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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2004-05
PART II (2005) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(as of 31 December 2005)

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

COMMISSION OFFICERS

<i>Commission Chairman</i>	<i>First Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Second Vice-Chairman</i>
W. T. HOGARTH, United States (since 20 November 2005)	E-J. SPENCER, European Community (since 20 November 2005)	F. O. MBO NCHAMA, Equatorial Guinea (since 20 November 2005)

Panel No.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Chair

-1- <i>Tropical tunas</i>	Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Venezuela	Côte d'Ivoire
-2- <i>Temperate tunas, North</i>	Algeria, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States	European Community
-3- <i>Temperate tunas, South</i>	Brazil, European Community, Japan, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States	South Africa
-4- <i>Other species</i>	Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Venezuela	Japan

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

Chair

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	J. JONES, Canada (since 21 November 1997)
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS) Sub-Committee on Statistics: M. ORTIZ (United States), Convener Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: J.M. FROMENTIN (EC-France), Convener	G. SCOTT, United States (since 7 October 2005)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	F. WIELAND, EC (since 19 November 2001)
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)	

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: MR. D. MESKI
Assistant Executive Secretary: Dr. V. R. RESTREPO
Address: C/Corazón de María 8, Madrid 28002 (Spain)
Internet: <http://www.iccat.int> - *E-mail:* info@iccat.int

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, 2004-2005, Part II (2005)*", which describes the activities of the Commission during the second half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Seville, Spain, November 14-20, 2005) and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and a series of 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 for 2005 has been published in three volumes. *Volume 1* includes the Secretariat's Administrative and Financial Reports, 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 Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research and the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) and its appendices. *Volume 3* contains the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission and Observers.

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.

MASANORI MIYAHARA
Commission Chairman

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REPORT FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD, 2004-2005, PART II (2005)

SECRETARIAT REPORTS

2005 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT¹

1. Introduction

This Administrative Report is presented in accordance with Article VII of the Convention.

2. Contracting Parties to the Convention

After the adherence of the Republic of Guatemala and the Republic of Senegal, at the end of Fiscal Year 2004, and the adherence of Belize in July 2005, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is currently comprised of the following 41 Contracting Parties: Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China (People's Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, St. Tome and Principe, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

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

Following the Republic of Equatorial Guinea's deposit of an Instrument of Acceptance of the Madrid Protocol on December 10, 2004, the Madrid Protocol entered into force on March 10, 2005, in accordance with Article III of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The Contracting Parties were notified of the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol as of March 10, 2005.

4. ICCAT Regulations and Resolutions

– *Adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions*

On December 14, 2004, the Secretariat officially transmitted to the Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that have Atlantic coastlines or that fish tunas in the Convention area, and to intergovernmental fishery organizations, the texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 14th Special Meeting of the Commission (New Orleans, United States, November 15 to 21, 2004), requesting their cooperation in this regard.

The texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission in 2004 were published in the *Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part I (2004), Vol. 1*.

Upon completion of the six-months' grace period following the transmission of the Recommendations adopted by the Commission, during which time no official objection was presented to this effect, and in accordance with Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention, the aforementioned **Recommendations** entered into force on June 13, 2005. On that date, the Contracting Parties were notified of the entry into force of these Recommendations. As regards the **Resolutions** adopted at the 14th Special Meeting, these reflect decisions of a general nature that were adopted by the Commission during its 2004 meeting and which are not governed by the notification and review process outlined in Article VIII of the Convention.

¹ The Administrative Report presented at the Commission meeting in 2005 has been updated to December 31, 2005.

5. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and working groups

In accordance with Commission decisions on this subject, the following meetings were held in 2005:

- 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies (*Fukuoka, Japan, April 20 to 23, 2005*).
- Meeting of the Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs (*Fukuoka, Japan, April 25 to 27, 2005*).
- Data Preparatory Meeting for the 2006 Billfish Assessment (*Natal, Brazil, May 9 to 13, 2005*).
- 2nd Meeting of Key Contacts of the Working Group to Consider the Development of a Compendium of Recommendations and Resolutions (*Madrid, Spain, June 27 & 28, 2005*).
- Planning Meeting for Bluefin Tuna Research (*Madrid, Spain, June 27 to 30, 2005*).
- Workshop on Methods to Reduce Mortality of Juvenile Tropical Tunas (*Madrid, Spain, July 4 to 8, 2005*).
- Meetings of Species Groups (*Madrid, Spain, September 26 to 30, 2005*).
- Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (*Madrid, Spain, October 3 to 7, 2005*).
- Meeting of Working Group to Consider the Development of a Compendium of Recommendations and Resolutions (*Seville, Spain, November 13, 2005*).

6. Meetings at which ICCAT was represented

In the framework of ICCAT's mission, which consists of assessing the measures adopted by the Commission, within international organizations, the Secretariat participated in several meetings and technical consultative processes, which include regional fishery bodies (see **Appendix 2**, which summarizes the main topics that were discussed at these meetings).

- Seventh Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee (*Victoria, Seychelles, November 8 to 12, 2004*).
- 29th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (*FAO Headquarters, Rome, February 21-25, 2005*).
- 2nd Meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee (*Copenhagen, Denmark, February 25 to 26, 2005*).
- Meeting of the FEMS Project (*San Sebastian, Spain, February 28 to March 4, 2005*).
- Coordination Working Party on Fisheries Statistics - 21st session ICES (*Copenhagen, Denmark, March 1-4, 2005*).
- 26th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (*Rome, Italy, March 7-11, 2005*).
- 5th Meeting of Secretariats of Tuna Agencies and Programs (*Rome, Italy, March 11, 2005*).
- Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries (*Rome, Italy, March 12, 2005*).
- 4th Meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies (The RFB Secretariats Network) (*Rome, Italy, March 14-15, 2005*).
- 3rd Meeting of the Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming/Fattening Practices in the Mediterranean (*Rome, Italy, March 16-18, 2005*).
- Conference on the Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement (*St John's, New Foundland and Labrador, Canada, May 1 to 5, 2005*).
- Joint Meeting of the EUROSTAT Working Group "Fishery Statistics" and the Statistics Liaison Working Group of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) (*Luxembourg, May 2-3, 2005*).
- 4th Informal Meeting of States Parties to the Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 regarding the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (*United Nations, New York, May 31 to June 3, 2005*).
- 6th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (*United Nations, New York, June 6-10, 2005*).
- 73rd Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) (*Lanzarote, Spain, June 20 to 24, 2005*).
- 6th Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT) (*Rabat, Morocco, July 12 to 14, 2005*).
- Conference: Sea Our Future: The Regional Approach to an Integrated European Maritime Policy (*Brussels, Belgium, July 13, 2005*).
- Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 18-22, 2005*).
- Final Meeting of the FEMS Project (*Umbria, Italy, September 5 to 9, 2005*).
- 27th Meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) (*Tallinn, Estonia, September 19 to 23, 2005*).
- 4th International Billfish Symposium (*California, United States, October 31 to November 3, 2005*).

7. Tagging lottery

The annual lottery for participants in the ICCAT International Cooperative Tagging Program for Tuna and Tuna-like Species was held in Madrid, Spain on October 3, 2005, on occasion of the SCRS Meeting. Three US\$500 prizes (tropical tunas, temperate tunas, and billfishes) were awarded, as follows:

- *Tropical tunas* (15 tags entered in the lottery); Winner: Tag #BE20252, for a skipjack tuna tagged by Sao Tomé under a BETYP cruise and recovered by EC-Spain and recovered after 341 days at large.
- *Temperate tunas* (34 tags): Winner: Tag #HM32827, for a bluefin tuna tagged by the United States and recovered by EC-Spain after 2,194 days.
- *Billfishes* (17 tags): Winner: Tag #BF329350, for a sailfish tagged and recovered by the United States after 67 days.

8. Commission Chairman's letters to various Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

8.1 Letters concerning compliance with conservation measures

In accordance with the Commission's decision, on December 15, 2004, the Commission Chairman, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, sent the following letters (see Appendix 5 to Annex 9, and Appendix 4 to Annex 10 of the *ICCAT Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part I*).

Contracting Parties:

- **Equatorial Guinea:** Regarding the lifting of sanctions.
- **Panama:** Revoking identification.

Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities:

- **Belize:** Encouraging continued cooperation and requesting implementation of ICCAT Statistical Document Programs.²
- **Bolivia:** Regarding continuation of bigeye tuna trade restrictive measures.
- **Cambodia:** Regarding the lifting of sanctions.
- **Costa Rica:** Regarding identification in accordance with the Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures.
- **Cuba:** Regarding identification in accordance with the Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures.
- **Georgia:** Regarding continuation of bigeye tuna trade restrictive measures.
- **Palau:** Regarding its flag vessel on ICCAT's IUU list.
- **Senegal:** Encouraging continued cooperation and requesting additional information about monitoring and control measures.²
- **Seychelles:** Revoking identification.
- **Sierra Leone:** Regarding the lifting of sanctions.
- **Sri Lanka:** Requesting information regarding its vessel on the IUU list.
- **St. Vincent and the Grenadines:** Encouraging continued cooperation and noting concerns about catches of albacore and bigeye tuna.
- **Togo:** Revoking identification.
- **Chinese Taipei:** Identifying Chinese Taipei and continuing Cooperating Status.
- **Netherlands Antilles:** Granting Cooperating Status.
- **Guyana:** Renewing Cooperating Status.

8.2 Letters concerning fulfillment of budgetary obligations

In May, 2005, the Executive Secretary sent the following letters concerning the payment of contributions pending payment to the Commissions: People's Republic of China (€52,537.22), Côte d'Ivoire (€1,492.11), Croatia (€16,294.43), Equatorial Guinea (€7,332.23), Republic of Korea (€28,149.76), Morocco (€57,408.44), Nicaragua (€13,280.26), Philippines (€16,182.44), Russia (€17,088.59), Tunisia (€34,844.82), United Kingdom-Overseas Territories (€60,371.72), Vanuatu (€16,628.45), and Venezuela (€132,825.93).

² Became Contracting Party after the 2004 Commission meeting.

Of the above-mentioned Parties, only Croatia, Korea (Rep.), Morocco, Philippines and Russia have fully complied with their financial obligations, and various Contracting Parties made partial payments: China (People's Republic) (€52,537), Côte d'Ivoire (€1,487.11), Tunisia (€31,246.88), United Kingdom-Overseas Territories (€22,994.74) and Venezuela (€61,720.65).

8.3 Letters concerning the establishment of a payment plan of contributions in arrears

In accordance with the Commission's decision at its meeting that took place in New Orleans (November 2004) in order to remedy the situation concerning the delays in budgetary obligations, a proposal for a payment plan should be presented by the Contracting Parties concerned. To this effect, in March, May and October 2005, letters were addressed to certain Contracting Parties (Cape Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Honduras, Panama, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Uruguay) reminding them to present their proposals.

In November 2005 and during the meeting in Seville, four Contracting Parties (Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Panama and Senegal) submitted their payment plans to settle past due debt to the Commission, and these were accepted. At the close of fiscal year 2005, the Secretariat received a contribution from Senegal in the amount of €54,483.97, thereby fulfilling its commitment for payment. Senegal only has its 2005 contribution still pending. Ghana submitted a plan for payment during the 2005-2007 period and also fulfilled its payment plan commitment for 2005, thus reduced its past due debt by €366,277.05. Panama cancelled €24,090.13 of its debt, which corresponded to its 2003 contribution, as it had informed the Commission. The Republic of Guinea established a plan for payment during the 2005-2007 period, indicating that it would cancel €21,000 each year during the first two years of the period and €42,000 in 2007. The Secretariat has not received any notice of payment from the Republic of Guinea with regard to its commitment for 2005. Although no payment plan proposal has been received, Gabon, Uruguay and Sao Tomé & Príncipe have made partial payments of €14,504, €29,265.47 and €22,219.26, respectively.

9. Secretariat publications in 2005

The following publications were issued in 2005:

- Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part I (2004) (Vols. 1, 2 and 3): English.
- Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part I (2004) (Vols. 1, 2 and 3): French.
- Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part I (2004) (Vols. 1, 2 and 3): Spanish.
- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 34.
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. LVII, No. 1 (BETYP Symposium) and No. 2 (Second World Meeting on Bigeye Tuna) (printed copies and on CD ROM).
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. LVIII, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (printed copies and on CD ROM).
- Basic Texts, 4th Revision (2005): English, French and Spanish.
- Staff Regulations and Rules (March 2005): English, French and Spanish.
- ICCAT Newsletter (February and September, 2005).

10. Organization and management of Secretariat staff

10.1 Staff management

a) Internal promotion

In accordance with the decision of the Commission, three staff members have been promoted from the General Services category to the Professional category as of January 2005. This promotion has not had a negative impact on the Commission's budget.

b) New recruitments

In accordance with the decision of the Commission in 2004 concerning the recruitment of a Publications Coordinator and a Compliance Officer, announcements were made in early 2005 based on the terms of reference

developed by the Secretariat. After a period of more than three months, it was noted that few candidates had applied for the two posts. It was then considered opportune to extend the deadline for the acceptance of candidates for one month. Following this period, a selection committee was constituted in consultation among the Executive Secretary, the Commission Chairman and the Chairman of STACFAD. On the basis of the results presented by the selection committee, Dr. Pilar Pallares Soubrier was selected for the position of Publications Coordinator. As concerns the position of Compliance Officer, it was considered necessary to postpone its recruitment and to increase the level of the post to P3 so as to motivate candidates with more experience in legal matters to apply. Consequently, it is proposed that the procedures to fill the position of Compliance Officer be accomplished during the course of 2006.

c) Regularization of the status of overtime for staff in the Professional category

As was decided by the Commission during its meeting in New Orleans, definitive regularization has been carried out regarding the situation of Professional staff that had accumulated a considerable amount of overtime. An arrangement has been concluded between the Executive Secretary and the staff concerned, within the limits of the conditions adopted by the Commission to this effect.

d) Pension plan for Secretariat staff

In 2004, the Secretariat has established contacts with the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) concerning an alternative option to the Van Breda pension plan, in order to assure an adequate and sufficient retirement for the Secretariat staff.

Following the Commission's approval of the initiation of the necessary negotiations for the possible affiliation with the UNJSPF, in September 2005, a high level official from the United Nations office in Geneva visited the Secretariat to explain and provide details to the Secretariat staff concerning the functioning and the benefits of the UNJSPF.

After consultation of the Secretariat staff as regards possible joining the UNJSPF, the consultation has been continued and a decision will be made soon.

10.2. Organization

After the Commission's adoption of the proposals presented by the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration regarding the recruitment of a Publications Coordinator and a Compliance Officer, and considering the internal promotion of staff, the Secretariat has been reorganized as follows (see **Appendix 1**):

Executive Secretary

Driss Meski

Assistant Executive Secretary

Victor Restrepo

Statistics Department

The Statistics Department processes and compiles data on statistics, biology and compliance requested by the Commission and the Scientific Committee (SCRS). It also provides support to the Secretariat, such as the management of computer material and computer software, local network and the electronic distribution of the statistical data, as well as the maintenance of the ICCAT Web site. The department is comprised of five people:
Papa Kebe: Department Head, Coordinates and manages all the tasks relative to the department.
Carlos Palma: Biostatistician.

In addition, the Department includes Juan Luis Gallego, Juan Carlos Muñoz and Jesús Fiz.

Department of Translation and Publications

The work of the Commission involves a number of tasks linked to the compilation, adoption, translation and publication of reports and scientific documents. The Department of Translation and Publications is in charge of these tasks and comprises seven people:

Pilar Pallarés: Publications Coordinator.

Philomena Seidita: Publications Technical Officer and English translator.

The Department includes Rebecca Campoy, Christine Peyre, Christel Navarret, María Isabel de Andrés and María José García-Orad.

Compliance Department

The Compliance Department has been created taking into account the considerable increase in the number of Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission and all the information requested in this regard. Thus, it ensures tasks such as the utilization and explanation of the ICCAT regulations, the validation of ICCAT Statistical Document programs and the preparation of compliance tables, among others. The Department is currently comprised of one person, with the future hiring of the Compliance Officer envisioned.

Jenny Cheatle: Technical Officer who contributes to all tasks assigned to the Department.

Department of Coordination of Scientific Activities

The ICCAT members carry out a vast amount of scientific research and a monitoring of activities aimed at the conservation of the tuna resources. The Secretariat is directly implicated in the coordination of some of these activities, which is carried out by the Assistant Executive Secretary as the Scientific Coordinator who also participates in Departments of the Secretariat.

Department of Finance and Administration

This Department has been consolidated in order to manage all the administrative, finance and human resources tasks of the Secretariat. The Department is comprised of six people.

Juan Antonio Moreno: Department Head. Coordinates and manages all tasks related to the Department.

The Department includes Africa Martín, Esther Peña, Felicidad García, Juan Angel Moreno and Cristóbal García.

11. Change in auditing firm

In accordance with the Commission's decision in New Orleans, a contract has been signed with Deloitte & Touch to conduct the audit of ICCAT accounts, starting in fiscal year 2005.

On several occasions in 2005 the Secretariat met with staff of the auditing firm chosen in order to finalize the methodology and the work plan. A contract was signed between ICCAT and this firm in September, 2005.

12. ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules

12.1 Secretariat proposals to amend the Staff Regulations and Rules

In the case the decision to participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund is adopted, it is proposed that Article 6.1.c) and 6.2.c), Pension Plan, of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules* (ver. 04/2004) be amended as follows in order to reflect the changes approved by the Commission regarding ICCAT's participation as an organization in this Fund (amendments are shown in []):

“6.1.c) Pension Plan: Staff members in the Professional or Higher categories shall also be entitled to participate in the [United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund] (established in United States dollars). The Commission's contribution to pension shall be up to a maximum of 23.7 percent of the figure given for the staff member's corresponding grade and step in the most current schedule of "Annual Pensionable Remuneration for Professional or Higher Categories", that is provided by the International Civil Service Commission. The current contribution rate of the Commission's [to the Fund] is 23.7 percent for staff contracted up to 1999. For staff contracted since January 2000, the changes introduced at the Commission Meeting in Rio de Janeiro in November 1999 will be applied, such that the Commission's contribution to the [Fund] will be two-thirds of the maximum and the staff member will contribute one-third.”

“Participation in the [United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund] is compulsory for those staff members in the Professional or Higher categories whose date of employment is on or after January 1, [2006].”

“6.2.c) Pension Plan: Staff members in the General Services category shall be entitled to participation in the [United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund] (established in United States dollars). The Commission's contribution to pension shall be up to a maximum of 23.7 percent of the total net base salary and, where applicable, the language allowance, according to the staff member's grade and step, as given in the most

current salary schedule for the General Services category for Madrid, that is provided by the International Civil Service Commission. The current contribution rate for the Commission's [to the Fund] is 23.7 percent for staff contracted up to 1999. For staff contracted since January 2000, the changes introduced at the Commission Meeting in Rio de Janeiro in November 1999 will be applied, such that the Commission's contribution to the [Fund] will be two-thirds of the maximum and the staff member will contribute one-third. As this General Services staff salary schedule is established in Euros, the amount applied towards pension is converted to U.S. dollars at the official U.S. dollar exchange rate provided on a monthly basis by the International Civil Service Commission."

