be difficult. Therefore, the crews or observer on board could only record the number of the bycatch.

## **COSTA RICA**

Al tener Costa Rica embarcaciones de menos de 20 m de eslora se le ha dificultado llegar a implementar un programa de observadores a bordo que podría brindar información más detallada de las faenas de pesca, pero el tamaño de las embarcaciones por limitado espacio para albergar más personas a bordo aparte de la tripulación, además de las condiciones de seguridad representan una limitación importante para su implementación. Se está implementando un plan piloto de observadores a bordo (humano y electrónico), el cual sería la base para el diseño del programa de observadores a bordo. Además, se ha estado mejorando la información pesquera mediante el uso de formularios para toma de datos durante las faenas de pesca (registro de lances, libro de registro de operaciones de pesca, registro de transbordo). Se está elaborando un App para toma de datos.

Se presentó en el informe anual de 2020 entregado en el año 2021 un Plan de Enmienda del 2022 al 2025 para las pesquerías de atunes y especies afines, en aguas jurisdiccionales del Mar Caribe costarricense.

La falta de personal para atender la pesquería del Atlántico de Costa Rica ha sido también una limitación importante. Para solventar este problema, el INCOPESCA ha contratado en el 2022 a dos biólogos que han sido designados a la Regional Huetar Caribe, que es la oficina institucional que ve los temas de la pesca en el Atlántico y se ha realizado muestreos biológicos en desembarques para generar información.

## **CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

- La Côte d'Ivoire dispose d'une petite unité de pêche sportive et récréative, cependant elle ne fait pas de suivi statistique et biologique à cause de l'irrégularité des activités mais aussi à cause de l'insuffisance de personnel technique.

- La Côte d'Ivoire ne dispose pas encore de plan de gestion sur les DCP car les travaux encourrent nécessitent une logistique additionnelle.

Les difficultés rencontrées en matière de déclaration sont dues à la charge de travail.

## **CURAÇAO**

### ***Section 5A: REQUIREMENTS FOR VESSELS LARGER THAN 24 METRES IN LENGTH***

The fishing vessels under the flag of Curaçao larger than 24 metres in length must fulfil the following obligations in order to fish in the ICCAT convention area:

- Be fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System, by satellite tracking system
- To follow strictly all the recommendations issued by ICCAT for their fishery.
- To submit a monthly report of catches to the fishing Authorities.
- To submit a "Transshipment Declaration" each time a transshipment is carried out.
- To submit a "Discharge Declaration" each time a discharge is carried out.
- Every year, to submit a list of "Fishing Licenses" those are issued to the vessel by third countries, in order to fish in the EEZ of the different countries.
- To Inform Curaçao as soon as a fishing licence is renewed.
- To apply for an International Fishing Permit issued by the Government of Curaçao that allows the vessel to operate in the high seas of the Atlantic Ocean and in the ICCAT Convention Area.

### ***Section 5 B: Artisanal fisheries***

#### Background and former situation

The Government of Curaçao created a system of management shared between the Ministry of Economic Development (MED, formerly the Ministry of Economic and Labor Affairs) and the Ministry of Health, Environment, and Nature (GMN). MED manages high seas fishing and would manage large-scale domestic fishing in Curaçao waters if such fisheries were to exist, with the advice and consultation with the Fisheries Commission, International Fisheries Commission, and Minister of Traffic, Transportation, and Spatial Planning (VVRP). GMN's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Management (AVB), formerly the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries (LVV), separately manages small-scale fishing in the Curaçao territorial sea. All of it may complicate fishery data recording and reporting when it comes to ICCAT species. In the case of industrial fisheries (surface fleets is clear, but when it comes to ICCAT species caught by artisanal fisheries, the data is not reported to the appropriate authorities, and is not shown in FAO or in ICCAT data bases. A monitoring system for artisanal fisheries is being developed by the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature in consultation with the Ministry of Economic Development.

