

Exchange of Letters of Agreement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

This letter expresses the intention of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) to work cooperatively with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) under the umbrella of the Agreement Between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), which entered into force on 26 November 1973 (the "Agreement").

Consistent with the Agreement, in particular its Articles 3 to 6, ICCAT intends to exchange information and documents with WECAFC and cooperate in areas of mutual interest to the respective organizations, including data collection, research, and the provision of technical assistance. In particular, ICCAT and WECAFC intend to enhance cooperation to advance our common goals with regard to the sustainable use of living marine resources and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, within our respective mandates, governing rules, and conservation and management measures.

As voluntary participants in this work, ICCAT and WECAFC intend to strengthen collaboration and coordinate efforts, improve synergies, and avoid duplications in the context of the development of projects and programs focusing on regional priorities in order to foster improved governance and promote commonalities.

Specific activities of mutual interest on which ICCAT and WECAFC intend to work collaboratively may include, but are not limited to:

1. Planning of and participation in Working Groups relevant to both organizations, including collaboration in the development of fishery management plans and regional plans of action as appropriate;
2. Improving data collection and access to data for use in informing stock status determinations and fisheries management, including data collection for artisanal fisheries on shared stocks, and sharing scientific analyses and expertise;
3. Enhancing communication in relation to monitoring, control and surveillance-related issues and exchanging relevant information on IUU fishing activities carried out in their respective Convention areas;
4. Continuing dialogue in view of the potential development of joint activities, including research and capacity building projects such as joint training activities, workshops, and information sessions (in-person or virtual); and
5. Exchanging views on the role of the RFBs in relation to cooperation and coordination with relevant global processes and agreements (e.g., Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, Global Biodiversity Framework, etc.), and, as appropriate, coordinating with respect to their engagement in these fora.

ICCAT and WECAFC hope that through this cooperation ICCAT and WECAFC can harmonize activities and optimize the use of resources to the extent possible.

If the foregoing is acceptable to FAO, on behalf of WECAFC, I propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming the acceptance of the contents of this letter, be regarded as constituting the entire arrangement between ICCAT and WECAFC, and that this arrangement shall commence on the date of your reply.

Yours sincerely,
[Insert name]
[Insert title]