"Participation in the [United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund] is compulsory for those staff members in the General Services category whose date of employment is on or after January 1, [2006]."

It is proposed that the following fourth paragraph of Article 6.2.c), Pension Plan, be deleted, considering that the established time limit to chose between the public social Security system has expired.

"Staff members who are nationals or residents of the country of the duty station who have been hired prior to March 1, 2004 (date of entry into force of this amended text) and who up to this date were included in the Van Breda Pension Plan, can choose, prior to 1 September 2004, to withdraw from the aforementioned pension plan and take part in the Public Social Security System of the duty station, if this System so admits, according to the effects and economic conditions expressed in the previous paragraph. This choice will be unique and irrevocable."

All the above proposals were adopted at the meeting of the Commission held in Seville, Spain, in November 2005.

12.2 Secretariat's updating of the Staff Regulations and Rules

In March 2005, the changes concerning overtime of staff in the Professional or Higher categories included in Article 7.3 and approved by the Commission at its meeting in New Orleans in 2004 were introduced.

13. Other matters

13.1 New headquarters of the ICCAT Secretariat

In June 2005 the Secretariat was informed that the Spanish authorities have generously offered ICCAT new headquarters offices. These headquarters are located in the center of Madrid and occupy 1,400m². The area covers the entire first floor of a large building. The Spanish authorities have committed to take charge of all the expenses for the remodeling work on the new headquarters. Taking into account its current state, new headquarters cannot be occupied in the short-term. Because of its large surface area, the new headquarters have the possibility of being adapted for the needs of the different Scientific Committee meetings.

The Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the Government of Spain for all the assistance it provides to the Secretariat.

13.2 Proposal to amend paragraph 4 of the Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status

At the 11th Special Meeting of the Commission in 1998, ICCAT adopted *Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status at ICCAT Meetings*. In these Guidelines, NGOs are required to apply 50 days in advance of the meeting, and Contracting Parties may object to their application up to 30 days before the meeting for which observer status is requested.

In some cases, NGOs have requested observer status considerably in advance (up to 12 months) of the meeting they wish to attend, but the current criteria still allow Contracting Parties to object 30 days in advance of the meeting, making it difficult for such NGOs to make their travel, accommodation and logistical arrangements in good time.

For this reason, it is suggested that paragraph 4 of the Guidelines and Criteria be modified to allow those NGOs that send requests well in advance of the meeting(s) which they wish to attend to be informed of the Commission's decision 60 days following receipt of their request.

The Commission agreed with this modification and the *Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status at ICCAT Meetings*, as amended, are attached to this Report as **Appendix 3**.

13.3 Management of other programs

Japan has provided funds to finance a project for the improvement of the data on the tuna fisheries. The five-year project started in December 2004. A Project Coordinator and an Assistant have been hired to follow the activities and the project accounts.

In 2005, the United States of America provided €103,476.30 to the Data Fund established by Resolution [03-21] to assist scientists from developing countries to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee.

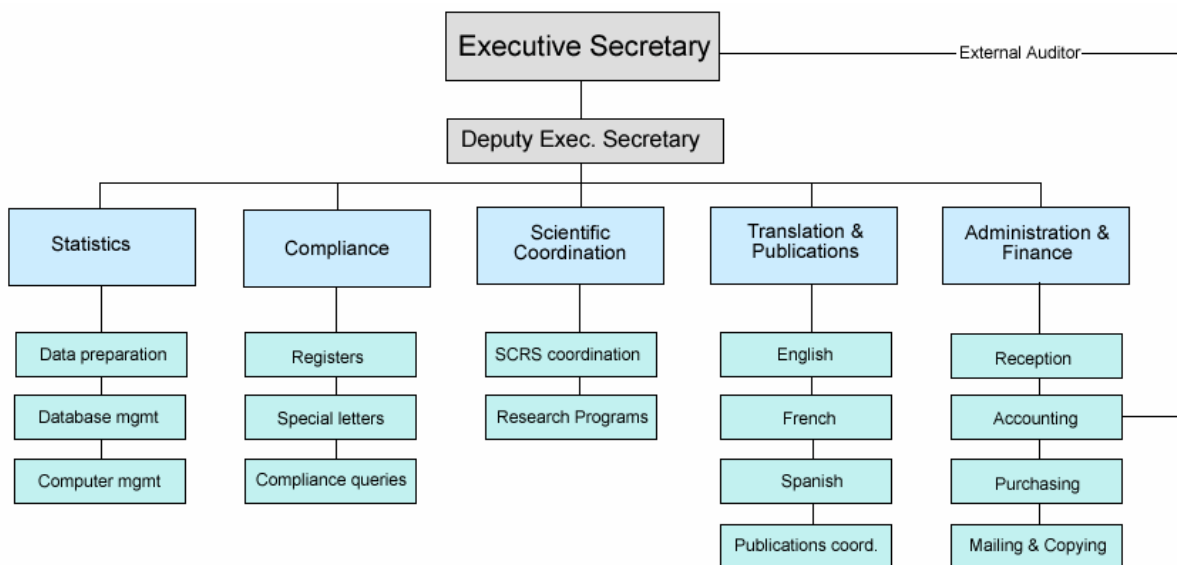
Details concerning both data improvement activities are presented in the Secretariat Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research.

Appendix 1

INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF THE ICCAT SECRETARIAT

The ICCAT Secretariat is currently organized as described in this document. This organization is determined by aspects such as the mandate from the Commission, the number of staff and the staff classification and experience. Due to these factors, some staff members perform different tasks related to several departments.

Several tasks that are coordinated directly by the Executive Secretary or his Deputy are not included in this document. Some of these are: Coordination of communications with Delegates, coordination of translation and distribution of documents during meetings, and updating of the web pages.



ICCAT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION AND PUBLICATIONS

The Commission's work involves numerous tasks related to the compilation, adoption, translation and publication of meeting reports and scientific articles. The Department of Translation and Publications is responsible for these tasks.

STAFFING

The Department is staffed by six people: A Publications Coordinator (Pilar Pallarés) who is primarily responsible for the Department; a Technical Officer (Philomena Seidita) who assists with all tasks assigned to the Department and also serves as English Translator. The Department also includes Rebecca Campoy, Marisa de Andres, María José García-Orad, Christel Navarret and Christine Peyre who serve as Translators. The Executive Secretary gives overall supervision to the Department.

TASKS

The following list of tasks for the Department of Translation and Publications is not exhaustive; it is indicative of the situation as of 2005 and will probably change in the future. In addition, and in conformity with the Basic Texts, the Executive Secretary may assign other tasks to the staff members in the Department.

Translation

Translation work in the three official languages of the Commission. This includes primarily:

- Circulars from the Executive Secretary
- Biennial Reports
- Abstracts in the Collective Volume of Scientific Papers
- Detailed Reports of assessment meetings
- Working papers during SCRS and Commission meetings

Formats

The Department reviews and maintains layout standards for the publications.

Rapporteuring

The Secretariat is frequently asked to rapporteur certain sessions of Commission and SCRS meetings. If duties permit, the Officers in the Department may be asked to rapporteur these sections.

Report Adoption

Some reports are adopted by correspondence, especially for the Commission meetings. The Department is responsible for facilitating the adoption of reports by correspondence.

Compilation of Reports

The Department compiles reports (Biennial Reports, Collective Volume series, Basic Texts, Staff Rules, Field Manual, Compendia of Recommendations, and other institutional publications), formats and prepares them for publication in hard copy and electronically.

ASFA

The Department is responsible for preparing ICCAT entries to the ASFA (Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts) database under the arrangement between ICCAT and the ASFA Partnership. The Department also maintains a database of scientific papers published in the Collective Volume series and makes them available to scientists.

FIRMS

The Department is responsible for preparing inputs to FIGIS-FIRMS under the arrangement of the FIRMS partnership. This comprises mainly the Species Executive Summaries written by the SCRS.

Coordination of Peer Reviews of scientific papers

If the need arises, the Department will coordinate peer reviews of scientific papers.

Electronic posting

The Department is responsible for making available public documents in electronic format via the web or FTP.

Communications

The Department coordinates communications with external authors of reports (mainly Annual Reports and scientific papers) for their completion, formatting, publication.

ICCAT COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

Over the last few years, the Commission has increasingly adopted a number of Recommendations and Resolutions that require CPCs to report various types of information such as vessel lists, compliance reports, etc. The amount of this information that needs to be assimilated by the Secretariat and transmitted to the Commission is such that a specialized department is necessary to accommodate this need. In addition, queries received routinely about the application or interpretation of ICCAT regulations are becoming increasingly complex and it is necessary to dedicate sufficient time to respond to these delicate issues.

For these reasons, a Compliance Department has been created at the ICCAT Secretariat. The staff members who will be assigned the tasks for this Department should have considerable knowledge of ICCAT rules and regulations and a solid background on legal issues, on data handling, and on preparing reports for the Commission and the public. As well, the Department is expected to have significant interaction with other Departments such as Statistics and Publications (Languages).

STAFFING

The Department is staffed by a Compliance Technical Officer (Jenny Cheatle); a search for a Compliance Officer has been postponed. The Executive Secretary gives overall supervision to the Department.

TASKS

The following list of tasks for the Compliance Department is not exhaustive; it is indicative of the situation as of 2005 and will probably change as the Commission continues to adopt new regulatory instruments. In addition, and in conformity with the Basic Texts, the Executive Secretary may assign other tasks to the staff members in the Department.

Compliance Tables

Draft compliance tables for each species for each Contracting Parties and Cooperators, and circulate them in March/April. On the basis of completed forms returned, the Compliance Annexes are compiled in cooperation with the *Statistics Department* and circulated three weeks in advance of the Commission meeting.

List of albacore vessels

Request for lists to those affected by Rec. 98-08. One complete file/base is made by combining all the lists received and made available at the Commission meeting.

Number of bigeye vessels

This has changed this year (for 2005). Parties to be requested to send the number of their bigeye vessels, by gear type. A summary of responses received to be made available at the Commission 2005. Lists are not necessary.

Vessel chartering

The Secretariat was not authorized to publish this on the web site. Therefore, any information relating to charter arrangements during the year must be circulated to all CPCs when received. This information is summarized for the Commission in November, but full background documents are not re-distributed.

Bluefin tuna farming reports

All CPCs to receive a request for information in accordance with the Recommendation.

Farming facilities: The Department prepares the electronic list of facilities to be published on the web site on a timely manner so that any change is incorporated as soon as possible following receipt.

Lists of vessels: Should be submitted by August 31. Information is not published, but made available to the Commission at its meeting in November.

Quantities of tuna caged/marketed – Information should be summarized for the Commission.

Results of sampling programs: Compliance Department to monitor who sends their results, but data to be collected by the *Statistics Department*.

Trade measures

Information in accordance with Resolution 03-15 is requested and any information received circulated to CPCs and affected parties as far in advance of the Commission meeting as possible.

Internal procedures for compliance with closed area / season in the Gulf of Guinea

A report by the Executive Secretary summarizing information received in relation to this to be drafted for circulation at Commission meeting.

List of vessels greater than 24 meters

CPs that have not yet done so may submit their lists of vessels at any time, and any changes to such lists should be incorporated into the base as soon as possible after receipt. The Department prepares letters to inform the CP concerned of the change when it has been made. The Department prepares requests for the Statistics Department to modify/update the vessel database on a timely manner so that any change is incorporated as soon as possible following receipt.

Vessels involved in IUU Fishing

A request to all CPCs to send their draft lists and supporting documentation by July 15. A full list based on this information should be adopted by the Commission at its meeting in November before changing the published list on the web site.

Data from ICCAT Statistical Document Programs and validation seals

CPs should be requested to send biannual reports, which are normally circulated to CPs on receipt. Individual statistical documents and detailed information is requested and processed by the statistics department. Copies of model SDs with official seals to be made available on a new password protected website. Originals to be kept on file. The list of Parties/Entities/Fishing Entities that have sent information to be published on the web site. The Department prepares an electronic archive of validation information (signatures, seals, addresses, etc.) and coordinates closely with the Statistics Department to modify/update a validation database for publication on the Web.

Active Compendium

Following the entry into force of new Recommendations and Resolutions, the Active Compendium is updated to include new measures, and deactivate those which are rendered void by the new measures. These should be marked as active for incorporation in the web site.

Complete Compendium

Following entry into force, new measures to be included in the Compendium, and made available on the web site.

Abridged Compendium

Comments on latest draft be solicited from the Key Contacts, and suggestions incorporated. To be updated to include newly adopted Recommendations and Resolutions. Once the final format is adopted, this is to be updated each year.

Special letters

Responses to special letters should be circulated. Such responses, together with other correspondence from the relevant parties, to be compiled for the Commission in November.

Requests for Cooperating Status

Executive Secretary to write each year to NCPs which may be fishing for tuna. Requests for Cooperating Status to be circulated before the Commission, and a summary to be presented to PWG.

Requests for Observer Status

Those wishing to attend Commission meetings as observers must apply at least 60 days in advance of the meeting. Such requests to be circulated for the decision of the Commission. Observer Status applicants to be informed of Commission's decision.

Summary table of actions

On the basis of information received during the year, particularly with reference to trade data and IUU allegations, a summary table of the information for actions to be taken by the Commission is drafted. This table includes those parties against which the Commission took some action the previous year.

Annual Reports

The new format was adopted by the Commission. Compliance Department to compile the list of Recommendations and Resolutions for which there is no other channel to report information required, as

specified in the guidelines and set the deadline for the receipt of the reports. Numbering and compilation of Annual Reports to be carried out by *Publications Department*. Copies of Annual Reports received should be sent to Compliance Department for information.

Compliance queries

Responses to questions received about the application of ICCAT measures will be drafted.

ICCAT DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

The Department of Statistics processes and stores the statistical, biological and compliance data required by the Commission and the scientific committee (SCRS). The Department also carries out other duties to support the functioning of the Secretariat, such as administering the computer hardware and software, the local area network and the electronic dissemination of statistical data and various registers through the ICCAT Web server.

STAFFING

The Department is staffed by five people: A Department Head (Papa Kebe), a Biostatistician (Carlos Palma), a database Programmer (Juan Carlos Muñoz), an Information Technology specialist (Jesus Fiz) and a Technical Assistant (Juan Luis Gallego).

TASKS

The following list of tasks for the Department of Statistics is not exhaustive; it is indicative of the situation as of 2005 and will probably change in the future. In addition, and in conformity with the Basic Texts, the Executive Secretary may assign other tasks to the staff members in the Department.

Data requests

Prepare, on a timely basis, the circulars requesting submission of the statistics required by the Commission

Standards for data submission

Coordinate the work of the Sub-Committee on Statistics aimed at developing and maintaining modern standards for the submission of nominal catches (Task I), size sampling and the catch and effort (Task II), tagging data, catch-at size-data, and any other data requested by the Commission or the SCRS.

Database development

Develop and implement the ICCAT relational databases for Task I, Task II, tagging, the positive list of vessels, bluefin farming facilities, data from the statistical document programs, and other relevant data requested by the Commission or the SCRS.

Database user interfaces

Develop pre-defined queries for accessing the ICCAT databases with filtering and/or aggregation capabilities.

Data quality control

Develop the routines for reformatting, verifying and assimilating the data submitted and a procedure for data quality control.

Data extraction and publication

Develop programs for producing the relevant output information (summary catch table, detailed catch by fleets, maps of the catch distribution, estimates of unreported catches, etc.) required by the SCRS and its species working groups. Prepare the dissemination of the information contained in the Department databases (CATDIS, Fishstat and other data needed by the SCRS and the species working groups).

IT management

Develop the routines for the backup of all the data stored in the ICCAT server and manage the email services of the Secretariat.

Manage the Secretariat's hardware and software resources.

Tagging coordination

Maintain the tagging data serial number catalog and prepare the annual lottery during the SCRS plenary.
 Manage an inventory of tags at the Secretariat and their distribution among interested laboratories; request the purchase of new tags when required.
 Maintain the list of the statistical and tagging correspondents.
 Maintain a database with an inventory of archival tags.

Preparation of reports

Prepare the Secretariat report on Statistics and the documents describing the substitution rules and the methodology used in creating catch at size and CATDIS.

International coordination

Liaise with other bodies such as FAO and CWP for maintaining, to the degree possible, consistent databases and common formats and standards.

ICCAT DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

During recent years, the Commission has grown considerably with regards to tasks and the personnel hired by ICCAT to carry out its mandate. Within the Secretariat, administrative and financial tasks have been consolidated in this Department.

STAFFING

The Department of Finance and Administration is staffed by seven people: A Department Head (Juan Antonio Moreno), an assistant accountant (Africa Martín), a purchasing assistant (Esther Peña), a receptionist (Felicidad García), and two support staff members in charge of copying and mailing (Cristóbal García and Juan Angel Moreno).

TASKS

The following list of tasks is not all inclusive, which means that in the future modifications may be made according to the Commission's requirements. Furthermore, and pursuant to ICCAT's Basic Texts, the Executive Secretary may assign other tasks to members of the Department.

Budget preparation and control

Calculation of the annual Commission budgets and individual contributions of the Contracting Parties to the Commission.
 Budgetary control of the Secretariat salaries, travel expenses, office expenses and office equipment, etc. during the fiscal year.

Accounting

Maintaining an accounting register of all transactions.
 Calculation of tax payment on a quarterly basis.

Financial Report

Elaboration of the Financial Report which is presented in the annual Commission meetings and includes the following: balance of ICCAT's financial situation, status of contributions of the ICCAT Contracting Parties, disclosure of expenses and deposits received, cash register and bank account status, as well as the composition and balance of the operation funds.

Administrative Report

Elaboration of the Administrative Report which includes all the information regarding administrative tasks carried out by the Secretariat: publications produced, travel expenses, implementation of modifications in the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules, description and organizational chart of the Secretariat, among other matters.

ICCAT meetings

The Department is responsible for the financial and logistics arrangements of the Commission meetings. Department staff also provides support during Commission meetings such as rapporteuring the STACFAD sessions and preparing financial and administrative documents required during the annual meetings.

Special funds

Administrative and financial control of the special research programs (Bluefin Year Program and Enhanced Program for Billfish Research) as well as others.

Human Resources within the Secretariat

Calculation and payment of the salaries of the Secretariat staff.
Control and delivery of the funds destined for the ICCAT's staff Pension Plan.
Control and payment to the Spanish Social Security and Income Tax (IRPF) of certain staff members, as well as any other benefits rendered pursuant to ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules.
Personnel archives.
Management of group insurance policy for Secretariat staff.
Maintaining vacations, sick-leave and overtime registers.

Purchasing and leasing

Looking for and contacting suppliers and requesting quotations for product prices.