During the on-site visit to Curaçao, Dr. Arocha held discussions with officers at the Department of Fisheries Agriculture and Fisheries Management (AVB) (which falls under the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature) which contributed to clarify the limitation on data collection and reporting of large pelagic species caught by artisanal fisheries. Although they recognized the need for it, most of their effort is directed towards managing reef fisheries. Officers at the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature indicated that they recorded data on catches of large pelagic species but were substantially impaired due to lack of financial support to monitor landings of large pelagic species, in addition to deficiencies in trained personnel at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature for data recording and reporting on species-specific catch. The last year of available catch data for large pelagic species is 2006, however is not reported to ICCAT. Officials at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature presented a new report (yet to be published) on historical changes on fishery practices in Curaçao from 1950 to present, focusing mostly on reef fisheries, but with information on changes in large pelagic fisheries. It appears that the over-exploitation of inshore resources lead them to target costal pelagic fishes, mainly dolphinfish-DOL, and what they call blue marlin; later (recent times) when fishers became experienced and technology increased, fishers started to use oil-tankers as fish aggregating devises (oil-tanker FADs) targeting yellowfin tuna and blackfin tuna, as well as wahoo. It seems that they also catch billfishes and sharks, but due to the low price of those species in the local markets, fishermen avoid them. Unfortunately, not consistent data is

consistently has been recorded. Due to the fact that the tankers came from Venezuela this type of fisheries is almost nihil, because of the Venezuelan situation there are no tankers coming to Curaçao.

Dr. Arocha spoke with Fishery officers of MED, who are responsible for reporting Task I and Task II data to ICCAT, further explained their limitations to record, collect, and report catches of ICCAT species from artisanal fisheries due to the fact that this data is lacking at the Ministry of Health Environment and Nature.

#### Areas of potential strategic investment

Curaçao has the basis for data collection but is very limited on trained personnel at the Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature. Thus, capacity building in the fishery collection of data from the large pelagic artisanal fishery could prove beneficial for ICCAT. Therefore, potential investment could be directed at a data collection program on large pelagic species of interest to ICCAT. Initially, the focus would be one of the two main ports where ICCAT species are landed, by training fishery data collectors for large pelagic species (specifically ICCAT species of interest), most specifically in species ID and effort data collection, particularly in the use of oil-tankers as FADs, as well as the design of port sampling schemes for artisanal fisheries. To improve data collection at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic Development are working on a protocol of cooperation between the two Ministries to improve also monitoring control and surveillance on local fisheries. This protocol will be signed in 2023.

#### New Fisheries ordinance

A new fisheries ordinance has been developed by Curaçao in 2016 which comprises a setup of a body of a fisheries authority. This new ordinance has been approved by the Government and has to be treated by the Parliament. The Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Health is consulting with each other how the part of artisanal fisheries can be further developed. Curaçao fisheries laws that govern now include national and island ordinances and subsidiary legislation, which predate 2010. Fisheries Authority of Curaçao continue to apply mentioned laws and decrees until this new fisheries ordinance of 2016 is approved by the Parliament of Curaçao.

#### Reporting of Sharks and billfishes

The National Nature Policy Ordinance (landsverordening grondslagen natuurbeheer en -bescherming (PB 1998, No. 49) and the Council Decision of 21st September 2018, no. 18/2870, established the consolidated text of the National Ordinance Foundations for Nature Management and Protection of the Nature Policy Ordinance of the former Netherlands Antilles does provide legal protection for all species listed in Appendix I of the CMS (art. 8c), Appendix I of CITES (Art. 6 ,7) appendices I and II of the SPAW protocol (Art. 8a en 8b). The available legislation provides the scope for implementing effective protection of sharks.

As reference to improve sharks reporting a shark protection plan has been made which is now in implementation in Curaçao and the different other islands of the former Netherlands Antilles .

With regard to the billfish reporting, a Decree hereto is currently being formulated. The Fishing Authority in the meantime issued circulars to give instructions to the vessel owners to comply with the ICCAT recommendations and Regulations. The Fishing Authority has 100% monitoring, control and surveillance on those instructions. Curaçao has 100% observer coverage and the crew of the vessels have been trained to ensure the safe release of bycatch, in the shortest possible time.