Travel requests

Liaison with travel agencies for logistical travel arrangements by Secretariat staff.

Reception

Reception duties at the Secretariat (phone, voicemail, fax, correspondence log).

Archives

Correspondence archives: Daily archive for the two most recent years; thematic historical archive; "dead" archive for old correspondence.
Document archives for documents distributed during meetings.

Contact information management

Maintenance of an up-to-date database of contact information.

Library and publications inventory

Maintenance of the ICCAT Library, including a list of publications.
Managing the stockpile of ICCAT publications.

Photocopying and scanning

Photocopying of documents at the Secretariat and elsewhere during meetings.
Scanning of ICCAT documents for electronic archiving.

Mailing

Mailing of correspondence.

ICCAT SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

Because of its mandate to manage and conserve tuna fishery resources, ICCAT members carry out a wide spectrum of scientific research and monitoring activities. The Secretariat is directly involved in coordinating some of these activities, although much of the practical work is carried out by scientists of the Contracting Parties.

STAFFING

The Deputy Executive Secretary (Victor Restrepo) is the main scientific coordinator and many of the pertinent tasks are carried out by the various Secretariat Departments (e.g., compilation of statistics, publications of research articles, etc.)

TASKS

The following list of tasks is not exhaustive. As explained above, scientific coordination work at the ICCAT Secretariat is spread out over several individuals. Activities are generally carried out in consultation with the SCRS Chairman and/or SCRS Officers.

SCRS liaison

- Set the dates for inter-sessional meetings.
- Prepare draft agendas for meetings and meeting announcements.
- Prepare meeting reports, including rapporteuring.
- Prepare datasets for analysis by working groups and the SCRS.
- Maintain guidelines for the preparation and presentation of scientific documents,

Stock assessment quality control

- Implement quality control procedures for stock assessments as recommended by SCRS.
- Maintain the catalogue of ICCAT stock assessment software.
- Maintain an electronic archive of inputs, outputs and software.

Special research programs

- Facilitation of communications related to special research programs (Bluefin Year Program, Enhanced Program for Billfish Research, etc.).

Scientific communications

- Facilitation of communications amongst the ICCAT scientific community.

International research coordination

- Exchange of scientific information with sister organizations.
- Participation in scientific meetings of other bodies.
- Design of common policies for information sharing between RFBs (e.g., FIGIS-FIRMS).

Preparation of the Field Manual

- Coordination of the preparation of inputs for a revised Field Manual.

Report adoption

- Facilitating the adoption of scientific reports by correspondence.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Starting in December 2004, Japan has funded a special capacity-building program (Japan Data Improvement Project, JDIP) that is hosted at the Secretariat.

STAFFING

The JDIP has two staff members: A project Coordinator (Miho Wazawa) and an administrative assistant (Ana Martínez).

TASKS

The JDIP staff carries out all the tasks necessary for the operation of the Project, including preparation of budgets, reports, accounting, disbursement of funds, requests for proposals, etc.

**MEETINGS AT WHICH ICCAT WAS REPRESENTED
BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2004 AND NOVEMBER 2005**

SUMMARY

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

Seventh Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee

Location: Victoria, Seychelles, November 8 to 12, 2004.

Representative: P. Pallarés (IEO, Spain).

Substantive agenda items: 2003-2004 intercessional activities. National reports. Session on data. Reports of the Permanent Groups on Tropical Tunas, Swordfish and Billfish, Temperate Tunas, By-catch, Neritic species and Tagging. Executive Summaries for yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, albacore, bluefin tuna and swordfish. Program on predation on longline. Discussion of proposals to develop various projects (Field Manual, Atlas, Glossary, and Bibliography), directly related to similar ICCAT projects.

Comments:

General: This year there have been new developments in the organization of the Scientific Committee:

- The discussion on data collection and statistics has been incorporated in the Scientific Committee. This decision was adopted in 2003 aimed at increasing the participation of scientists in its discussions.
- The Executive Summaries have been extended to temperate tuna species (albacore and bluefin tuna). As is the case in ICCAT, the report includes the conclusions of the CCSBT regarding bluefin tuna.

Permanent group on Statistics: The IOTC-OFCF Project (Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan) for the sampling of IUU longline fleets at the major landing ports (Indonesia, Thailand, etc.) continued in 2004, with a first regional workshop held in March of this year. The initiation of this project has resulted in a substantial improvement in the information from these fleets. Although the estimate of the total catch carried out by the Secretariat has improved, it continues to be of concern, in particular for some species (bigeye, albacore). The reduced and partial sampling coverage of the longline and artisanal fleets continues to be problematic. The WINTUNA protocol can be considered fully operative.

Permanent group on Tropical Tunas: In 2004, the group revised the status of the bigeye stocks and analyzed the important increase in yellowfin catches in 2003 and 2004.

The group updated the assessment carried out in 2002 by ASPM incorporating new available information: new growth curve, updated standardized indices of Japanese longline and new standardized indices of Chinese Taipei longline. The results of the assessment presented a high level of uncertainty, which increased regarding projections. The divergent trend of the two available indices (Japan and Chinese Taipei) was one of the main causes of uncertainty. The results of the assessment showed a more pessimistic stock status than in the last assessment. Fishing mortality would be at the level corresponding to MSY, catches would exceed the MSY levels, although the total biomass of the stock continues to be higher than that corresponding to MSY. These results would indicate that the bigeye stock status has a very high productivity which allows, at least seasonally, catches higher than the MSY with F values equal to or less than F_{MSY} . The Committee recommended a total reduction of catches to MSY levels and that effort be reduced or at least maintained to 2002 levels.

Although the bigeye stock assessment was the objective of the WPTT in 2004, the extraordinary increase in yellowfin tuna catches in 2003 (estimated between 35-50%) compared to previous years warranted a preliminary analysis by the group. The catches of large yellowfin (100-150 cm) caught by purse seine on free swimming schools, longline and artisanal fisheries (Yemen) in different

areas of the Indian Ocean, caused this increase. Due to the preliminary nature of the available data, it was not possible to reach conclusions for the increase, although two hypotheses were contemplated:

- Increase in the productivity of the stock due to good historical recruitments and/or changes in the biological parameters (growth, M) as a result of the favorable environmental conditions.
- Increase in catchability, as a result of improvements in gear efficiency and/or in the availability of the resource.

The effect on the stock would be diametrically opposite under either of the hypotheses. In the first case the increase in catches would not result in an increase in the level of exploitation of the stock, whilst in the second case it would result in an important increase in fishing mortality that, taking into account the result of the last assessment (2002), would lead to a serious over exploitation of the stock. If this were the case, a reduction of F to levels of 2000 would be recommended.

The Committee maintained the management recommendations for skipjack tuna.

Permanent Working Group on Temperate Tunas: The first meeting of this group took place in 2004. The group assessed the stock status of albacore as the assessment of southern bluefin tuna, as is the case of ICCAT, was carried out in the framework of the CCSBT. The important statistical gaps, particularly for the recent period, did not allow carrying out the complete assessment of the stock. The Committee recommended precaution when allowing increases in catches and/or effort until an assessment of the stock status can be carried out.

Permanent Working Group on Billfish: In 2004, the group assessed the stock status of swordfish and billfish. The data available did not allow a full assessment of the swordfish stock. However, as in 2003, various indicators were analyzed (catches, CPUEs, average size, etc.) that showed a situation close to over-exploitation, at least at the local level, with the SW area where the majority of catches are concentrated, being particular vulnerable. The Committee recommended not to increase the current levels of catch and effort of swordfish in this area.

Permanent Working Group on Tagging: During 2004 various small-scale tagging programmes were carried out. With regard to the large-scale tagging program, some activities have been initiated, although the program is being delayed due to administrative problems. The permanent group, as such, no longer exists and matters relative to tagging will be discussed in a special session during the WPTT meeting.

The rest of the permanent groups, Neritic species and by-catch did not have any significant activity in 2003. The by-catch group will continue its activities through correspondence. The Neritic species group is scheduled to meet in 2005.

The following calendar of meetings was proposed for 2005: Tropical tunas (possible dates: June 20 to 25) and Neritics (April 4 to 9); the Scientific Committee prior to the Commission, November-December.

Actions:

SCRS: The work of the SCRS and IOTC Scientific Committee should be coordinated. At present specific topics that would require joint work could be defined:

- *Statistics:* Common update of statistics on albacore. Validation of longline statistics of the IUU fleet, with special attention to the geographical assignment of catches.
- *Research:* Coordination of work of the sub-committees on the Environment and by-catch and the Methods Group. Study of the procedures of standardization, specifically in the case of longline, the inclusion of changes in target species in the models of standardization should be analyzed and an attempt made to explain the discrepancies and trends of the indices of Japan and Chinese Taipei that occur in the two oceans and for distinct species. In the case of purse seine, joint work should be carried out to obtain the indices. An exchange of scientists in the assessment groups is recommended.
- *Others:* Currently similar projects are being carried out: Field Manual, Atlas, Glossary, etc.

Report availability: <http://www.iotc.org/English/meetings/sc/schistory.php>

29th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Location: Rome, February 21 to 25, 2005.

Representative: Driss Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Comments and actions: In response to the GFCM invitation, the ICCAT Secretariat participated in the work of the 29th session which took place at the FAO headquarters in Rome from February 21-25, 2005 and was represented by the Executive Secretary.

This participation is included in the framework of the entry into force of the recommendation adopted by the Commission at its 14th Special Meeting in New Orleans, which consists of developing a cooperative relationship between GFCM and ICCAT.

The 29th session of the GFCM focused mainly on the reorganization and establishment of procedures for restructuring, characterized by the election of its headquarters, which from now on will be in Rome, and by the election of its Executive Secretary, Mr. Alain Bonzon.

Regarding fisheries management, the GFCM endorsed all the recommendations and resolutions adopted by ICCAT for the Mediterranean in 2003 and 2004. Likewise, it adopted a series of recommendations concerning the establishment of a registry of vessels measuring more than 15 meters draft, the prohibition of net mesh measuring less than 40 mm, as well as some measures related to IUU fishing.

During this session, the GFCM discussed draft terms of reference to foster cooperative relations with ICCAT. The ICCAT representative praised the excellent cooperative activities established with the GFCM, and reiterated the disposition of the ICCAT Secretariat to do everything possible to consolidate its relationships with GFCM. The Executive Secretary explained that according to the ICCAT Basic Texts all draft protocols of cooperation should be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Report availability: http://www.fao.org/fi/body/rfb/GFCM/gfcm_home.htm

2nd Session of the FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark, February 25 and 26, 2005.

Representative: V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Progress on the development of FIRMS Partnership; review of new perspective partners; FIRMS Information Management Policy; review of the Progress Status of the FIRMS Database and Module Development; strategy for FIRMS partnership in promoting the development of a global network for reporting on fisheries and stock status and trends.

Comments: The Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) is a partnership drawing together international organizations, regional fishery bodies and national scientific institutes, collaborating within a formal agreement, who are willing to report and share information on status and trends of fishery resources. ICCAT joined FIRMS in 2004 and its principal contribution will be the species executive summaries produced by SCRS. The meeting welcomed new members. The partnership is expected to grow initially with the inclusion of more RFBs and subsequently with national partners. The FSC approved an Information Management Policy document that sets validation mechanisms and quality control procedures for posting the stock status reports on the Internet using Metadata standards. The FSC agreed that the FIRMS web site would be hosted by FAO as <http://firms.fao.org> and that it would be oriented to users without a professional background to be able to access the information quickly. The FSC decided to work inter-sessionally to discuss the definition of terms that could be used to develop a database containing stock assessment reports. The next meeting of the FSC will take place early in 2006.

Actions:

SCRS: The Committee should monitor the development of FIRMS, as this can become an effective mechanism for making the species summaries available to a much wider audience worldwide.

Report availability: ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/DOCUMENT/FIGIS_FIRMS/2005/report.pdf

Meeting of the FEMS Project

Location: San Sebastian, Spain, February 28 to March 4, 2005.

Representative: V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Progress on papers; Interim Report submission; Work plan and deliverables for 2005; Informal cluster matters.

Comments: The Framework for the Evaluation of Management Strategies (FEMS) is a scientific project financed by the European Union to use computer simulation approaches for testing management strategies. Scientists associated with ICCAT and ICES participate in FEMS to construct tests that compare and contrast the impact of management options between tuna and demersal stocks. The ICCAT Secretariat participates as a Partner to give advice on the construction of simulation models for ICCAT stocks, and meeting travel expenses are covered by the project. FEMS, now in its last year, has made important modeling advances for albacore (testing for evidence of environmental forcing of the North Atlantic Oscillation), bluefin tuna (testing for the effect of recruitment and/or migration on the long-term cycles in abundance), and tropical tunas (understanding the effects that errors in species catch composition and total catches have on the perceived status of the stocks). Results of these studies are being published in the ICCAT Collective Volume of Scientific Papers and in the peer-reviewed literature. FEMS is also contributing to the fisheries science community in general by developing an open framework for stock assessment and simulation models in the statistical language R.

Actions:

SCRS: The Committee should monitor the progress being made by FEMS in developing the simulation framework, which can be useful for the provision of management advice.

Report availability: <http://www.flr-project.org/fems/doku.php>

21st Session of the Coordination Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP)

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark, March 1 to 4, 2005.

Representative: Papa Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: review of CWP membership; review of progress made by the members of CWP; review of the progress of Fishcode-STF and FIGIS & FIRMS; collection of aquaculture statistics and definition of vessel length; discussion on the concept of data exchange protocols.

Comments: With the recent admission of the SEAFDEC (Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center), the CWP is currently comprised of 14 members: CCAMLR, CCSBT, FAO, IATTC, ICCAT, ICES, IOTC, NASCO, NAFO, OECD, EUROSTAT, SPC, SEAFDEC, IWC. The new version of the CWP manual of standards of CWP fishing statistics is available and accessible on the Internet under the FAO website. This publication includes the concepts, definitions, classifications and methods used in fishing.

The FISHSTAT software, widely used in the publication of fishery statistics, is in the course of being revised, however, the user interface of the new version should not change substantially.

During the CWP session, a working group met to study the role that the regional fishery bodies should play to collaborate in the implementation of the Fishcode-STF project (strategy aimed at improving the information concerning the status and trends in the catches. For improved participation in this project, the RFBs should collaborate in the monitoring of the small fisheries in the developing countries. Also noted was the importance that should be accorded to transparency in the data collection systems.

The definition of vessel size was discussed and the group decided to use the term “length overall” (LOA), defined as follows:

Length overall is defined as the distance measured in meters in a straight line on a line parallel to the design waterline between the foremost point of the bow and the aftermost point of the stern. For the purpose of this definition:

- a) *The bow is taken to include the watertight hull structure, the forecandle, stem and forward bulkhead, if fitted, but not to include bowsprits and safety rail.*
- b) *The stern is taken to include the watertight hull structure, transom, poop, trawl ramp and bulwark, but does not include safety rails, bumkins, propulsion machinery, rudders and steering gear, and divers' ladders and platforms.*

The difficulties involved in obtaining reliable statistical data on aquaculture (including tuna farming) were discussed. The concept of separating the components of catches and aquaculture in tuna farming was agreed.

Actions:

SCRS: The Chairman of the SCRS or the Sub-Committee on Statistics should participate in the next CWP intercessional meeting that will be held at the ICCAT headquarters in early 2006.

Commission: The Commission should validate the definition used for measuring.

Report availability: The report is available on the CWP website: www.cwpnet.org

26th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

Location: Rome, Italy, March 7 to 11, 2005.

Representative: D. Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Progress on the implementation of the Code of Conduct and related IPOAs; assistance to fishing communities affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami; recommendations by the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (ecolabelling and CITES); enabling responsible small-scale fisheries; deep-sea fisheries issues; sea turtle conservation and fisheries; marine protected areas and fisheries; 2006-2007 budget; other matters.

Comments: The meeting was attended by representatives from various ICCAT Contracting Parties. The following decisions by COFI have direct relevance to ICCAT:

- Urged RFMOs to take further steps to implement relevant provisions of post-UNCED fisheries instruments.
- Encouraged RFMOs to consider introducing and implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries.
- Encouraged RFMOs to examine their mandates and to make changes, as appropriate, to ensure that new entrants including developing countries could be accommodated in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.
- Expressed strong support for a proposal by Japan for a joint meeting of the Secretariats of tuna RFMOs and their members, to be held early 2007 in Japan. Meeting objectives could include issues such as addressing fishing capacity and limiting fishing effort, a review of the effectiveness of current measures for preventing IUU fishing activities, and catch documentation schemes.
- Expressed support for FAO to continue its work on the harmonization of catch documentation and noted that ICCAT would have a meeting in April 2005 to examine the functioning of its statistical document programs.
- Adopted the Guidelines for the Ecolabelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Marine Capture Fisheries.
- Called for the immediate implementation of the Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations contained in the report of the 2004 Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries.
- Expressed an interest in assessing the extent to which RFMOs comply with their mandate and agreed on the importance of establishing principles and procedures for such a review.

Actions: None.

Report availability: FAO Fisheries Report No. 780.

5th Meeting of Secretariats of Tuna Agencies and Programs

Location: Rome, Italy, March 11, 2005.

Representative: D. Meski and V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: FIRMS; catch/trade documentation; positive/negative vessel lists; FAO proposal for a workshop on fishing capacity.

Comments: The Executive Secretaries of tuna agencies and programs meet informally about once a year, when there is an opportunity to do so due to common participation in other meetings. The main purpose of the meeting is to exchange views on the main current issues that are of common interest. Regarding FIRMS (ICCAT is a Partner), concern was expressed that practical progress was too slow and there was agreement to contact the FIRMS Secretariat in FAO more regularly to expedite the process. Regarding catch documentation, there was much interest in the opportunities provided by the April 2005 ICCAT meeting that would review the operation of ICCAT Statistical Document Programs. Regarding vessel lists, the group examined a feasibility study for obtaining unique vessel identifiers which would be required if the various publicly available lists were to be amalgamated; IATTC will proceed to combine the lists as an exercise and will communicate the results and lessons learned to the other Secretariats. FAO staff presented a draft proposal for a workshop on fishing capacity for tuna fisheries whose main purpose was to relate economic measures of capacity with biological measures of the impact of fishing on abundance. It was recommended that FAO send the proposal to the tuna bodies.

Actions: None.

Report availability: From the ICCAT Executive Secretary.

Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries

Location: Rome, Italy, March 12, 2005.

Representative: D. Meski and V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Indian Ocean Tsunami; combating IUU fisheries.

Comments: The meeting was attended by representatives from various ICCAT Contracting Parties. The meeting adopted two declarations: one on Fisheries and the Tsunami, and the other on IUU Fishing.

Actions: None.

Report availability: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/DOCUMENT/ministerial/2005/iuu/declaration.pdf>

4th Meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies (The RFB Secretariats Network)

Location: Rome, Italy, March 14 and 15, 2005.

Representative: D. Meski and V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Review of the decisions of the 26th Session of COFI related to RFBs; the role of RFBs; external factors affecting fisheries management; harmonization of documentation on catches; relations between RFBs and UNEP; the status of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS).

Comments: This meeting is held every two years in Rome in order to take advantage of the fact that officers from many RFBs attend the meetings of COFI, and this presents an opportunity to exchange information.

Much time was spent discussing the nature of the meeting. It was agreed that the overall objective of the meeting, which is informal, would be the information exchange and administration, as well as enhancing cooperation among RFBs. It was clear this would not have any implications in taking decisions. It was recognized that the function of policymaking and mandate essentially rest with the members of the organizations.

In discussing COFI's proposal to review the performance of RFMOs, participants considered that the diversities of RFMOs need to be recognized, and it was accepted that some are better equipped than others to deal with issues such as IUU fishing. The review could aim to better inform the

international community how it can work with RFMOs to improve their mandate and strengthen their effectiveness. The COFI proposal also stressed the need to develop a process to evaluate the performance of RFMOs as well as to promote improved practices in the RFMOs. It was noted that the proposed review is in its very early stages, and the parameters to determine how, why and who will be involved in the review process was not yet entirely clear. The Meeting indicated that COFI had suggested it could invite RFMO members and other interested parties, encouraging them to participate in the development of parameters for such a review process. Some participants expressed the view that the review should be independent, and should not consist of an evaluation of the efficiency of the Secretariats.

The on-going efforts to harmonize the documentation on catches were discussed. Several common elements were identified: (a) the need to continue to advance in programs of catch documentation various fora; (b) the need to recognize COFI's support so that FAO continues its work of harmonizing the documentation of catches, and (c) the need to take into account that RFBs have different mandates, with the subsequent need to identify common elements that can be harmonized and vice versa. Participants were mindful that the objectives of the document differ among organizations, and they agreed on the need to reflect on the scope of documents and their geographic areas. The meeting also recognized that on-going initiatives to harmonize species tariff codes should be encouraged and expedited. In general, it was noted that catch document harmonization is a complex and highly technical issue. Also noted was the need to ensure that schemes are kept simple, feasible and, insofar as possible, standardized.

The meeting also noted that RFBs have been overwhelmed in recent years with requests for information from various UN agencies; the meeting agreed that there should be some attempt to coordinate such requests within the UN system.

In terms of improving governance, several participants identified the need for RFBs to improve their communications with interested parties and with the public in general; Mr. Meski highlighted the efforts by ICCAT to create a more user-friendly compendium of regulations.

Actions: None.

Report availability: From FAO.

3rd Meeting of the ad hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming/Fattening Practices in the Mediterranean

Location: Rome, Italy, March 16 to 18, 2005.

Representative: V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat) and J. Pereira (SCRS Chairman).

Substantive agenda items: Adoption of the final Guidelines.

Comments: In 2002, GFCM decided to create an ad hoc technical working group to look at sustainability issues associated with farming of bluefin tuna, an activity that was then rapidly expanding. The group was endorsed by ICCAT. The group met in 2002 and 2003 to collect information and prepare the basis for the Guidelines, and this third meeting was convened to finalize the Guidelines. These Guidelines are advisory in nature and are limited to issues that arise due to farming, i.e., they do not address problems that might occur strictly from a capture-fisheries viewpoint. The Guidelines are intended to reinforce the basis for the regulations that have already been introduced by GFCM and ICCAT for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, primarily for the capture fisheries component. The Guidelines could also serve as a basis for a broader management framework that takes into consideration other aspects related to the sustainability of the farming industry.

Actions: None.

Report availability: FAO Fisheries Report, No. 779.

Conference on the Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement

Location: St John's, Canada, May 1 to 5, 2005.

Representative: Driss Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Comments: The Government of Canada organized the International Conference on the Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement that was attended by close to 20 Fisheries Ministers and high-level representatives of this sector from various countries throughout the world. The Ministers and high-level representatives who participated in the conference, held various work sessions from which a Ministerial declaration was adopted. This declaration dealt with the following main points:

- Recognition of the over-exploitation of marine resources and the need to implement management measures on high seas fish stocks, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development;
- Recognition of the importance of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) regarding the governance of high seas fisheries;
- The need to mobilize all countries to become parties to the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the UN Fish Agreement;
- Progress made in combating IUU fishing.

The Ministerial Declaration that stressed the actions that must be taken to implement a policy of management and conservation of high seas fish stocks was followed by discussions within the framework of five workshops.

Actions: This Conference agreed on the great importance of the role that must be played by the RFMOs. The discussion focused on the evaluation of the RFMOs, the methods of decision making, the transparency and conformity of their activities *vis à vis* the international regulatory instruments. Several presentations were made in this sense that seemed to result in a comparison of the different RFMOs and the level of compliance with the provisions of international agreements. ICCAT was asked to explain the procedures and the decisions taken regarding several measures.

Report availability: A final report approved the work of this Conference can be consulted at: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fgc-cgp/conf_report_e.htm.

Joint Meeting of the EUROSTAT Working Group “Fishery Statistics” and the Statistics Liaison Working Group of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

Location: Luxembourg, May 2 and 3, 2005.

Representative: C. Palma (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Reviews of EUROSTAT’s and ICES Programs of work, and implementation of EUROSTAT/ICES partnership arrangement; progress with the implementation of the decisions of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics on May 6 to 7, 2004; review of the legislation on fishery statistics; Proposals for new regulations on Landing Statistics and Aquaculture Statistics; employment statistics; report of the study on the feasibility of establishing Supply Balance Sheets for fishery products; report of the Coordinating Working Party on fishery statistics; structural indicator for fisheries; Socio-economic data and the application of regulation no. 1639/2001; assessment of the quality of data collected under the Data Collection Regulation

Comments: EUROSTAT presented its Program of work with special emphasis on the new dissemination policy, in particular, the free-of-charge and general public access to the NewCronos domain “FISH” at the EUROSTAT website, and, to the replacement of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics by the Pocketbook of Fishery Statistics. On ICES’s Program of work review, particular attention was drawn to the introduction of new statistical subdivisions for the northeast Atlantic (managed by NEAFC and IBSFC), and the changes to the STATLANT catch statistics resulting from the EUROSTAT/ICES Partnership Agreement. Both organisms express satisfaction with respect to this first year of implementation of the bilateral agreement emphasizing the effectiveness of the common EUROSTAT/ICES database on statistics, maintained by EUROSTAT, and improvements made on the quality control of catch statistics. Both organisms informed on the current status of the FIRMS-FIGIS Partnership agreement with FAO and future developments (ICES full partner and EUROSTAT just about to be signed). In addition, EUROSTAT also informed on the status of implementation of the decisions of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics.

In respect to the EUROSTAT’s current legislation on fishery and aquaculture statistics, various proposals have been presented and discussed: a) review of EU/EEA legislation on fishery statistics [unanimously approved]; b) proposal for new regulation on landings statistics [for revision before

approval - incorporate suggestions of the group]; c) proposal for new regulation on aquaculture statistics [withdraw: improvement needed in concepts/definitions used, and, realistic contents and structures acceptable by member states].

Additionally, EUROSTAT presented to discussion other topics under development. The trial questionnaire results, related to data collection on employment statistics, indicated that further investigation is needed, in close collaboration with FAO envisaging the common requirements of both organizations. In respect to the feasibility of establishment of supply balance sheets for fishery products, an external consultation indicates that additional statistics are required from Member States (ratios of fish production for consumption and for industrial uses, and landings of national vessels in foreign ports). Despite the general agreement that further work needs to be done in conjunction with FAO in subjects like the selection of appropriate conversion factors, the participants indicated their willingness to comply with this request for additional data. Finally, the participants unanimously recognized EUROSTAT's work in respect to its contribution to the normalization of an economic data collection system (development of harmonized EU concepts/definitions) for assessment purposes, and the DG FISH on the progress made on the development of electronic logbooks.

Actions: None

Report availability: From EUROSTAT.

4th Informal Meeting of States Parties to the Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 regarding the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Location: New York, United Nations, May 31 to June 3, 2005.

Representative: D. Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Comments: In the framework of consultations between States on the application of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) were invited to participate in the 4th Informal Meeting on the UN Fish Agreement. ICCAT was represented at this meeting by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski.

The meeting was centered on the review of means to carry out an evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

After the interventions of the participants of the Member States, RFMOs and NGOs on the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, an informal group was established to develop a platform and a work plan aimed at holding a conference of evaluation.

The informal group submitted a work plan to the meeting which was adopted. The work plan defines the tasks that must be carried out from now until the conference, whose date has been set for the end of May 2006. The Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and FAO Secretariats are in charge of preparing various documents dealing mainly with the status of the stocks, the adherence of States and the functioning of the RFMOs.

Consequently, ICCAT's activities will consist of collaborating with FAO and with DOALOS to provide them with the data on the status of the stocks of tuna species in the Convention area.

In the framework of the preparation of this conference, the reunion focused on discussion of the procedures, the agenda and other points to be discussed.

The participants agreed on the agenda of the evaluation conference as well as the work plan of this conference.

Furthermore, the Chairman of the session circulated two documents, one on the current status of the tasks assigned to the 1995 Agreement which has been in force since 2001. The other presented criteria which could eventually serve as a basis to evaluate the status of the application of the Agreement at the time of the conference. It was noted that the evaluation conference should be focused on the means of encouraging the States to proceed to the ratification of the 1995 Agreement.

Actions: It was agreed that the RFMOs should prepare documents on their activities and transmit them to FAO and to DOALOF for the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Fisheries.

Report availability:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocksmetings/icsp4report.pdf

6th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Location: New York, United States, June 6 to 10, 2005.

Representative: Mr. Driss Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Comments: In response to the invitation from the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and in representation of the ICCAT Secretariat, the Executive Secretary participated in the 6th Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, held at the UN headquarters in New York from the June 6 to 10, 2005.

This Consultation, in which several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated, centered once again on an analysis of the state of marine resources and the measures that should be adopted to protect them against the degradation to which they are subjected.

During the first day, which was reserved for the interventions of the delegates, the Executive Secretary took the floor to provide general information on the measures adopted by the Commission to combat illegal fishing, which contributes in large measure, to the degradation of marine resources. In this intervention he also highlighted other measures adopted ICCAT and which are aimed at conserving the marine resources.

The discussion took place in the form of two panels with several participants. The first panel centered on the role of the RFMOs in the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Chairman of the session on the 1995 Agreement, presented the results of the work of the 4th Consultative Process, and the FAO representative presented a general overview on the state of the resources at the worldwide level and a summary of the work of the last Committee on Fisheries (COFI). The representative of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) presented a report of the last meeting the RFMOs, which was held in Rome in March 2005, noting the problems of the exploitation of demersal species in the NEAFC Convention area. These interventions were followed by an extensive discussion. The ICCAT representative contributed to this discussion by presenting the measures adopted by the Commission with respect to some Contracting Parties and other Parties that do not comply with the management actions taken to maintain the exploitation of tunas at a sustainable level.

The second panel focused its discussion on the observations and analysis of the state of the marine resources level, as well as the measures that should be taken to halt their degradation.

Report availability:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/414/01/PDF/N0541401.pdf?OpenElement>

73rd Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

Location: Lanzarote, Spain, June 20 to 24, 2005.

Representative: Mr. Driss Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: At the invitation of IATTC, ICCAT participated as an observer in the work of the 73rd meeting which was held in Lanzarote.

The work focused on the activities of the Commission, the adoption of the budget for the next two years and the adoption of new management measures. Among the major resolutions adopted, those regarding trade measures aimed at promoting implementation and the resolution on shark catches were retained. A recommendation on the incidental mortality of sea birds, as well as a plan for the regional management of fishing capacity, were adopted. The Commission however, discussed and adopted the resolution regarding the establishment of lists of illegal fishing vessels. One concerning transshipment was not adopted.

Report availability: The report will be available on <http://www.iattc.org/Meetings2005ENG.htm>

6th Session of the Ministerial Conference on the Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT)

Location: Rabat, Morocco, July 12 to 14, 2005.

Representative: Papa Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Status of the ratification of the Convention; follow-up of the tri-partite Morocco-Japan-other African countries cooperation projects; consultative program on responsible fishing in Africa; status of cooperation with States and international organizations; agreement among the Member States within the framework of international instruments.

Comments: Fifteen African Ministers of Fisheries participated in the work of this session. Also of note is the participation of the following countries: France, Spain and Japan (JICA and OFGF) that already finance or intend to finance some COMHAFAT projects. The following international organizations were also represented: FAO, ICCAT, SRFC (Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission), COREP (Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea), INFOPÊCHE (Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa).

The two major issues discussed centered on the development of projects to be submitted to FAO and other possible sources of funding, and the feasibility of providing maritime training courses in official languages other than French.

The current gaps in the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct were discussed at length.

During the session, the Member States were encouraged to join ICCAT.

Actions: The ICCAT Secretariat should study the ways and means available to assure improved collaboration with COMHAFAT in the application of ICCAT recommendations.

Report availability: The report will be available on the COMHAFAT web site: www.comhafat.org

Conference: Sea Our Future: The Regional Approach to an Integrated European Maritime Policy

Location: Brussels, Belgium, July 13, 2005.

Representative: D. Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: The Committee of Regions EU maritime policy: Sustainable development for local and regional authorities; Europe and the sea; individual regional presentations.

Comments: This conference discussed a regional approach to an integrated European Maritime Policy and focused on the need to bring together in an integrated framework differing, and often contradictory, aspects of the relations of European countries with the seas and oceans. The conference also reviewed the progress made by the Maritime Policy Task Force in the preparation of a Green Paper on a future Maritime Policy for the EU, which aims *inter alia* to integrate decisions on oceans and seas affairs with a view to rationalizing their conservation and protection, and reverse the current trend of depleting marine living resources and reduction of marine biodiversity.

Actions: None.

Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop

Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 18-22, 2005.

Representative: E. Carlsen (USA).

Substantive agenda items: MCS case studies and training

Comments: The Workshop was hosted by the Government of Malaysia and co-sponsored by the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance Network (MCS Network) with administrative support from the FAO's FishCode programme, Infofish, and the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, and with funding from the U.S. State Department and the European Commission.

The meeting was attended by operational-level MCS professionals from national governments, non-governmental organizations, and inter-governmental organizations (e.g., RFMOs) from many countries. Representatives from more 40 countries, both developed and developing, were in attendance, and 135 people attended the Workshop. The target audience was operational level, law enforcement practitioners from a variety of fields. Attendance was limited to governmental personnel to encourage candid disclosure of tactics and current challenges.

The agenda covered a broad range of topics. Traditional, core law enforcement subjects were presented including seizure, port measures, differing legal systems, case studies, comparative penalties as well as the framework of international legal instruments, financial analysis, computer forensics, vessel monitoring systems investigating crime syndicates, and new MCS innovations by NGOs and inter-governmental groups. In addition, the agenda also included dealing with the media, MCS in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, MCS training, a judge's perspective and more. There are no comparable training opportunities at the global level. Ms. Carlsen gave a brief overview of ICCAT's monitoring, control and surveillance measures during the session on Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and MCS.

Actions:

The Commission may want to follow developments in advanced law enforcement and monitoring techniques that are presented in workshops such as this.

Final Meeting of the FEMS Project

Location: Umbria, Italy, September 5 to 9, 2005.

Representative: V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive agenda items: Progress in the documents, interim report submission; work plan and deliverables for 2005.

Comments: This was the final meeting for FEMS participants. The meeting was devoted to presenting progress reports on the various meeting components and to initiate the drafting of a review paper to be published in 2006. A website containing project information (<http://flr-project.org/fems/doku.php>) was also reviewed and it was agreed that participating scientists would use the Wifi system to update the site.

Actions: SCRS: The Committee should monitor the progress being made by FEMS in developing the simulation framework, which can be useful in providing management advice.

Report Availability: <http://flr-project.org/fems/doku.php>.

27th Meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

Location: Tallinn, Estonia, 19 to 23 September 2005.

Representative: D. Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: At the invitation of NAFO, ICCAT participated in the work of the 27th meeting that was held in Tallinn, Estonia.

Comments: The work of the 27th Meeting of NAFO was characterized by an important discussion on the management of fisheries and the proposal to revise the Basic Texts of this organization. It was agreed to establish a working group aimed at revising the texts and which will hold its first meeting during the first quarter of 2006. The issue of the removal of shark fins was also the subject of considerable discussion, which was adopted.

Report Availability: The report is available on: <http://www.nafo.org/Whatsnew.htm>.

Fourth International Billfish Symposium

Location: Avalon, California, USA, October 31 to November 3, 2005.

Representative: V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: Scientific presentations.

Comments: The Symposium was held to bring together scientists who conduct research on billfish to share and debate the results of their programs. A large number of presentations were devoted to characterization of billfish habitat use and spatial distribution. This research is critical to ICCAT stock assessments of Atlantic billfish because it has been shown that the trends obtained from standardized longline CPUE data can vary substantially, depending on the assumptions made about the overlap between marlin distribution and longline gear depth distribution. A very large number of PSAT tags (popup satellite archival tags) have been deployed recently in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, with substantial funding from sport fishing and conservation groups. Many of the results obtained will be useful for the planned 2006 billfish assessments. However, it is apparent that there is a general lack of coordination between the various programs in each ocean basin. It became evident from the PSAT presentations that more research is needed on the feeding behavior of billfishes as it relates to their capture by baited longline gear.

Another substantial part of the Symposium was devoted to advanced research on early life history of billfishes, especially off Florida in the Atlantic and Hawaii in the Pacific. Some of the new methods being developed for sampling appear to have important potential for monitoring recruitment indices, something that could be extremely useful to the assessments.

Actions: SCRS: The billfish species working group should take into consideration recent advances in the understanding of marlin use.

Report Availability: Proceedings of the Symposium will be published in the *Bulletin of Marine Science* (approx. November 2006).