#### **EGYPT**

According to the law no. 146/2021 for issuing Lakes and Fish Resources Protection and Development Agency (LFRPDA) under the supervision of Prime Minister Office the sector faces many difficulties due to the recently issued of executive regulations in late February 2023 which not fully implemented yet since when it will be fully implemented it will in turn strengthen our management measures for the entire sector.

Moreover, we try to attend all meetings to understand and manage the file well and to obtain as much information as possible to maximize the benefit to Egypt in cooperation with ICCAT and with the assistance of its helpful and cooperative staff. Also, on the other hand, a parallel working group was established in

cooperation with the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries of scientific experts to help managing the scientific part of the file and giving the scientific advice. The scientific program for the trainees nominated to carry out the tasks of the scientific observer will be implemented as soon as possible. However, we still need technical and financial support of ICCAT in capacity building for the scientific observer program, data entry and tagging for BFT.

Egypt confirms its commitment to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures, and work hardly to provide the fisheries data at the appropriate time as much as possible.

Thank you for your kind cooperation and support.

#### **EL SALVADOR**

No se encontró dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT y se han cumplido con los tiempos estipulados para el envío de los requisitos a la Secretaría de ICCAT.

#### **EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

- Falta de un sistema estadístico fiable, ya que Guinea Ecuatorial no dispone de una flota atunera nacional, la poca captura de los Túnidos y especies afines que declaramos, proceden de las pesquerías que realizan los pescadores artesanales de la Isla de Annobón,
- Falta de Formación de Recursos Humanos en la estadística pesquera y en los temas relacionados con ICCAT,
- La declaración tardía de las capturas por parte de los pescadores, hace que la Célula esté enviando datos con un poco de retraso.

#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

No difficulties were encountered in the implementation of the ICCAT conservation and management measures. All reporting obligations were met on time.

#### **FRANCE SPM**

- Il n'y a pas eu de difficultés rencontrées dans la mise en œuvre ni dans le respect des mesures de conservation et de gestion de la CICTA pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon en 2022.
- Aucune infraction à la réglementation n'a été constatée en 2022.
- Nous avons connu des difficultés à nous familiariser avec le système IOMS (personnes arrivées récemment sur de nouvelles fonctions) mais nous allons suivre une formation en octobre.

#### **GABON**

Les difficultés à collecter les données des pêcheries dans les régions enclavées préoccupent toujours l'administration des pêches. De ce fait, un programme de restructuration du système se poursuit timidement dû aux procédures administratives.

#### **GHANA**

Tropical

The Ghanaian processing software for her catch data is still not available to streamline Task 2 after a decade of revisions. Within the complexities of our fishery, we do hope that the new software will be finalized by ICCAT/IRD which will yield fruitful results. Ghana has stated her willingness to co-operate in all spheres for a suitable programme which would stand the test of time. In the interim all raw data from all our individual vessels have been sent to the ICCAT secretariat and impartially incorporated into the ICCAT database since 2006.

It is very difficult to collate weekly data on tuna and other important species as vessels arrive after months of leaving port and more so have no real-time electronic monitoring systems to deserrminate the information such as electronic logbook.

In integrating data collected in the field especially FAD deployed among others, over a set by set basis for monthly analysis for all segments of surface fishing fleets has become cumbersome and a unified system and software is envisaged coupled with training in analysing data collected.

Sharks & By-Catch Issues

There is the need for more training in this field as the fishery is becoming more important especially in areas of endangered species becoming extinct. Manuals are few and general and presently we are able to work closely on a few sharks grouping such as silky and blue sharks as we encounter them a lot. The others are termed others or as "shark NEI". We don't have the expertise in the field of shark taxonomy hence we often don't fill out the forms to the best of ICCAT's requirements; this has been a concern to us.