Appendix 3

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS AT ICCAT MEETINGS

1. In exercising the responsibilities in respect to invitation to observers to ICCAT Meetings as provided for in Article XI of the Convention and in Article 2 of the FAO/ICCAT Agreement, the Executive Secretary, acting on behalf of the Commission, shall invite:
 - FAO.
 - Intergovernmental economic integration organizations constituted by States that have transferred to it competence over the matters governed by the ICCAT Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of those matters.
 - Intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with ICCAT as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to ICCAT or vice versa.
 - Non-Contracting countries with coastlines bordering the Convention Area as defined in Article I of the Convention, or those non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities identified as harvesting tunas or tuna-like species in the Convention Area.
2. All non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which support the objectives of ICCAT and with a demonstrated interest in the species under the purview of ICCAT should be eligible to participate as an observer in all meetings of the organization and its subsidiary bodies, except extraordinary meetings held in executive sessions or meetings of Heads of Delegations.
3. Any NGO desiring to participate as an observer in a meeting of the organization or its subsidiary bodies shall notify the Secretariat of its desire to participate at least 50 days in advance of the meeting. This application must include:
 - Name, address, telephone and fax number of the organization;
 - Address of all its national/regional offices;
 - Aims and purposes of the organization and an indication as to how they relate to the objectives of ICCAT;
 - A brief history of the organization and a description of its activities;

- Any papers produced by or for the organization on the conservation, management or science of tunas or tuna-like species;
 - A history of ICCAT observer status granted/revoked;
 - Information or input that the organization proposes to present at the meeting in question;
4. The Executive Secretary shall review applications received within the prescribed time, and, at least 45 days before the meeting for which the application was received, shall notify the Contracting Parties of the names and qualifications of NGOs determined to meet the criteria for participation stipulated in paragraph 2 above. Such applications will then be considered as accepted unless one-third of Contracting Parties object in writing at least 30 days prior to the meeting, or within 60 days of receipt of applications, if such date falls earlier than 30 days prior to the meeting.
 5. Any eligible NGO admitted to a meeting may:
 - Attend meetings, as set forth above, but may not vote;
 - Make oral statements during the meeting upon the invitation of the presiding officer;
 - Distribute documents at meetings through the secretariat; and
 - Engage in other activities, as appropriate and as approved by the presiding officer;
 6. Observers will be required to pay a fee for their participation at the meetings of the Organization, which will contribute to the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Executive Secretary.
 7. The Executive Secretary will determine whether, due to conference room capacity, seating limitations require that a limited number of observers per NGO may be present at any meetings. The Executive Secretary will transmit any such determination in the conditions of participation.
 8. All observers admitted to a meeting shall be sent or otherwise receive the same documentation generally available to Contracting Parties and their delegations, except those documents deemed confidential by the Parties.
 9. All observers admitted to a meeting shall comply with all rules and procedures applicable to other participants in the meeting. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that ICCAT may adopt for the conduct of observers will result in withdrawal of accreditation by the Chairman of the Commission.

(Adopted by the Commission at its 11th Special Meeting, Santiago de Compostela - November 16 to 23, 1998, and subsequently amended by the Commission at its 19th Regular Meeting, Seville – November 14-20, 2005).

2005 FINANCIAL REPORT¹

1. Introduction

The Executive Secretary sent a copy of the Auditor's Report to the Governments of all the Contracting Parties in May 2005 (ICCAT Salida #704). The General Balance at the close of fiscal year 2004, showed an effective balance in Cash and Banks of €93,039.76, corresponding to the available in the Working Capital Fund, €28,199.06 (which represents 16.94% of the Budget, and is slightly above the 15% recommended by the Commission in the Working Group on Finance and Administration, held in Madrid, November 29-30 to December 1, 1971), to the advances on future contributions accumulated to the close of fiscal year 2004 amounting to €4,613.98 Euros, and to the available in funds for other Programs, €270,226.72.

The balance of accumulated pending contributions at the close of fiscal year 2004 (corresponding to 2004 and previous years) amounted to a total of €1,834,019.29.

2. Financial status of the second half of the biennial budget – Fiscal Year 2005

All the financial operations of the Commission corresponding to fiscal year 2005 have been maintained in Euros. The accounting entries that originated in United States dollars are also registered in Euros, applying the official exchange rates facilitated monthly by the United Nations.

The 2005 Regular Budget, amounting to €1,172,222.94, was approved by the Commission at its 14th Special Meeting (New Orleans, November 2004). The General Budget (attached as **Statement 1**) shows the assets and liabilities at the close of fiscal year 2005, which is presented in detail in **Tables 1 to 6**, as well as those corresponding to fiscal year 2004.

Table 1 shows the status of the contributions of each Contracting Party.

Of the budget approved, income towards 2005 contributions amounted to €1,692,219.41, which represents 77.90% of the budget. Only 23 of the 39 Contracting Parties included in this budget have paid their total contribution (Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, and United States). Equatorial Guinea has paid 46.81% of its 2005 contribution (€6,453.49) and Tunisia has paid 88.49% (€7,648.97). In considering these percentages it is noted that some Contracting Parties make bank transfers without taking the transfer charges into account. For this reason, the People's Republic of China owes €0.22 and Côte d'Ivoire owes €5.00, and therefore their contributions are almost paid in full.

The contributions to the 2005 Regular Budget that are pending payment from the Contracting Parties amount to €480,003.54 Euros, which represents 22.10% of the budget.

Advances received in 2004 from Angola (€886.49), Brazil (€0.19), Côte d'Ivoire (€19,960.27) and Equatorial Guinea (€6,453.49) have been applied towards the partial payment of their 2005 contributions, whereas the advance received in 2002 from Libya (€14,537.98) of which there remained a balance of €67,313.54, has been applied towards the total payment of its 2005 contribution. There remains a balance in favor of Libya of €42,639.75, which will be applied towards the payment of future contributions. The advance received from Belize (€2,968.58 - see item 9 of this Report), as well as that received from Angola in 2005 (€20,478) will also be applied towards the payment of future contributions.

Income from contributions towards previous budgets amounts to €604,558.53, and corresponds to contributions paid by the People's Republic of China (€6,525.13), Gabon (€14,504), Ghana (€366,277.05), Morocco (€29.82), Panama (€24,090.13), Sao Tome and Principe (€22,219.26), Senegal (€45,593.31), South Africa (€27.61), Tunisia (€10,411.16), United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) (€22,994.74), Uruguay (€29,265.67) and Venezuela (€1,720.65).

The total accumulated debt from budgetary and extra-budgetary contributions amounts to €1,717,045.51 This includes, among others, extra-budgetary contributions from Contracting Parties that have recently joined the

¹ The Financial Report presented at the 2005 Commission Meeting was revised and updated to the close of fiscal year 2005.

Commission: Honduras (€14,937), Vanuatu (€3,295.28), Nicaragua (€6,387.40) and Senegal (€19,665.57), and the debts of Benin (€50,508.83) and Cuba (€66,317.48 Euros), which are no longer Contracting Parties to ICCAT.

Table 2 shows the liquidation of budgetary expenses at the close of fiscal year 2005, as well as the liquidation of 2004, broken down by chapters.

Budgetary expenses

The expenses incurred during 2005 represent 85.59% of the budget approved by the Commission. Following herewith are some general comments by chapters:

Chapter 1 – Salaries: The salaries and remuneration of 14 Secretariat staff members were charged to this chapter: four staff in the Professional or Higher categories (an Executive Secretary and an Assistant Executive Secretary (seven months), a Head of Finance and Administration and a Publications Technician), six staff in the General Services category (four Translators in the Language Department, a Receptionist and a Mail and Photocopy Clerk), and four staff included in the Spanish social security system (a Translator in the Language Departments, a Mail and Photocopy Clerk, a Purchasing Assistant, and a Assistant Bookkeeper).

In 2005 the United Nations Civil Service Commission published new salary, pension and education allowance scales for staff in the Professional or Higher categories, as well as the salary and pension scale for Madrid for staff in the General Services category. All these increments are charged to this chapter, complying with the date of entry into force of each of these scales.

Therefore, the total amount for Chapter 1 includes the updating of the remuneration schemes to those in effect for staff classified in the United Nations categories, including tenure and contribution to the Van Breda Pension Plan. It also includes the cost of Spanish social security for Secretariat staff included in this system, the payment of taxes in accordance with that stipulated in Article 10 of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*, as well as educational allowance expenses for the staff concerned in accordance with Article 16 of the aforementioned Staff Regulations, and expenses for home leave in accordance with Article 27.

The amount incurred during 2005 and charged to Chapter 1 represents 91.55% of the budget, a slightly lower percentage as compared to previous years, mainly due to the tax exemption of two staff members promoted from the General Services category to the Professional category, whose promotion was approved during the 2004 Commission Meeting (New Orleans) and effective from January 1, 2005.

Chapter 2 – Travel: The amount charged to this chapter of the budget was €28,088.04 (65.17% of the budget) and corresponds to the trip expenses and *per diem* for Secretariat participation in the meetings of international organizations and those of regional and/or international bodies (€27,803.85), and to travel of invited experts (€84.19).

Chapter 3 – Commission meetings: This chapter includes expenses amounting to €33,695.08 (72.22% of the amount budgeted), corresponding to trips made by the Secretariat to Seville for the preparation of the annual meeting and to the expenses of the 2005 Commission meeting held in Seville, including those of the Secretariat (travel, per diem, overtime, etc) for interpreters (travel, accommodations, per diem, honoraria and loss of income due to travel) as well as those for the transport of the material necessary for the meeting.

Chapter 4 – Publications: The expenses charged to this chapter amounted to €48,491.25 (92.42% of the amount budgeted) corresponding to the expenses incurred for the purchase of material for publications, i.e. paper and toner, (€7,587.93), reproduction of documents (€10,401.92), photocopier rental costs (€15,632.88), binding by a printer of the following publications: *Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 34, Report for Biennial Period 2004-05, Part I, Vols. 1, 2 and 3* in the three official languages of the Commission, *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. 57 (Nos. 1 and 2)* and *Vol. 58 (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)*, *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules* (in the three languages), *Basic Texts* (in the three languages), (€13,697.43), and payment of the contract to NICMAS for the preparation of the bibliography of ICCAT publications (€1,171.09).

Chapter 5 – Office equipment: The expenses charged to this chapter which amounted to €6,456.65 (80.23% of the amount budgeted) include the purchase of diverse office furniture for the Secretariat: new furniture for one office and the replacement of shelves, “pigeon holes” for documents, and the office safe.

Chapter 6 – Operating expenses: The expenses incurred in this chapter amounted to €10,041.77 (97.67% of the amount budgeted), which correspond to: office material (€6,974.93); communication costs: mailing of official correspondence and ICCAT publications (€31,529.37), phone (€8,173.17) fax (€1,410.27); bank charges (€3,301.80); audit (€10,420.62); maintenance contracts, insurance, garage rental, and office cleaning (€26,856.79), and representation expenses (€1,374.82).

Chapter 7 – Miscellaneous: This chapter includes various expenses of a minor nature, such as minor repairs at the Secretariat. The amount charged to this chapter amounted to €5,169.79 and represents 80.30% of the amount budgeted.

Chapter 8 – Coordination of research: The expenses incurred in this chapter amounted to €644,620.39 (80.53% of the amount budgeted), which is divided in the following sub-chapters:

A) *Salaries:* Expenses corresponding to the salaries of seven Secretariat staff members have been charged to this sub-chapter: five staff in the Professional or Higher categories: an Assistant Executive Secretary (five months), a Head of the Department of Statistics, a Biostatistician, a Publications Coordinator (two months) and a Compliance Technician, a staff member in the General Services category (Information Technology specialist), and two staff included in the Spanish social security system (a Database Programmer and a Technical Assistant).

The observations made under Chapter 1 concerning the salary schemes in effect in 2005 for staff classified in the United Nations categories also apply to this sub-chapter, as well as the costs for Spanish social security for Secretariat staff included in this system, the payment of taxes in accordance with Article 10 of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules* and the educational allowance for staff entitled to this in accordance with Article 16 of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations* and expenses for home leave in accordance with Article 27.

The exemption of tax payment for a staff member promoted from the General Services category to the Professional category, (which had been approved by the Commission at its 2004 Meeting held in New Orleans and which was effective as of January 2005, the deferment of the hiring of the Compliance Officer and the incorporation of the Publications Coordinator in November 2005, who did not have to be contracted internationally) resulted in a lesser budgetary impact on this sub-chapter in 2005.

B) *Travel to improve statistics:* The amount charged to this sub-chapter was €19,200.32 and corresponds to trip and *per diem* expenses for Secretariat participation in the following meetings: travel to participate in meetings of other organizations (€9,691.35) and travel to improve statistics (€9,508.97).

C) *Statistics-Biology:* Charges to this sub-chapter included expenses for the purchase of a computer for the Biostatistician (€3,491.60), the annual cost for maintenance of the ICCAT web page and for electronic mail (€5,158.88), as well as the payment of the 2005 ICCAT tagging lottery prizes for tropical tunas (\$500) and for temperate tunas (\$500).

D) *Computer-related items:* The amount incurred in this sub-chapter (€25,404.24) corresponded to the purchase of computers, printers, software, memory expansion, printer repairs and the purchase of diverse computer material, as well as the purchase of an air conditioning unit for the room where the server is located.

E) *Database maintenance:* The amount spent for this concept was €3,660.25, corresponding to the purchase of software and annual contracts with the computer equipment distributor.

F) *Telephone-Internet domain:* The expense charged for this concept amounted to €3,940.57, corresponding to Internet connection fees and maintenance.

G) *Scientific meetings (including SCRS):* The amount spent in this sub-chapter was €1,315.32 corresponding to the expenses for the annual meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) held in Madrid and which includes the following: interpreters' honoraria, simultaneous translation equipment, expenses for material, conference room and working rooms for the Secretariat in the hotel where the meeting was held, Secretariat staff overtime and photocopying expenses.

H) *ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP):* The Contracting Parties financed a budget of €4,588.60, as an ICCAT budgetary contribution to this Program. The breakdown of income and expenses is given in the table referring to this Program (see section 3 of the Report).

I) *ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish*: The Contracting Parties financed a budget of €1,273.01, as an ICCAT budgetary contribution to this Program. The breakdown of income and expense is given in the table referring to this Program (see section 4 of the Report).

J) *Miscellaneous*: No expenses were charged to this sub-chapter in fiscal year 2005.

Chapter 9 – Contingencies: The expenses charged to this chapter amounted to €2,958 (14.36% of the amount budgeted) and correspond totally to the purchase of computer equipment for the Publications Coordinator.

Chapter 10 – Separation of Service Fund: The amount charged to this chapter was €30,900 (100% of the budgeted expenses) which has been transferred to the Separation of Service Fund (see section 6 of this Report).

Extra-budgetary expenses

The extra-budgetary expenses incurred corresponded totally to the expenses of the inter-sessional meetings held in Fukuoka, Japan, and are explained in detail in section 7 of this Report.

Table 3 shows the budgetary and extra-budgetary income received by the Commission in fiscal year 2005.

Budgetary Income

Budgetary income received totaled €2,244,803.71, from Contracting Party contributions paid in 2005 towards the 2005 Budget (1,640,245.18) and contributions paid by the Parties towards previous budgets (€604,558.53).

Extra-budgetary income

The extra-budgetary income received in 2005 amounted to €32,632.95, which includes: the contribution from Belize as new Contracting Party in 2005 (€3,418.82), contributions from Guatemala (€3,193.70), and Senegal (€3,890.66) as new Contracting Parties in previous fiscal years; voluntary contributions from observer fees at ICCAT Meetings (BIRDLIFE, CARICOM, CIPS, MEDISAMAK, OPRT, WWF, Chinese Taipei and Seychelles) (€7,347.35), contribution from the ICCAT Japan Data Improvement Project (€2,118.16) and contribution from the Bigeye Program for the Secretariat's work (€6,892.20); bank interest (€1,851.75), reimbursement of Value Added Tax, VAT (€4,998.74), other income (€325.66); positive differences in currency exchange (€6,943.71); and the income received from Japan to hold the inter-sessional meetings in Fukuoka (€46,652.20).

Table 4 shows the composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund at the close of fiscal year 2005. The Fund shows a positive accounting balance of €51,589.74, which represents 39.20% of the 2005 Regular Budget, which has resulted in an important percentage increase in this Fund with respect to previous years. This is due to some extent to the start of the regularization procedure of payment of pending debts of some of the Contracting Parties, as well as the reduction in expenditures of some of the budget chapters.

Table 5 shows the status of Cash Flow in fiscal year 2005, as regards income and expenses.

Table 6 shows the status of Cash and Banks with a balance of €1,080,262.91, which corresponds to the total available in the Working Capital Fund (€51,589.74), to advances on future contributions (€6,086.33), as well as the available in the ICCAT Billfish Research Program (€5,016.83), the available in the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (€13,201.79), the available in the Special Fund for Statistics (€21,827.24), and the available in the Separation from Service Fund (€2,540.98).

3. ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish

<i>ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2005	14,963.53
INCOME	
Financed by ICCAT	11,273.01
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>11,273.01</i>
EXPENSES	
Program expenses	21,134.78
Bank charges	84.93
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>21,219.71</i>
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2005	5,016.83

4. ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)

<i>ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2005	36,051.87
INCOME	
Financed by ICCAT	14,588.60
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>14,588.60</i>
EXPENSES	
Program expenses	37,374.06
Bank charges	64.62
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>37,438.68</i>
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2005	13,201.79

5. Special Fund for Statistics

At its 2003 Meeting, the Commission approved the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* [Res. 03-21]. For this purpose, in 2005 the Secretariat received contributions from the United States in order to continue the Special Fund for Statistics. At the close of fiscal year 2005, the Fund has the following balance:

<i>Special Fund for Statistics</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2005	4,581.42
INCOME	
Special contributions from the United States	128,316.30
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>128,316.30</i>
EXPENSES	
Fund expenses	11,010.98
Bank charges	59.50
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>11,070.48</i>
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2005	121,827.24

6. Separation from Service Fund

There were no expenses charged to the Separation from Service Fund in 2005. Therefore, the status of the Fund at the close of fiscal year 2005 is as follows:

<i>Separation from Service Fund</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2005	-8,359.02
INCOME	
Financed by ICCAT	30,900.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>30,900.00</i>
EXPENSES	
Fund expenses	0.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>0.00</i>
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2005	22,540.98

7. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings in Fukuoka

The Government of Japan invited the Commission to hold the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies (April 20 to 23, 2005) and the Meeting of the Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs (April 25 to 27, 2005), and assumed the major part of the expenses for their organization (€46,652.20). The remainder of the expenses, which amounted to €240.33, were charged to the ICCAT Working Capital Fund.

<i>Inter-Sessional meetings in Fukuoka</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
INCOME	
Financed by Japan	46,652.20
<i>Total Income</i>	46,652.20
EXPENSES	
Meeting expenses	46,892.53
<i>Total Expenses</i>	46,892.53
Expenses assumed by the Working Capital Fund	-240.33

8. ICCAT/Japan Data Improvement Project (JDIP)

At the 2004 Commission meeting, the Delegation of Japan presented a five-year Data Improvement Project. In December 2004 the Secretariat received the first contribution of the Project, which was managed within the ICCAT accounting registers until the end of the fiscal year. Since January 2005 the Project has had independent accounting.

9. Belize Voluntary Fund

In 2004, the Secretariat received a contribution from Belize amounting to €6,387.40, for which a fund was constituted until the completion of the procedure for the adherence of Belize to ICCAT. On July 19, 2005, the FAO Department of Legal Services informed the Secretariat that Belize had completed the formal procedure for ICCAT membership, and therefore part of the fund received from Belize were applied to cancel its extra-budgetary contribution (€3,418.82). The difference (€2,968.58) remains as an advance that will be applied towards the payment of future contributions. By this procedure, the Belize Voluntary Fund has been cancelled.