#### **GUATEMALA**

Guatemala, realiza diferentes acciones para mejorar y fortalecer el cumplimiento de las medidas aplicables en el marco de la Comisión o aquellas que puedan contribuir a ésta. En lo concerniente a los DCP, buques de apoyo y cuadernos de pesca, la flota atunera nacional, es parte de un programa de observadores independiente que cumple con los estándares internacionales en cuanto a registro y seguimiento de las actividades pesqueras. Este proveedor de servicio comunica con regularidad los informes y datos a la Comisión, con lo cual se busca fortalecer las medidas de conservación a futuro.

Guatemala ha reportado las capturas de los túnidos tropicales según las recomendaciones de la Comisión y de acuerdo al porcentaje en los límites de captura según reportes del año 2022, se alcanzó un 93.75% del límite de captura en la ultima semana de diciembre del año en mención.

Con relación a los tiburones y otras especies de captura fortuita, existen una serie de instrumentos nacionales e internacionales adoptados para el ordenamiento, regulación y manejo de estas especies, como: Protocolo de liberación de tiburones y rayas, el reglamento regional OSP-05-11 para desalentar el aleteo del tiburón (a pesar que en Guatemala no se realiza dicha práctica), entre otros. Por lo cual, nuestros armadores atuneros que operan en la zona del Convenio conscientes de la importancia de estos recursos y en cumplimiento diferentes regulaciones o iniciativas se esfuerzan en implementar las acciones posibles para liberar los organismos vivos al mar. Importante mencionar, en caso se llegase a capturar de forma fortuita algunas especies asociadas a la pesquería objetivo en ningún caso se comercializan y son descargados localmente en puertos africanos donde representan una fuente adicional de proteína y contribuyen a la seguridad alimentaria local. En el año 2022 no se reportaron capturas fortuitas de ninguna especie asociadas a la pesquería objetivo.

Guatemala como parte de la Comisión, busca constantemente mejorar año con año el cumplimiento y así atender responsablemente nuestras competencias.

#### **GUYANA**

SHK 01: The majority of sharks are caught by the artisanal fishers and are consumed locally. These species are often landed headless and thus are difficult to identify to the species level. Notwithstanding, the CPC is committed to following ICCAT's recommendations for shark species management, and additional policies may be necessary to support these guidelines. The FD is working with the fishery to ensure compliance until the necessary legislation and NPOAS are implemented.

BYC 8002-8003: During the reporting period, there were very few reports of turtle sightings by shrimp trawl fishermen. There were negligible interactions with the fishing gears due to the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and area fished, as per, regulation.

Other: The FD remains dedicated to ensuring that all of ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including accurate and timely data reporting are implemented and adhered to. The FD also welcomes capacity building initiatives for the staff in ICCAT-related matters as they are relatively inexperienced.

#### **ICELAND**

Due to a discard ban onboard Icelandic fishing vessels, ICCAT CMM provision that ban retention or landing of certain commercial fish species cannot be implemented as such. In yearly BFT regulations for directed fishing provisions are made that require such species (mostly shark species not present in Icelandic waters) to be released alive if possible. If dead the catch shall be landed, registered, and submitted to the Marine and Freshwater Research Institute for scientific purposes only.

#### **JAPAN**

Observers could not be adequately deployed for Japanese vessels in the ICCAT area for the 2022 fishing year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **KOREA**

None

## **LIBERIA**

Implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures is a priority to the fisheries management of Liberia; as such Liberia is making every effort to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures. In 2022, there were 37 licensed tuna fishing vessels through Access Agreement to fish in the EEZ of Liberia. Liberia in an effort to ensure that it tracks the implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures, has staff delegated with specific responsibilities to the execution of adopted recommendations of ICCAT.

## **LIBYA**

Due to the unstable situation prevailing since 2011 there were some difficulties encountered in the embarkation of ROPs.

- therefore one reverted to the use of alternative ports such as Antalia in Turkey and Marsaxlokk and Valetta in Malta for the embarkation and disembarkation of the Regional Observers.

## **MAURITANIE**

A partir de 2015, la Mauritanie a élaboré et mis en œuvre une nouvelle réforme de son secteur des pêches ; introduisant ainsi le paradigme du système de gestion par quota. Ce système repose sur les connaissances scientifiques les plus récentes et fiables disponibles, permettant de définir un TAC global, puis par groupes d'espèces ou espèces qui sont ensuite répartis par opérateur.