Conclusion

In analyzing the financial operations referring to fiscal year 2005 it is essential to point out that there has been a 10% reduction in expenditures as compared to the previous fiscal year. It should be further noted that the promotion of three staff from the General Services category to the Professional category has resulted in a reduction of expenses in Chapters 1 and 8.a (Salaries). As regards Chapter 3 referring to Commission meetings, it is important to underline that there has been a reduction in the impact concerning overtime. Likewise, the important collaboration of the hosts of the Commission meeting held in Seville (November 2005) has allowed the Secretariat to efficiently confront the expenses incurred without this having a negative impact on the budget. Chapter 6, Operating Expenses, has remained within the budget due mainly to the increase in the use of electronic mail to send correspondence to the Contracting Parties, thereby reducing the use of mail by post. Furthermore, an administrative process of maximum control in expenses for purchases has been followed.

In addition to all these elements of budgetary management of expenses, there has been a considerable increase of the payment of pending contributions that has resulted in strengthening the Working Capital Fund which went from 16.94% in fiscal year 2004 to 39.20% at the close of fiscal year 2005. Consequently the Secretariat may be better able to complete the tasks assigned by the Commission than in recent years.

Statement 1. General balance at the close of the fiscal period (Euros).

<i>ASSETS</i>				<i>LIABILITIES</i>				
		FISCAL YEAR 2005		FISCAL YEAR 2004				
						FISCAL YEAR 2005		
						FISCAL YEAR 2004		
Available:		1,080,262.91		693,039.76		Net acquired holdings:	106,826.23	109,581.16
BBVA:								
	Acct. 0200176725 (Euros)	52,499.04		19,284.48		Guaranty deposit	370.01	370.01
	Acct. 0200173290 (Euros)	461,305.05		3,469.66				
	Acct. 2010012035 (US\$)	(\$164,586.91)	139,898.87	(\$314,783.55)	237,346.80	Available:	1,080,262.91	693,039.76
	Deposit (Euros)	400,000.00		150,000.00		Working Capital Fund	851,589.74	328,199.06
Barclays:						Trust Funds	162,586.84	270,226.72
	Acct. 0021000545 (Euros)	10,829.18		6,252.56		Programs:		
	Acct. 0041000347 (US\$)	(\$8,744.26)	7,432.62	(\$8,793.95)	6,630.64	Enhanced Billfish Research Program	5,016.83	14,963.53
	Deposit (Euros)	0.00		25,204.14		Bluefin Year Program	13,201.79	36,051.87
Banco Simeón:						Special Fund for Statistics	121,827.24	4,581.42
	Acct. 0150255223 (Euros)	7,698.15		2,649.96		ICCAT/Japan Data Project	0.00	216,601.52
	Deposit (Euros)	0.00		25,000.00		Separation from Service Fund	22,540.98	-8,359.02
Cash on hand:		600.00		600.00		Belize Voluntary Fund	0.00	6,387.40
						Advances on future contributions	66,086.33	94,613.98
Trust Funds - ICCAT/Japan Data Project						Accumulated pending contributions	1,717,045.51	1,834,019.29
	Acct. 0201510278 (Euros)	0.00		216,601.52		Budgetary contributions		
(Exchange rate: 1\$US=	0,850 Euros)			0,754 Euros)		From the current fiscal period	480,003.54	426,776.55
						From previous fiscal periods	1,192,756.72	1,370,538.70
Receivables for past due contributions:		1,717,045.51		1,834,019.29		Extra-budgetary contributions		
	Past due budgetary contributions	1,672,760.26		1,797,315.25		From the current fiscal period	19,665.57	18,471.76
	Past due extra-budgetary contributions	44,285.25		36,704.04		From previous fiscal periods	24,619.68	18,232.28
Fixed assets:		106,826.23		109,581.16				
	Acquired before the fiscal period	186,233.76		240,343.19				
	Acquired during the fiscal period	27,663.66		27,524.61				
	Adjustments and retired during the fiscal period	-28,046.37		-81,634.04				
	Total fixed assets in use	185,851.05		186,233.76				
	Accumulated depreciation	-79,024.82		-76,652.60				
Guaranty deposit		370.01		370.01				
TOTAL ASSETS		2,904,504.66		2,637,010.22		TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,904,504.66	2,637,010.22

Table 1. Status of Contracting Party contributions (Euros) (at the close of fiscal year).

<i>Contracting Party</i>	<i>Balance due at start of fiscal year 2005</i>	<i>2005 Contracting Party contributions</i>	<i>Contributions paid in 2005 or applied to 2005 Budget</i>	<i>Contributions paid in 2005 towards previous budgets</i>	<i>Balance due to date</i>
A) Regular Commission Budget:					
Algérie	0.00	34,513.14	34,513.14	0.00	0.00
Angola 1/	0.00	21,364.82	21,364.82	0.00	0.00
Barbados	0.00	7,540.40	7,540.40	0.00	0.00
Brazil 2/	0.00	147,246.26	147,246.26	0.00	0.00
Canada	0.00	31,994.27	31,994.27	0.00	0.00
Cap-Vert	240,129.58	22,633.41	0.00	0.00	262,762.99
China, People's Rep. of	6,525.13	46,012.09	46,011.87	6,525.13	0.22
Communauté européenne	0.00	692,114.75	692,114.75	0.00	0.00
Côte d'Ivoire 3/	0.00	21,452.38	21,447.38	0.00	5.00
Croatia	0.00	16,294.43	16,294.43	0.00	0.00
France - St. P. & M.	0.00	27,571.45	27,571.45	0.00	0.00
Gabon	105,280.41	21,969.60	0.00	14,504.00	112,746.01
Ghana	866,179.52	214,126.13	0.00	366,277.05	714,028.60
Guatemala, Rep. of	0.00	13,785.72	13,785.72	0.00	0.00
Guinea Ecuatorial 4/	0.00	13,785.72	6,453.49	0.00	7,332.23
Guinea, Rep. of	77,753.24	6,892.86	0.00	0.00	84,646.10
Honduras	32,575.38	13,785.72	0.00	0.00	46,361.10
Iceland	0.00	13,785.72	13,785.72	0.00	0.00
Japan	0.00	105,640.80	105,640.80	0.00	0.00
Korea, Rep. of	0.00	28,149.76	28,149.76	0.00	0.00
Libya 5/	0.00	24,673.79	24,673.79	0.00	0.00
Maroc	929.82	56,478.62	56,478.62	929.82	0.00
Mexico	0.00	27,935.95	27,935.95	0.00	0.00
Namibia	0.00	34,769.74	34,769.74	0.00	0.00
Nicaragua Rep. de	0.00	6,892.86	0.00	0.00	6,892.86
Norway	0.00	13,785.72	13,785.72	0.00	0.00
Panama	54,300.11	32,937.05	0.00	24,090.13	63,147.03
Philippines, Rep. of	0.00	16,182.44	16,182.44	0.00	0.00
Russia	0.00	17,088.59	17,088.59	0.00	0.00
São Tomé e Príncipe	97,196.37	13,899.76	0.00	22,219.26	88,876.87
Senegal	45,593.31	0.00	0.00	45,593.31	0.00
South Africa	27.61	36,575.92	36,575.92	27.61	0.00
Trinidad & Tobago	0.00	26,512.56	26,512.56	0.00	0.00
Tunisie	10,411.16	31,246.91	27,648.97	10,411.16	3,597.94
Turkey	0.00	47,842.70	47,842.70	0.00	0.00
United Kingdom (O.T.)	25,088.82	35,282.90	0.00	22,994.74	37,376.98
United States	0.00	148,810.15	148,810.15	0.00	0.00
Uruguay	50,337.52	22,649.72	0.00	29,265.67	43,721.57
Vanuatu	6,440.31	6,892.86	0.00	0.00	13,333.17
Venezuela	61,720.65	71,105.28	0.00	61,720.65	71,105.28
Sub-total A)	1,680,488.94	2,172,222.95	1,692,219.41	604,558.53	1,555,933.95
B) New Contracting Parties:					
Honduras (30-01-01)	14,937.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,937.00
Vanuatu (25-10-02)	3,295.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,295.28
Nicaragua Rep. (11-03-04)	6,387.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,387.40
Guatemala, Rep. of (12-11-04)	3,193.70	0.00	0.00	3,193.70	0.00
Senegal (21-12-04)	8,890.66	19,665.57	0.00	8,890.66	19,665.57
Belize (19-07-05) 6/	0.00	3,418.82	3,418.82	0.00	0.00
Sub-total B)	36,704.04	23,084.39	3,418.82	12,084.36	44,285.25
C) Withdrawals of Contracting Parties:					
Cuba (Effective: 31-12-91)	66,317.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	66,317.48
Benin (Effective: 31-12-94)	50,508.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,508.83
Sub-total C)	116,826.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	116,826.31
TOTAL A)+B)+C)	1,834,019.29	2,195,307.34	1,695,638.23	616,642.89	1,717,045.51

1/ The advance from Angola received in 2004 (€886.49) was applied in its entirety towards partial payment of its 2005 contribution. Another advance was received in 2005 in the amount of €20,478 which will be applied towards payment of future contributions.

2/ The advance from Brazil received in 2004 (€0.19) was applied in its entirety towards partial payment of its 2005 contribution

3/ The advance from Côte d'Ivoire received in 2004 (€9,960.27) was applied in its entirety towards partial payment of its 2005 contribution

4/ The advance from Equatorial Guinea received in 2004 (€6,453.49) was applied in its entirety towards partial payment of its 2005 contribution

5/ Of the advance from Libya received in 2002 (€14,537.98), there was a balance of €67,313.54 which was applied towards the total payment of its 2005 contribution, and the balance remaining in favor of Libya (€42,639.75) will be applied towards the payment of future contributions.

6/ The advance from Belize (€2,968.58) will be applied towards the payment of future contributions

Table 2. Budgetary and extra-budgetary expenses (Euros) (at the close of the fiscal year).

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2005</i>			<i>Fiscal Year 2004</i>		
	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>% Spent</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>% Spent</i>
1. Budget and budgetary expenses						
Chapter 1. Salaries	981,663.78	898,706.71	91.55%	798,307.49	793,115.70	99.35%
Chapter 2. Travel	43,102.69	28,088.04	65.17%	41,847.27	35,492.84	84.82%
Chapter 3. Commission meeting (annual and inter-sessional)	115,884.75	83,695.08	72.22%	112,509.47	105,115.95	93.43%
Chapter 4. Publications	52,470.04	48,491.25	92.42%	50,941.79	39,208.64	76.97%
Chapter 5. Office equipment	8,047.55	6,456.65	80.23%	7,813.16	7,346.72	94.03%
Chapter 6. Operating expenses	112,665.73	110,041.77	97.67%	109,384.20	125,306.48	114.56%
Chapter 7. Miscellaneous	6,438.05	5,169.79	80.30%	6,250.53	6,375.11	101.99%
<i>Sub-total Chapters 1-7</i>	<i>1,320,272.59</i>	<i>1,180,649.29</i>	<i>89.42%</i>	<i>1,127,053.91</i>	<i>1,111,961.44</i>	<i>98.66%</i>
Chapter 8. Coordination of research:						
a) Salaries	555,762.73	495,737.60	89.20%	523,246.29	522,994.30	99.95%
b) Travel to improve statistics	36,471.51	19,200.32	52.64%	35,409.23	18,141.27	51.23%
c) Statistics - Biology	46,032.00	19,500.48	42.36%	44,691.26	14,659.45	32.80%
d) Computer-related items	25,750.00	25,404.24	98.66%	25,000.00	22,709.21	90.84%
e) Database maintenance	16,899.86	3,660.25	21.66%	16,407.63	3,744.19	22.82%
f) Telephone line - Internet domain	10,300.00	3,940.57	38.26%	10,000.00	4,252.77	42.53%
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	77,256.50	51,315.32	66.42%	75,006.31	74,595.09	99.45%
h) ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	14,588.60	14,588.60	100.00%	14,163.69	14,163.69	100.00%
i) ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program	11,273.01	11,273.01	100.00%	10,944.67	10,944.67	100.00%
j) Miscellaneous	6,116.14	0.00	0.00%	5,938.00	3,190.00	53.72%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>800,450.35</i>	<i>644,620.39</i>	<i>80.53%</i>	<i>760,807.08</i>	<i>689,394.64</i>	<i>90.61%</i>
Chapter 9. Contingencies	20,600.00	2,958.00	14.36%	20,000.00	17,170.00	85.85%
Chapter 10. Separation From Service Fund	30,900.00	30,900.00	100.00%	30,000.00	30,000.00	100.00%
TOTAL BUDGETARY EXPENSES (Chapters 1 to 10)	2,172,222.94	1,859,127.68	85.59%	1,937,860.99	1,848,526.08	95.39%
2. Extra-budgetary expenses						
Fukuoka Meeting expenses		46,892.53			0.00	
Marseille Meeting expenses		0.00			89,839.85	
Secretariat retroactive pay- General Services category		0.00			56,406.73	
Negative difference in currency exchange		0.00			22,968.72	
TOTAL EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENSES		46,892.53			169,215.30	
TOTAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN FISCAL YEAR		1,906,020.21			2,017,741.38	

Table 3. Budgetary and extra-budgetary income received (Euros) (at the close of the fiscal year).

<i>Income</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2005</i>			<i>Fiscal Year 2004</i>		
	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>% Received</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Received</i>	<i>% Received</i>
1. Budgeted income						
Contributions received in 2005 towards the 2005 Budget	2,172,222.95	1,640,245.18	75.51%	1,937,861.02	1,443,865.20	74.51%
Contributions received in 2005 towards previous budgets	1,680,488.94	604,558.53	35.98%	1,711,981.15	458,268.76	26.77%
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME RECEIVED	3,852,711.89	2,244,803.71	58.27%	3,649,842.17	1,902,133.96	52.12%
2. Extra-budgetary income						
Contributions received from new Contracting Parties in 2005		3,418.82			14,899.11	
Contributions received from new Contracting Parties towards previous budgets		12,084.36			0.00	
Voluntary contributions						
Observer fees at ICCAT Meetings		7,347.35			10,908.35	
Income received from the ICCAT/Japan Data Improvement Project		12,118.16			0.00	
Income received from the Bigeye Year Program for the Secretariat's work		16,892.20			0.00	
Contribution from Chinese Taipei to ICCAT		0.00			62,763.34	
Bank interests		11,851.75			6,171.70	
Refund of VAT		4,998.74			1,450.56	
Other income						
Various		325.66			0.00	
Positive difference in currency exchange		16,943.71			0.00	
Income from Commission meeting		46,652.20			100,839.85	
TOTAL EXTRA-BUDGETARY INCOME RECEIVED		132,632.95			197,032.91	
TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED IN 2005		2,377,436.66			2,099,166.87	

Tabla 4. Composition and Balance of the Working Capital Fund (Euros) (at the close of the fiscal year).

	FISCAL YEAR 2005	FISCAL YEAR 2004
Balance available in the Working Capital Fund (at the start of the fiscal year)	328,199.06	179,554.30
a) Liquidation of income and expenses to the budget of the fiscal year		
Deposits		
Contributions paid in the fiscal year and/or in advance for application to the budget	1,692,219.41	1,511,084.47
Deductions		
Actual budgetary expenses (Chapters 1 to 10) in the fiscal year	-1,859,127.68	-1,848,526.08
b) Other income and expenses not included in the Budget of the fiscal year		
Deposits		
Contributions paid in the fiscal year towards previous budgets	604,558.53	458,268.76
Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties received in the fiscal year	3,418.82	14,899.11
Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties to previous budgets	12,084.36	0.00
Other extra-budgetary income	117,129.77	182,133.80
Deductions		
Extra-budgetary expenses	-46,892.53	-169,215.30
BALANCE AVAILABLE AT THE CLOSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR	851,589.74	328,199.06

Table 5. Cash flow (Euros) (at the close of fiscal year 2005).

<i>Income and Origin</i>		<i>Expenses and Application</i>	
Balance in Cash and Banks (at the start of fiscal year 2005)	693,039.76	Available in Trust Funds at the close of fiscal year 2004 applied in fiscal year 2005	270,226.72
Income:	2,452,857.47		
Contributions paid in 2005 and/or in advance for application to the 2005 budget	1,692,219.41	Advances on contributions at the close of fiscal year 2004 applied in fiscal year 2005	51,974.23
Contributions pending from previous budgets paid in 2005	604,558.53	Budgetary expenses of fiscal year 2005 (Chapters 1 to 10)	1,859,127.68
Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties towards fiscal year 2005	3,418.82	Extra-budgetary expenses	46,892.53
Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties towards previous fiscal years	12,084.36	Available at the close of fiscal year 2005	1,080,262.91
Other extra-budgetary income received in 2005	117,129.77	Available in the Working Capital Fund	851,589.74
Advances to future contributions received in 2005 (Angola and Belize)	23,446.58	Advances received pending application towards future contributions at the close of fiscal year 2005 (Angola, Belize and Libya)	66,086.33
Balance in the ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program at the close of fiscal year 2005	5,016.83	Available in the ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program	5,016.83
Balance in the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP) at the close of fiscal year 2005	13,201.79	Available in the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	13,201.79
Balance in the Special Fund for Statistics at the close of fiscal year 2005	121,827.24	Available in the Special Fund for Statistics	121,827.24
Balance in the Separation from Service Fund at the close of fiscal year 2005	22,540.98	Available in the Separation from Service Fund	22,540.98
TOTAL INCOME AND ORIGIN	3,308,484.07	TOTAL EXPENSES AND APPLICATION	3,308,484.07

Table 6. Status of cash and banks (Euros) (at the close of fiscal year 2005).

<i>Summary</i>		<i>Breakdown</i>	
Balance in Cash and Banks	1,080,262.91	Available in the Working Capital Fund	851,589.74
		Total of advances received for their application towards future contributions	66,086.33
		Available in ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program	5,016.83
		Available in ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	13,201.79
		Available in the Special Fund for Statistics	121,827.24
		Available in Separation from Service Fund	22,540.98
TOTAL CASH IN CASH AND BANKS	1,080,262.91	TOTAL AVAILABLE	1,080,262.91

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 19TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

(Seville, Spain – November 14 to 20, 2005)

1. Opening of the meeting

The 19th Regular Meeting was opened on Monday, November 14, 2005 by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, who expressed his gratitude to the European Community, the Government of Spain and the *Junta de Andalucía* for hosting the meeting. Mr. Miyahara welcomed the delegates, in particular, those from the new Contracting Parties, Senegal and Belize.

Mr. Miyahara reminded the delegates that this year was an exceptional one, since there had not been any assessments, and thus the discussions should center on finalizing pending work and on the preparation of the next stock assessment sessions for bluefin tuna and swordfish. Mr. Miyahara also recalled that this year a new Chair is to be elected and he asked that negotiation and consensus be the basis of the Commission's work.