D'ores et déjà, au niveau de la pêcherie des thons un gap d'information existe quant au suivi du niveau de l'exploitation des différents groupes de la pêcherie thonière aussi bien en termes d'espèces capturées accessoirement par les opérateurs non moins de concession sur le thon (licence thon) qu'en termes de quantité (données agrégées au niveau du journal de pêche et autre déclarations de débarquement).

Cette situation constatée et signalée par nos services de gestion chargés du suivi régulier de l'exploitation des concessions de droit d'usage allouées dans le cadre de la nouvelle réforme du système de gestion, constitue une insuffisance qui pourrait impacter la durabilité de la pêcherie des thons.

## **MAROC**

A partir de 2022, dans le cadre de suivi de la pêcherie artisanale exploitant les pêcheries ICCAT, un processus de collecte de données scientifiques a été mis en place. Ce processus a été précédé par des réunions de concertation et de sensibilisation des pêcheurs.

Cinq (5) fiches ont été renseignées correspondant à 5 palangriers. Ces fiches englobent des informations collectées par opération de pêche en l'occurrence : la durée de marée, l'engin utilisé, le nombre hameçons par opération de pêche, la capture en poids et en nombre et les informations sur la zone de pêche en plus des rejets.

## **MEXICO**

No aplica.

## **NAMIBIA**

Rec. 16-14: Implementation of Scientific Observer Programmes

Namibia do have a National Observer Program. The Fisheries Observer Agency's (FOA) mandate is to observe the harvesting, processing and handling of marine resources and to collect biological data onboard commercial fishing vessels. Fisheries observers were also tasked to observe the activities of fishing vessels at sea and report any violations for possible action to be taken against the culprits. Furthermore, Namibia had deployed Fisheries Inspectors both at sea onboard Fisheries Patrol vessels and in the harbours, to ensure strict compliance with the country's rules and regulations related to the exploitation of marine living resources, including those adopted by Namibia as part of its obligations to RFMO's and International Organisations. One of the challenges is the limited availability of trained Observers and scientists to collect and analyse the much needed biological and research scientific data from commercial fishing activities, especially from the shark fisheries. There is also limited capacity, both in terms of availability of resources and research vessels, to carry out dedicated scientific research on sharks and other ICCAT managed species and this is complicated by the fact that these species are highly migratory and trans-boundary.

## **NICARAGUA**

Ausencia de dificultades sustantivas para la implementación y cumplimiento.

Nicaragua no ha tenido dificultades para la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación del ICCAT, haremos todos los esfuerzos para evitar incumplimientos en las medidas establecidas por la Comisión.

## **NORWAY**

Norway did not encounter any difficulties with ICCAT conservation and management measures in 2022.

## **PANAMA**

Implementación de la cobertura del 10% para el 2022 del programa de observadores a bordo en la flota de palangre.

## **PHILIPPINES**

None as of the moment because the Philippines has had no active fleet in the ICCAT Area of Convention from 2015 to the present.

## **RUSSIA**

In 2022, Russia did not carry out the specialized fishery for tunas in the Atlantic Ocean. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). In 2022, the catch of tunas was 7335 tons.

Difficulties are encountered in collecting scientific materials by observers on board fishing trawlers.

1. In 2022-2023, Russia did not have specialized tuna fishing vessels (purse seine, longline, pole and line) engaged in harvesting the ICCAT species (tunas, swordfishes, sharks and sea turtles). In this regard, the quantity of the ICCAT species in the total catch is extremely limited, since trawls conditionally suitable for catching large fish, served as a fishing gear. Tunas from the group "Small Tunas" occasionally occurred in trawl catches during target fishing for other small species (horse-mackerel, mackerel, sardine and other species). The catch of tunas from the group "Tropical Tunas" is represented by a small number of skipjack as a by-catch. Large tunas from this group were absent, as well as tunas of the group "Temperate Waters". Swordfishes and sharks are presented in by-catch of trawlers in single specimens.
2. In the absence of specialized fishing for tunas and with periodic by-catch of tunas and in small quantities (sometimes singly) difficulties are encountered in collecting materials on fish length and their biological parameters. At certain periods, it is not possible to provide monthly data for some tuna species.
3. In the case of the low by-catch of tunas, difficulties are encountered in assessing the proportion of by-catch in the total catch by trawl. Observers periodically carry out work in the vessel's hold on a conveyor feeding the catch for processing, and it caused some difficulties with by-catch per day assessment.

In order to more fully collect by-catch materials, two observers per vessel are sent to Russian fishing vessels. The work schedule of observers at sea is optimized for a more complete and efficient use of working time.

## **SENEGAL**

Des difficultés d'ordre administratif, de gestion et techniques peuvent être évoquées pour une bonne observation des règles de gestion de l'ICCAT. Il s'agit de:

- la transposition de l'ensemble des recommandations pertinentes dans le cadre juridique de la pêche du Sénégal qui est en cours ;
- l'implication de plusieurs services administratifs nécessite une synergie et une coordination qui se mettent en place progressivement ;
- Les bases de données disponibles qui n'offrent pas un traitement optimal des informations ;
- le vieillissement et le nombre réduit des observateurs font qu'il est difficile de mettre en œuvre le programme national d'observateurs scientifiques. A cet effet, il y a un besoin de formation et de renforcement des capacités en matière de collecte des données, d'identification des espèces, d'échantillonnage biologiques, de mise à niveau pour pouvoir accomplir les tâches scientifiques à bord.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

Noting serious capacity human resources capacity constraints, South Africa complied with all its data and reporting requirements to ICCAT.

## **ST VINCENT & GRENADINE**

As an island state, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes the contributions which the fisheries sector makes to the economy and the food and nutritional security of developing states. With an increased demand for fish and the increased efforts from fishers to meet this demand, globally fishing pressure on the marine capture fisheries has led to the degradation of some fish stocks. The key constraint faced in the implementation of conservation and management measures is a lack of capital to finance relevant initiatives, however St. Vincent and the Grenadines continues to implement activities towards the improvement of legislation, policies and procedures involving the marine space.

## **SURINAME**

Because of several factors such as, limited financial and human capacity, an outdated fisheries legislation we are not in a position yet to ensure full compliance with all the conservation and management measures adopted by the ICCAT Commission.

Suriname also acts as a port state, however, it has been found that Surinamese inspectors are currently not well trained to inspect foreign tuna vessels. Therefore, in 2012 Suriname requested ICCAT to assist Suriname in training these inspectors in order to comply with the obligations towards ICCAT (Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)).

Our national fishing legislation is outdated (dated from 1980) and needs to be updated in order to be able to comply with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures. With the support of FAO, a draft for a new Fisheries Act has been drawn up. The draft Fisheries Act provides for a broad institutional setting with the aim of ensuring a transparent and efficient management and decision-making process within the fisheries sector. It also provides for the establishment of a Fisheries Development Fund that aims to promote the ecological and socio-economic sustainable development of the fisheries and fisheries sector in the Republic of Suriname. The law contains provisions on the management and conservation of fish stocks, including the requirement to establish fishing management plans. The law also lays down rules regarding the licenses issued to Surinamese fishing vessels within the waters of Suriname, attaching great importance to transparency and legal certainty. A new part of fisheries legislation is the regulation of fishing and related activities on the high seas. The development of a new fisheries law is currently at a very advanced stage.

To ensure full compliance with Recommendation 13-13 by ICCAT, Suriname is in need for some clarification on this recommendation. After sending a letter date May, 04, 2021 with ref. no. DVis-454 to the PWG on the 7th May 2021 requesting some clarification on this matter, it is still not entirely clear for the government of Suriname whether it is an obligation to register a non-tuna vessel longer than 20 meters, targeting demersal finfish in our waters (Exclusive Economic zone) under our national law as the main catch and catches some King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus Cavalla*), Atlantic Spanish Mackerel (*scomberomorus maculatus*), and sharks (*Carcharhinidae* spp.) as by-catch. We do report the data of these catches on the ST02 task 1, ST03 task 2 and ST04 task 2 forms to ICCAT.