Mr. Miyahara thanked the Mrs. Elena Espinosa Mangana, Minister of Agriculture, Fishing and Food of Spain, Mr. Isaías Pérez Salda, Counsellor of Agriculture and Fishing of Andalusia, and Mr. Juan Carlos Martín Fragueiro, Secretary General of Maritime Fishing of Spain and for their presence at the opening session. He then gave the floor to the Counsellor who, on behalf of the *Junta de Andalucía*, welcomed the participants and expressed his government's recognition of the Commission's work, which are fundamental for the sustainability of the basic resources for Andalusia. The Minister, who then welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of Spain, reiterated the Spanish Government's commitment to the conservation objectives of the Commission and expressed the need to strengthen the RFMOs as essential fora for the maintenance of the fishing resources.

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

2. Adoption of Agenda and arrangements

The Agenda was reviewed and amended to include, under Item 13, a discussion on the strengthening of Regional Fishery Management Organizations and the reduction of by-catches and ecosystem approach to management, proposed by Canada and the United States, respectively. The Agenda, as amended, was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

The Chairman reviewed the work schedule, which is included in **ANNEX 1** and proposed that the election of the new Chair take place on Thursday during the meeting of Head Delegates.

The ICCAT Secretariat served as rapporteur for the Plenary Sessions.

3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations

Thirty-five (35) Contracting Parties attended the meeting: Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Republic), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Republic), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Senegal, St. Tomé & Príncipe, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**.

The opening statements by the Contracting Parties to the Plenary Sessions are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**.

4. Introduction and admission of Observers

The Executive Secretary listed the observers present that had been admitted by the Commission. The participants included two Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the

depository of the ICCAT Convention, delegates from Chinese Taipei, as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, and observers from Seychelles. The following intergovernmental organizations also participated: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean (GFCM), Ministerial Conference on Fishing Cooperation among African Coastal States of the Atlantic (COMHAFAT). Observers from the following non-governmental were also admitted: Association of Professional Organizations of the Fishing Sector of Mediterranean Coastal Countries (MEDISAMAK), International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS), Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Wrigley Institute of Environmental Studies (WIES), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The opening statements by the observers were presented in writing, to be attached to the report (see ANNEX 3.3 and 3.4). The list of observers is included on the List of Participants (ANNEX 2).

The closing statements presented to the Plenary Sessions are attached as ANNEX 3.5.

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

The 2005 SCRS meeting was held in Madrid, Spain, from October 3 to 7, immediately following the meetings of the species groups. The SCRS Chairman, Dr. Joao Gil Pereira, presented a summary of the report during the first day of the Plenary Sessions. The discussions on the individual stocks were postponed until the meetings of the pertinent Panels.

Dr. Pereira outlined the various intersessional meetings held in 2005, including the 3rd Ad Hoc GFCM-ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Tuna Farming/Fattening Practices in the Mediterranean (Rome, Italy, March 16-18, 2005), a Data Preparatory Meeting for the 2006 Billfish Assessment (Natal, Brazil, May 9-13, 2005), the Planning Meeting for Bluefin Tuna Research (Madrid, Spain, June 27-30, 2005), and the Workshop on Methods to Reduce Mortality of Juvenile Tropical Tunas (Madrid, Spain, July 4-8, 2005).

Dr. Pereira called attention to the changes in format that have been made in the research programs as well as the Executive Summaries, particularly those corresponding to species for which no assessment has been carried out. Dr. Pereira recalled that the Executive Summaries had been revised following a recommendation from the Commission, and he pointed out that, in their new version, these summaries are very heterogeneous. He asked the Commission to define more precise guidelines concerning the format in order to incorporate these in the future.

The SCRS has proposed numerous assessments and various intersessional meetings for 2006, as shown in detail under item 14.1 of the SCRS Report, including stock assessment sessions for the North swordfish stock, South swordfish, East bluefin tuna, West bluefin tuna, blue marlin, white marlin and data preparatory meetings of the Albacore and Tropical Tunas Species Groups. Further, a workshop is scheduled for early 2006 on swordfish stock structure, in response to questions raised by the Commission. The SCRS Chairman expressed the need for the Committee to propose assessments when an analysis of stock indicators shows possible situations of risk, independently of the assessments proposed by the Commission.

Dr. Pereira explained that the SCRS recommendations that have direct implications for the Commission are found under item 15 of the SCRS Report.

The SCRS Chairman also pointed out that the SCRS had prepared various responses to the requests from the Commission, which will be presented at the various Panel meetings.

Of the recommendations made by the SCRS, Dr. Pereira highlighted the request for a coordinator for the management of information and for the by-catch database. He noted this is necessary given the Commission's increasing involvement in this matter and the large volume of data that are being generated, the convenience of maintaining peer reviews of the stock assessments carried out within the SCRS, and the need to complete the updating of the Field Manual. Likewise, he called attention to the fact that the Committee's recommendations reach the Commission after the budget has been prepared, and thus the funds needed to carry out this work are limited. Dr. Pereira suggested the release of funds, within the budget, as a possible solution to this problem.

Lastly, Dr. Pereira announced the election of Dr. Gerry Scott as the new Chairman of the scientific committee.

The Commission Chairman requested that each Panel review the results of the SCRS, including the new format for the Executive Summaries. He also asked the Panels to study the possibility of postponing any assessments

foreseen for 2006 in order to lighten the intense schedule for next year. Mr. Miyahara congratulated Dr. Pereira for the excellent work carried out and he welcomed Dr. Scott as the new Chairman of the Committee.

Various delegates then intervened who, after praising the work done by Dr. Pereira as Chairman of the Committee and congratulating the new Chairman, asked that an estimate be prepared of the economic repercussions of the recommendations, in order to present it to STACFAD.

The 2005 SCRS Report was adopted by the Commission.

6. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

Mr. Jim Jones (Chairman of STACFAD) summarized the work carried out by the Committee, including the 2005 Administrative Report. The Commission adopted the Report and the recommendations contained therein, such as the Committee's recommendation to adopt an amendment to the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules* to make them compatible with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, once this negotiation is finalized, and the amendment of the 1998 *Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status at ICCAT Meetings* (see the Secretariat's Administrative Report).

Mr. Jones pointed out that the Committee had analyzed the first budget prepared after the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol, and presented two issues: the decision on the possible suspension of voting rights of Cape Verde, Gabon and Honduras, and the approval of the budget, on which the Committee had not reached an agreement.

As regards the first issue, several delegations supported the suspension of voting rights, taking into account that the above-mentioned Parties had not responded to the Commission's request for the presentation of a plan for the payment of overdue contributions. Other delegations were in favor of writing one last letter clearly specifying that if a positive response were not received with regard to the payment of past due contributions, then voting rights would be suspended at the 2006 meeting. The latter proposal was adopted.

With regard to the second issue, a proposal for a budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2006 and 2007 was presented. The Chairman of the Committee explained that the proposal was comprised of two options (A and B), and that the latter option included the SCRS recommendations.

Option B did not receive any support from the delegations, some of which expressed that their contributions would increase considerably with the Madrid Protocol and that including the SCRS proposals would make the increase even higher.

The Delegate from the European Community praised the work done by the Secretariat and insisted on the proposal brought up in the Committee that an external review be carried out on the functioning of the Secretariat. He indicated that his delegation could assume an increase of approximately 6% for 2006, with respect to 2005, but he conditioned the acceptance of future increases in the budget to such reviews, since the new Community policy required that such reviews be carried out in organizations in which the Community contributes substantially to the budgets.

The Delegate of Brazil thanked the Secretariat for preparing an explanatory document on the new scheme to calculate the contributions according to the Madrid Protocol, and pointed out that with the new scheme no medium-term forecast of the contributions could be made, since the classification of the Contracting Parties in the various groups depended on variables that could change from one year to another, such as the GNP and catch.

Mr. Jones confirmed that inclusion in the different groups depended on these and other variables, and that the Protocol contemplated that the most recent values be used for each variable. Mr. Jones also indicated that it was possible to use values from previous years or from an average of years if the Commission so decides, and requested that the Commission establish criteria to follow in order to do the calculations if the Commission so wished.

The Delegate of Brazil was the only one who did not agree with the 6% increase in the budget. He pointed out that his country could not assume this increase. The delegate of Brazil proposed a revision of the proposed budget that would result in a decrease in Brazil's contribution.

The STACFAD Chairman, together with the Executive Secretary, presented a new budget proposal in which the costs in the “Travel” and “Contingencies” Chapters were reduced, and which used the Working Capital Fund for the hiring of the Compliance Officer in 2006. They explained that the “Salaries” Chapters could not be changed since they are subject to the compliance of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*.

The Delegate of Brazil indicated he understood the inflexibility of some chapters, such as “Salaries”, but he asked that the Working Capital Fund be utilized as much as possible to attenuate the contributions and that the hiring of the Compliance Officer be postponed.

The Chairman of STACFAD distributed a last proposal in which there was no increment with respect to 2005, and explained the danger of its acceptance since it did not include the salary and remuneration of the newly hired Publications Coordinator, or the costs for moving to the new Secretariat Headquarters and some basic expenses such as electricity and communications. He alerted that the use of the Working Capital Fund for such expenses, combined with receipt of only 75% of the contributions corresponding to the fiscal period, could provoke a lack of solvency in the short-term which could lead the Commission to bankruptcy.

The Commission adopted the 2006-2007 budget, the basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions for 2006 and 2007, the individual Contracting Party contributions for 2006 and 2007, the contributions by group for 2006 and 2007, and the catch and canning figures of the Contracting Parties (attached as **Tables 1 to 7 to ANNEX 7**). The 2007 budget will be revised at the next meeting of the Commission.

The delegates of the United States and Japan, as well as the Commission Chairman, expressed their concern in view of the situation that the acceptance of this proposal would provoke and the use of the Working Capital Fund in such a large measure.

The Executive Secretary emphasized that the freeze of the budget that had been adopted, while it was not going to involve a significant decrease in the Contracting Party contributions, would indeed result in a negative impact on the functioning of the Secretariat, which has continually demonstrated dedication and good will. In this way, the Secretariat will not be able to rely on a legal advisor and it will be difficult to respond to the requirements of the Commission such as are stipulated in the Resolution [**Res. 05-10**] and in the Recommendation [**Rec. 05-06**] which includes an observer program, managed by the Secretariat, for at-sea transshipments.

The Delegate of Brazil proposed that the 2007 budget be revised at the next meeting of the Commission, and asked that the data on the group classifications in which these are based be the same as those used for the 2006 budget.

The Report of STACFAD is attached as **ANNEX 7**.

7. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

The Reports of Panels 1, 2, 3 and 4 were presented by the respective Chairmen during the Final Plenary Session. The Commission reviewed the Reports and the Recommendations and Resolutions proposed by the Panels and adopted the following measures:

Panel 1

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Yellowfin Size Limit (ANNEX 5, [Res. 05-01]).*
- *Resolution by ICCAT to Authorize Catch Limit Adjustments in the Bigeye Tuna Fishery (ANNEX 6, [Res. 05-03]).*

The Delegate of the United States expressed his concern for the effect that these measures could have on the stocks and insisted on the need that such measures be linked to the recommendations of research and future assessments included in the SCRS Report and to China’s firm commitment to limit its capacity.

Furthermore, Panel 1 supported the Work Plan of the SCRS Tropical Tunas Species Group which proposes that a working group meet in 2006 to analyze the aspects related to the multi-species character of the fishery and to increase knowledge of the biological parameters, such as natural mortality (see Appendix 13 to the 2005 SCRS Report).

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 1 would be adopted by correspondence. It is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 2

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation on Bluefin Tuna Farming [Rec. 04-06] (ANNEX 5, [Rec. 05-04]).*

The Delegate of Japan noted the fact that this Recommendation implied the closure of the Japanese market to parties that do not comply with it, including the participation in the sampling program. He recalled that the Recommendation and the subsequent trade consequences would not enter into force until mid-2006.

The proposal from the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies to hold another meeting in 2006 was accepted. The European Community offered to host the meeting, coinciding with the second meeting of the Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs. The proposal was reviewed and accepted.

Panel 2 supported the Work Plan proposed by the SCRS that included the assessment of the East and West stocks of bluefin tuna (see Appendix 13 to the 2005 SCRS Report).

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 2 would be adopted by correspondence. It is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 3

Panel 3 supported the Work Plan proposed by the SCRS (see Appendix 13 to the 2005 SCRS Report). The Panel did not present any proposal.

The Report of Panel 3 was adopted during the meeting and is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 4

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation [Rec. 04-10] Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT (ANNEX 5, [Rec. 05-05]).*

The Panel Chair recalled that no consensus had been reached in Panel 4 on this proposal. After the discussions at the final session of Panel 4, a revised proposal was presented. The Recommendation was adopted, after slight modifications, and is included in **ANNEX 5**.

The Panel Chair informed that some Parties had expressed their wish to participate in swordfish fishing. It was decided that their requests would be discussed in 2006.

The Panel agreed with the Work Plan proposed by the SCRS, which included the assessment of the North and South swordfish stocks (see Appendix 13 to the 2005 SCRS Report). The need was stressed to make a special effort in research on by-catch species.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence. It is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

8. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

Mr. Friedrich Wieland, Chairman of the Compliance Committee, informed that the Compliance Committee had reviewed and adopted the Compliance Tables, except for the table corresponding to bigeye tuna, which was adopted by the Commission after having added a footnote to the 2003-04 catches of Chinese Taipei specifying that they will be subject to revision in 2006. The Tables are attached to the report of the Committee as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**). The Chairman also commented that the Committee's Agenda would have to be restricted in the future.

The Compliance Committee proposed two recommendations for their adoption by the Commission:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Statistical Reporting Obligations. (ANNEX 5, [Rec. 05-09]).*

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Longline Fishing Vessels. (ANNEX 5, [Rec. 05-06]).*

The Commission adopted the two recommendations. The second recommendation implied the preparation of an observer program that must be planned and managed by the Secretariat, although its financing will be fully paid for by the parties that carry out transfers.

A third measure proposed was adopted as a resolution, although it was suggested that it be revised ~~proposing its~~ in 2006 for possible adoption as a recommendation.

- *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Change in the Registry and Flagging of Vessels (ANNEX 6, [Res. 05-07]).*

Other proposals that had not reached a consensus by the Panel were also transferred to the Commission:

- *Draft recommendation on additional measures for compliance of the ICCAT conservation and management measures (attached as ANNEX 11.1)*
- *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning cooperation in the fight and persecution of IUU vessels in the ICCAT area (attached as ANNEX 11.2)*

Japan presented the first proposal as an attempt to avoid the unilateral application of sanctionable measures. The proposal did not reach a consensus by the Commission and Japan informed that it maintained its proposal for discussion in 2006.

The second proposal, presented by Equatorial Guinea did not reach a consensus either considering that the proposal included difficult aspects, which do not fit in well with the current ICCAT regulations. With the aim of presenting a recommendation during the 2006 meeting, it was recommended that Equatorial Guinea revise the proposal with the help of the Secretariat. Equatorial Guinea expressed its absolute wish to fix this situation.

The Chairman also presented other matters that were the object of discussion. Regarding the treatment of excess and surplus catch limits, he insisted on the need to elaborate clear criteria that may allow a systematic application. The panels were recommended to define the regulations that should be followed and the measures to be adopted. The Chairman also informed on the solution of differences between Recommendation [Rec. 02-21] and Recommendation [Rec. 02-22] and expressed concern of the fragmented presentation or inadequate format of data.

The Report of the Compliance Committee is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

9. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

Ms. Kimberly Blankenbeker, PWG Chair, reported on the activities and proposals arising from the 2005 meeting of the PWG.

She informed the Commission Plenary that the PWG considered that a second meeting of the Working Group on Statistical Monitoring Programs was needed and should be held in 2006 at a time and place to be decided by the Commission. The Commission concurred with this proposal and agreed to hold the meeting in conjunction with the next intersessional meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Management Strategies for Bluefin Tuna, to be hosted by the EC.

Ms. Blankenbeker indicated that the Working Group carried out a case-by-case review of cooperation of non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20] and the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. The results of this review are summarized in the "Summary Table of PWG Activities in 2005" (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**). In this regard, Ms. Blankenbeker reported that the PWG had had extensive debate concerning Chinese Taipei given the identification decision taken in 2004 in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. The PWG agreed in principle that strong action was called for to address bigeye tuna quota

compliance and laundering activities. As there was no consensus within the PWG as to the proper step to be taken, the PWG agreed to refer the matter to the Commission for final action. In support of that discussion, the PWG Chair introduced a revised version of the Chair's proposed recommendation on this matter. The proposal called for a significant quota reduction in Chinese Taipei's bigeye tuna fishery and improvements in monitoring and control measures, among other things. After some debate and modification, the following Recommendation was adopted:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery (ANNEX 5, [Rec. 05-02]).*

It was emphasized that the measures contemplated in the Recommendation referred exclusively to 2006 and that these would not be extended to other longline fleets.

Chinese Taipei regretted the adoption of the Recommendation and presented a statement to this effect (included in ANNEX 3.5).

The closing statement by Japan concerning the adoption of the above Recommendation is also included in ANNEX 3.5.

The PWG Chair summarized the other decisions and actions it was proposing pursuant to its review of non-member cooperation. The Commission concurred with the proposed decisions and agreed to send the following letters (see **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 10**):

- Letter to Netherlands Antilles renewing Cooperating Status and expressing concern about bigeye tuna harvest levels.
- Letter to Sri Lanka requesting information on fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area.
- Letters to St. Vincent and the Grenadines regarding identification in accordance with the Trade Measures Resolution.
- Letters to Cuba, Singapore, and Costa Rica regarding continuation of identification in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures*.
- Letter to Togo requesting information on the fleet and on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS).
- Letter to Ecuador requesting information regarding its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna and on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS).
- Letters to Bolivia and Georgia regarding continuation of bigeye tuna trade restrictive measures.
- Letter to Cambodia seeking information on vessel registry and MCS measures in force.
- Letter to Colombia seeking information on a flag vessel on ICCAT's IUU list.
- Letter to Maldives requesting information on fishing activities and on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS).
- Letter to Sierra Leone requesting information on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS), including the process and rules for vessel registration.
- Letter to Egypt informing that Cooperating Status could not be granted as terms of Recommendation 03-20 were not fully met.
- Letter to Chinese Taipei transmitting the Recommendation to reduce bigeye catch limits and improve fleet control and renewing Cooperating Status.

In addition, it was agreed to renew Guyana's Cooperating Status. The Secretariat will send a letter to Guyana informing them of this renewal. With regard to Chinese Taipei, the Commission agreed to maintain Cooperating Status for another year. At least one party noted that if Chinese Taipei does not rectify its fishing activities, the Commission will need to reconsider the appropriateness of renewing Chinese Taipei's Cooperating Status in the future.

The PWG Chair noted that the PWG had developed the 2005 "List of Large Longliners Presumed to be Involved in Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the Convention Area and Other Areas" (see **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 10**). The Commission adopted this list in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 02-23] in order to publish it electronically on the ICCAT web site.