## **SYRIA**

General Commission for Fisheries Resources as fish authority in Syria doing all available means to improve fisheries management and statistical data collection under the difficult conditions in Syria, it encourage fishermen to develop their fishing gear and extend fishing activities to EEZ to meet the high demand for marine products due to overexploitation of coastal fisheries resources, but because of circumstances in Syria and illegal sanctions since 2011 there is less interest of investing in fishing activities, in addition to the fact that many fishermen moved for another alternative works. We hope that with the end of the crisis in Syria, more new vessels will be operated and conduct to fishing activities.

General Commission for Fisheries Resources request for technical support for developing landing centers and training programs of at least two officers regarding resource management to insure more cooperation and best implementation of ICCAT recommendations in future to come.

## **TUNISIE**

Difficulté de répondre à tous les communiqués des données requises. A cet effet, il est souhaitable de réduire certaines d'entre elles ayant le même objet en une seule exigence de déclaration et l'élimination d'autres formulaires dont l'information est saisie par le biais de l'application eBCD, déclarations destinées au SCRS et déclarations destinées au COM.

## **TÜRKİYE**

No particular difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures within the reporting period.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

### *5.1 Metropolitan UK*

ICCAT Recommendation 21-04 by ICCAT (*Recommendation 21-04 by ICCAT on Conservation and Management Measures, including a Management Procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic albacore*) paragraph 13 requires that a maximum vessel onboard bycatch limit is set. Implementing this requirement contradicts Met UK domestic legislation, in place since 2019, which requires all dead fish to be landed (the 'landing obligation'). This is because if Met UK sets an onboard vessel bycatch limit and albacore catches by a fishing vessel not authorised to target albacore exceeded that limit, the vessel would still be obliged to land those catches, in line with the domestic landing obligation but in contravention of the ICCAT-derived vessel limit. Met UK is considering how to address this issue.

In 2022, Met UK did not meet the 5% observer coverage requirement for vessels fishing for North Atlantic albacore. While Met UK required all vessels licensed to fish for North Atlantic albacore to have 5% observer coverage (via a vessel licence condition), observer coverage of fishing trips undertaken by the licensed vessels in the fishery totalled 4.1% combined coverage (3 of 71 days). Fishing activity by the vessels was more productive towards the start of the fishing season, when an observer was not deployed. When the vessels had observers on board later in the season, there were no observed landings. To address this, the UK has adjusted its observer plans appropriately to ensure that observers are present earlier in the season – for 2023 vessels are required to carry observers on their first or second trip. A vessel will not be permitted to conduct a third trip if they have not deployed an observer. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in enforcement action being taken.

### The UKOTs

Structured development of sustainable fisheries is a core component of the UK Government's environmental strategies for its Overseas Territories. In 2016 the UK Government launched its 'Blue Belt' programme, which will continue through to 2025, providing technical advice to support improvements in institutional arrangements in the UKOTs and effective ecosystem-based management of marine resources, including compliance with ICCAT Recommendations. Whilst legislative changes are being considered in many of the Territories, implementation can take time and is impacted by the amount of outstanding legislation work in other areas.

### *5.2 Bermuda*

Upgrades to the Bermuda Customs Department's system several years ago resulted in better itemisation of imported tuna and tuna-like species. However, a fair amount of tuna is still being characterised as 'other tunas'. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working with the Customs Department to continue to improve reporting in this area. In addition, work still needs to be done to ensure that checks on the documentation of consignments of bigeye tuna and swordfish imported into Bermuda are implemented in line with all import requirements (GEN 0026; TRO 2006; SWO 3001).

### *5.3 St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha*

For St Helena, capacity and capital restrictions are still an issue in complying with ICCAT measures. However, St Helena is committed in its endeavour to improve fisheries management and has established a fisheries science programme, including a tuna tagging programme. This programme has facilitated improved data collection and submission of relevant information to ICCAT, aiding in the compliance with certain ICCAT measures.

The Marine and Fisheries Conservation Section of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning (ENRP) is still in the final stages of reviewing the licensing system for commercial, recreational and sports fishing activities within St Helena waters. Relevant ICCAT Recommendations are being fully considered within this process and provisions to ensure compliance with them will be incorporated.

St Helena has been successful in introducing a local observer program covering its rod and reel tuna fishery for 2022. St Helena does not currently undertake any fishing activities involving the use of FADs. With the expected expansion of the fishery over the next 3-5 years anchored FADs may be utilised. Saint Helena's tuna fishery exclusively uses 'one by one' fishing methods. The deployment of FADs in Saint Helena's EEZ is regulated and any FAD deployment will require a licence, which will be used to regulate FAD construction and location.

#### *5.4 Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI)*

The Turks and Caicos Islands, as mentioned in previous sections, is not presently targeting ICCAT species commercially, although the interest to pursue some has risen over recent years. TCI is also in the process of amending its regulations to enhance the protection of sharks and other elasmobranchs in over 70% of the fishery limits. The Blue Belt programme has assisted with providing draft legislation that could be incorporated into TCI's Fisheries Protection Regulations. The draft amendments have been reviewed by the Fisheries Advisory Board and the Ministry. The proposed amendments will be subject to TCI's standard parliamentary processes, ahead of their coming into force. TCI is proactively making strides to comply with all ICCAT conservation and management measures, in the hope of developing a targeted commercial fishery in the future.

#### *5.5 British Virgin Islands (BVI)*

BVI has experienced a decline in human and financial resources available to fisheries management. Current efforts to recruit staff and implement co-management strategies are underway to improve efficacy in the near future.

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States has no difficulties to report regarding the implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures.

### **URUGUAY**

No se encontraron dificultades en la implementación y cumplimiento de las medidas de conservación y ordenación de ICCAT.

Todas las Recomendaciones de ICCAT aprobadas durante la Reunión de la Comisión en el año 2022 han sido internalizadas en Uruguay.

### **VENEZUELA**

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela, como país parte de la Comisión Internacional para la Conservación del Atún Atlántico (CICAA) desea dejar de manifiesto su más clara e impostergable voluntad de cumplir con el conjunto de edictos de la Comisión con el fin de garantizar toda y cada una de las medidas de conservación y ordenación establecido en el seno de la misma. Lo anterior se refleja en el andamiaje normativo nacional en materia de pesca y conservación de recursos hidrobiológicos, y en el trabajo que realiza a diario el personal técnico a través del Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y Acuicultura.

Para la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, es imperativo dar a conocer las agravantes circunstancias que de forma extraordinaria hemos venido sobrellevando como nación. Desde el año 2015 y con la imposición de más de 906 Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales, nuestro país se le ha pretendido la imposición de un cerco absoluto para su relacionamiento internacional, además de perjudicar nuestro sector pesquero y acuícola nacional, con impacto en los procesos productivos, así como de investigación.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela ratifica su disposición en la participación activa a través de la asistencia a reuniones de manera presencial y virtual, así como, facilitar la data solicitada sobre los aspectos

técnicos de medición que realiza la Comisión bajo sus orientaciones metodológicas, y todas aquellas acciones que garanticen nuestro cumplimiento País, con miras a optimizar nuestros procesos de intercambio de información y comunicación plena con la Comisión.

Nuestro país, hace el mejor de los esfuerzos para cumplir con las recomendaciones y cumplimientos ante la CICAA, demostrado que el trabajo mancomunado entre el Estado, técnicos y pescadores del país, es el principal recurso con que cuenta nuestra Nación para cumplir con todas las medidas, estrategias y recomendaciones que emanan de la Comisión para el sostenimiento de nuestros recursos hidrobiológicos, para así reorientar nuestras políticas públicas en el marco de una económica sostenida, autosustentable y en perfecta armonía con la madre naturaleza.