The draft Recommendations, letters, list of IUU vessels, and the summary of the PWG's activities in 2005 were adopted by the Commission, and the remainder of the report will be adopted by correspondence. With regard to the election of Chair, it was reported that consideration of this matter had been deferred until the 2006 ICCAT meeting pending intersessional work to look at the possible restructuring of the PWG and the Compliance Committee. The Report of the PWG is attached as **ANNEX 10**.

The Chairman praised the excellent work carried out by Ms. Blankenbeker as Chair of the group and appreciated her dedication and efficiency. Various delegations joined in the recognition expressed by the Commission Chairman.

10. Plans for a revised Compendium of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

The Key Contacts of the Working Group to Consider the development of a Compendium of Recommendations and Resolutions met in June 2005 (the Report of the 2nd Meeting of Key Contacts is attached as **ANNEX 4.3**) to develop a draft Abridged Compendium which was presented to the Working Group during its second meeting held the day prior to the opening of the Commission meeting in November 2005. The Commission should consider the Working Group's recommendations and decide on how to proceed.

The Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Carlos Domínguez Díaz (EC) explained the background of the Group and presented the report of the second meeting, insisting on the need for the Commission to decide on the legal incorporation of the Abridged Compendium, developed by the Group, within the ICCAT framework. Along these lines, the Chairman of the Working Group explained the possibilities contemplated by the Group that included its consideration as a simple document of consultation, without any legal value, its immediate entry into force, in substitution of the framework of the current recommendations and resolutions, or its entry into force, in the medium-term, with a period of overlapping with the current measures in effect. Mr. Domínguez Díaz expressed the Group's preferences for a prompt adoption of the Abridged Compendium, whilst making it clear that it was up to the Commission to make the final decision.

With regard to the future of the Group, Mr. Domínguez Díaz considered that if the Commission decided its adoption as a legal framework, then the Group will have completed its mandate and should not be continued.

After various interventions, mostly in favor of its adoption, but with a period for analysis, it was decided to aim for its adoption at the 2006 meeting and to establish a two-month period, prior to the meeting, as the maximum time limit to present comments. Notwithstanding, the Commission Chairman suggested that the deadline for adoption could be changed if there were fundamental objections by some of the Parties.

Mr. Miyahara expressed his appreciation for the excellent work carried out by Mr. Domínguez Díaz and the rest of the Working Group.

The Commission adopted the Group's Report of the November 2005 meeting, which is attached as **ANNEX 4.4**.

11. Matters pending from the 2004 Meeting

At its 2004 meeting, the Commission decided to postpone various matters to 2005. The following matters were discussed under this Agenda item:

Clarification of the mail voting procedures. The Chairman presented his proposal on the procedure that established a four-step process. After a brief debate, it was decided to submit it for discussion within the framework of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD), which could not include it on its Agenda due to the large volume of work to carry out. The matter will remain pending for discussion in 2006 (see **ANNEX 11.3**). The Chairman recalled that any proposal presented on this subject should be presented at least 60 days in advance of the meeting, since it would involve a change in the ICCAT *Rules of Procedure*.

Proposal to establish a Working Group on Capacity (attached as **ANNEX 11.4**) Recognizing the importance of this matter, the Commission agreed to convene a Working Group meeting in 2007 to consider fleet capacity issues. The Chairman urged the Parties to work on a consensual proposal for the terms of reference for this meeting for discussion in 2006.

Interpretative issues related to the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions. The Chairman presented his proposal to respond to the major interpretative issues, definition of terms, as well as reporting formats and dissemination of information. This proposal includes a suggestion to establish a small group to study and develop the formats for presentation of information required by the Commission. This group will have an inter-sessional meeting in 2007 due to the heavy workload that already exists in 2006. Notwithstanding, it was decided that use of the new formats could start now, on a trial basis, without waiting for their formal adoption, which should come about once the small group has presented its report. In this sense, it was suggested to the Parties that they begin to use the new formats, even though the adoption would be postponed to 2007.

The other issues raised in the Chairman's proposal could not be thoroughly discussed and therefore were deferred to the 2006 meeting. The Chairman pointed out the importance of these matters and the need to finalize them. The Chairman's proposal is attached as **ANNEX 11.5**.

12. Assistance for developing coastal States

The Chairman called attention to the need to increase the Contracting Parties' capacity to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Chairman summarized the initiatives that have been carried out by some Parties, such as the special funds established by the United States, Japan and other Parties, for the improvement of statistics and urged the Parties to join in this initiative.

The Chairman also pointed out the scant number of proposals from developing countries and recalled the full availability of the Secretariat to assist these countries in the development of proposals that would result in more participation of such countries in the Commission's work.

Canada noted that it had earlier announced a significant contribution to the UNFSA, Part VII fund to assist developing states. The European Community provided information on the various programs of assistance for the improvement of statistics and global management of resources that it is carrying out within the framework of FAO.

The Executive Secretary presented the actions carried out in 2005, within the Japan Data Improvement Project, and those envisioned for 2006. This five-year project, initiated in 2004, has a budget of US\$1,500,000. He also informed of the availability of \$96,987 corresponding to the fund, contributed by the United States for data improvement.

During the numerous interventions that took place, mainly by developing countries, the interest in this type of assistance projects was recognized. The Commission also recognized the need that these projects not be limited to data improvement but that they have a more global focus with a view towards a development that includes human resources.

Given the importance of this matter, it was decided to include it as a permanent item on the Agenda of the Commission meetings. It was also decided that the Secretariat should develop a document identifying the current major problems in the ICCAT statistical system and the stock assessments. This document will result in establishing priorities in the projects of assistance.

13. Other matters

The delegate of Canada presented a recommendation to strengthen ICCAT. In his presentation, he summarized the excellent work carried out by the Commission in the 40 years since its creation and justified the recommendation due to the need to establish an action plan in order to confront future challenges. This plan should be a part of the different initiatives that are being carried out, at the international level, designed to consider challenges and responsibilities in RFMOs not envisaged at the time of their institution, thereby contributing to gaps with respect to governance. The proposal was the subject of an extensive discussion that demonstrated general agreement with its form. After some changes, the *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT [Res. 05-10]* was adopted and is included in **ANNEX 6**.

The Delegate of the United States presented a proposal for a *Resolution by ICCAT on Circle Hooks*, as a measure aimed at reducing the incidental catch of marine turtles. In his presentation, the delegate referred to different scientific studies that showed the efficiency of this type of hooks to reduce turtle mortality without

reducing, and even increasing, the catches on target species. In the discussion that followed the presentation, various delegations provided information on research projects they have carried out or are currently carrying out along these same lines. After introducing some changes, the Resolution was adopted [**Res. 05-08**] and is included in **ANNEX 6**.

The Delegate of the United States also presented a proposed *Resolution by ICCAT on Pelagic Sargassum*, in which, under an ecosystem approach, he requested the Parties to provide information on activities that could have an impact on this seaweed and asked the SCRS for advice on the ecological importance of this seaweed for tunas and tuna-like species. After introducing some changes, the Recommendation was adopted [**Res. 05-11**] and is included in **ANNEX 6**. Notwithstanding, the Chairman asked that when a proposal refers to a new subject for the Commission, it be presented sufficiently in advance so that the Parties can obtain supplemental information on the matter.

Sport fishing was the subject of two draft recommendations presented by the European Community and the United States, respectively. The EC proposal centered more on measures tending to the regulation of this fishing type, it being an extension to the Atlantic Ocean of Recommendation [Rec. 04-12], adopted in 2004 for the Mediterranean. The U.S. proposal was directed at promoting research. The regulatory measures contained in the EC proposal were the subject of extensive discussion. It was not possible to unify the proposals or to reach consensus on them. The U.S. and EC delegates indicated their intention to present these proposals in 2006 (attached as **ANNEXES 11.6** and **11.7**, respectively). The Chairman invited both delegations to work together so as to be able to arrive at the 2006 meeting with only one consensual proposal.

The Executive Secretary of GFCM, after noting the excellent collaboration developed between the two Commissions, presented a proposal to make such collaboration permanent, with new terms of reference for a Joint GFCM/ICCAT Permanent Working Group on Large Pelagic Species in the Mediterranean. In the discussions that followed, concern was expressed about the duplication of mandates that this proposal could entail, as the SCRS had noted at its 2005 meeting. It was further noted that the proposal was presented to ICCAT before the GFCM had expressed an opinion on it. The Commission decided to return to this proposal in 2006, once GFCM has taken a decision on this matter.

14. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission

The Chairman brought up the convenience of revising the meeting setup of the meeting room of the Commission taking into account the increase in the number of Contracting Parties. A change should be considered in the setup to adapt to this situation.

The Delegate of Croatia offered to host the 15th Special Meeting of the Commission in Dubrovnik, from November 20 to 26, 2006. The Commission appreciated and accepted this invitation.

15. Election of Commission Officers

Dr. William Hogarth, Head of the United States Delegation, was elected Chairman of the Commission for a period of two years. Mr. John Spencer, Head of the European Community Delegation, was elected First Vice-Chairman and Mr. Fortunato-Ofa Mbo Nchana, Minister of Agriculture and Environment and Head of the Equatorial Delegation, was elected Second Vice-Chairman.

The newly elected Officers thanked the delegates for their confidence, expressed appreciation for the excellent work carried out by the out-going Chairman, and demonstrated their clear commitment to open and transparent processes and teamwork.

16. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The Executive Secretary thanked the hosts of the meeting, the European Community, the Spanish Government and the Junta de Andalucía, for the perfect organization of the meeting. Furthermore, he congratulated the new Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, and expressed the Secretariat's full disposition to assist them in carrying out their new functions. Likewise, he thanked the interpreters and the Secretariat staff for the excellent work carried out during the meeting. Lastly, the Executive Secretary expressed his recognition to Mr. Miyahara for his dedication and excellent collaboration by presenting him with a commemorative plaque.

The out-going Chairman thanked everyone for their tokens of recognition expressed and he welcomed the new Officers. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to the Executive Secretary and to the Secretariat for their assistance during his mandate.

It was agreed that the Report would be adopted by correspondence. The 2005 Commission Meeting was adjourned on November 20, 2005.

ANNEX 1

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction and admission of Observers
5. Summary Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
7. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
8. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
9. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
10. Plans for a revised Compendium of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures
11. Matters pending from the 2004 Meeting
12. Assistance for developing coastal States
13. Other matters
14. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
15. Election of Commission Officers
16. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Commission Timetable

<i>Day</i>	<i>8:30-9:00</i>	<i>9:00-10:30</i>	<i>10:30-11:00</i>	<i>11:00-13:00</i>	<i>13:00-14:30</i>	<i>14:30 16:00</i>	<i>16:00-16:30</i>	<i>16:30-18:00</i>
Sunday 13	-		WG Compendium			-		OFC
Monday 14	HD	PLE	COFFEE BREAK	PLE	LUNCH	PLE	COFFEE BREAK	PWG
Tuesday 15	-	COC		PA1/PA2		PA3/PA4		STF
Wednesday 16	-	PWG		COC		PWG		COC
Thursday 17	HD (9:00-9:30)	PLE (9:30-10:30)		PA1/PA2		PWG		STF
Friday 18	PA3	PA4		COC		PA1/PA2		STF
Saturday 19	PLE	PLE		PLE		PLE		PLE
Sunday 20	PLE	PLE		PLE				

HD = Head Delegates only (closed session).
 COC = Compliance Committee.
 PWG = Permanent Working Group.
 STF = STACFAD.
 PA1-PA4 = Panels 1 to 4.
 PLE = Plenary session.
 OFC= Commission Officers.

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OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

3.1 OPENING ADDRESSES

By Mr. Masanori Miyahara, Commission Chairman

First of all, I would like to thank Minister Espinosa Mangana for addressing us at this opening session and to express my sincere appreciation to Spain, the European Community and to the Government of Andalusia for hosting the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission in this beautiful and historical city of Seville. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Commission, our profound gratitude to the Government of Spain for all the assistance provided to ICCAT as the host country since its inception nearly 40 years ago. It is a great honor for me to open this meeting.

As I asked all fellow Commissioners to give up the oral presentation of statements, I should make my statement as brief as possible. Please be patient for a while.

I would like to welcome the new Contracting Parties to the Commission. Last December, Senegal rejoined the Commission after being absent for 17 years. Belize became a new Contracting Party in June of this year, bringing the number of members up to 41. We welcome you and we are all looking forward to working with you.

In terms of the work that lies ahead this week, I would like to point out that this is an atypical year because we do not need to agree on new conservation and management measures for any of our major stocks. Next year will be different, as we will have to decide on management measures for some important species.

For this reason, I invite you to work hard this year so that we can conclude some of the work that we have been undertaking recently in other areas. As I informed you in a letter of September 21, we need to make substantial progress on a number of monitoring, control and surveillance issues, such as defining effective controls for transshipments. We also need to continue to adapt our instruments to the ever-changing practices of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including laundering activities. And the Commission should consider good preparation for next year's meeting so that decisions on bluefin tuna, swordfish, and other species will be made smoothly and constructively in 2006.

Then, the last important item this year is the election of the Commission officers for the next biennial period. I sincerely ask all of you to cooperate to reach consensus on choosing my successor and the other officers early on, and to ensure that this matter does not spoil the work of the whole week for fruitful outcomes of this meeting. Let me confirm my commitment to serve you and the Commission to this end.

ICCAT has always strived to play a leading role as a Regional Fisheries Management Organization that adapts itself to new situations, with utmost transparency in its deliberations. At a time when RFMOs are being subjected to increased scrutiny at the international level, we need to ensure that decision-making at ICCAT will remain effective, efficient and transparent. In early 2007, the joint meeting of tuna RFMOs is scheduled. It is important for us to keep this in mind this week and to be determined to work hard so ICCAT can play a leading role in the joint meeting for the global conservation of tuna and tuna-like resources.

I would also like to insist that a congenial and respectful atmosphere is a keystone to the process of consensus-building. As such, I invite you to build and maintain a propitious climate for negotiations. And, of course, I would also like to encourage you to take some time to enjoy this beautiful city of Seville.

Thank you for your patience, and let's start our business.

By Mr. Isaías Pérez Saldaña, Counselor of Agriculture and Fishing in Andalusia

I would like to greet and welcome the authorities and other participants. There are 35 Contracting Parties present, from Europe, Asia, Africa and America, and some Parties, such as the European Community, include various countries. In addition, there are other, non-Contracting Parties and governmental and non-governmental organizations that are also participating in the meeting.

I would like to thank ICCAT for having accepted Seville's invitation to host the 19th special meeting of ICCAT, and Spain for having supported our invitation.

Furthermore, I would like to convey special greetings to the delegation of the United States that hosted last year's meeting in New Orleans, where all the participants were treated exquisitely, and which has been the victim of one of the worst natural disasters in recent times.

The fishing sector in Andalusia

Andalusia is a region where the fishing sector has great importance. In spite of the reductions in recent years, Andalusia still has a fleet of nearly 3,000 vessels, mainly artisanal vessels and some towns are highly dependent on fishing.

Andalusia is very interested in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that allow maximum sustainable catches, above all taking into account the importance and tradition in Andalusia of the fisheries of two species regulated by this Commission, namely bluefin tuna and swordfish. The migratory nature of these species complicates any conservation and management measure that may be promoted by a region or even a coastal State. Only multilateral measures and international decisions are effective for their protection. Therein lays the importance of an international Commission such as ICCAT.

Tuna fishing in Andalusia

Bluefin tuna fishing is carried out in Andalusia in three very distinct areas:

- In the Strait of Gibraltar, in Tarifa and Algeciras, a fleet comprised of 42 small artisanal vessels operates, with rod and reel and live bait, adapted with small fish farms for the bait, with an average of three or four crew members per vessel.
- In the Mediterranean fishing ground bluefin tuna are caught seasonally by the surface longline fleet that usually targets swordfish.
- In the Atlantic, bluefin tuna are caught by trap gear. This gear has been used since Phoenician times (3000 years). With time, the number of traps installed in the Gulf of Cadiz has been declining, to the four that were set in 2005 in Barbate, Conil, Tarifa and Zahara de los Atunes, in the province of Cadiz. These four traps generate more than 500 direct jobs during more than six months a year, and an even higher number of indirect jobs in transformation activities. In recent years, there has been a significant decrease in catches that could jeopardize the continuity of this activity. Therefore, at this or at subsequent meetings, it is especially important to adopt effective measures that will guarantee the sustainable exploitation of this species, such as the implementation of extensive closed seasons in the Mediterranean spawning area or the progressive introduction of a minimum size or weight of catch-at-first-sexual-maturity of this species to reduce juvenile catches.

Swordfish

Other tuna species also have a migratory nature, in particular swordfish, which is also the target species of an important fishery for the Andalusian surface longline fleet. Andalusia has 67 vessels, which is 70% of the Spanish surface longline fleet of the Spanish Mediterranean Communities. More than 50% of these Andalusian vessels are based at Carboneras, in the province of Almería. This fleet targets large pelagic migratory species, mainly swordfish and, to a lesser extent, bluefin tuna.

The swordfish fishery is also undergoing a delicate situation due to the decrease in catches and competition from other fleets that continue to use driftnets.

The importance of ICCAT for sustainability

The existence of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas is thus of great importance to Andalusia and its fishing sector. I hope that its work at this meeting results in a move towards the implementation of measures that guarantee the conservation of fishing resources that are so valuable for the biological diversity of our seas and the future of our fisheries, which it vitally important for the economy of our

coastal towns. I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Andalusian government and fishing sector to the conservation and sustainable use of resources.

Finally, I would like to wish all the participants a pleasant stay in our Autonomous Community and this beautiful city of Seville. On our part, we have done everything possible to make your stay pleasant.

By Elena Espinosa Mangana, Minister of Agriculture, Fishing & Food of Spain

In my name and in the name of the Spanish Government, I would like to welcome you to this historic city of Seville and, at the same time, thank the Governing Body of Andalusia for hosting the organization and celebration of the 19th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Throughout all these years of sound policy, the Government of Andalusia has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable fishing that looks towards the future with optimism, and an indication of this is this very event we are celebrating today.

It is personally satisfying to address you and share the thoughts, wishes and concerns that the Government has regarding the fishing for tunas and tuna-like species. I consider this forum to be the most adequate place for this.

As you all know, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas started its work in the 1960s, as a result of the consensus and the interest of the States to conserve the tuna resources of the Atlantic and Mediterranean for future generations.

The objectives that were set forth at that time, aimed at maintaining the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species at levels that would allow obtaining maximum sustainable benefits of these stocks, have not changed and must continue being our standard for the future, and this Organization is the spearhead to achieve this goal.

Tuna fishing and commerce have significant relevance in Spain as they hold a very important place in the national economy.

This is because both the most modern and capable fleets that operate in distant fishing grounds as well as artisanal vessels are dedicated to fishing this valuable resource.

Likewise, this is a dynamic, diversified and ever-changing industrial sector, which also strives to meet the new challenges in matters of sustainable management of the fishing resources.

A fishing sector that does not include sustainable values among its objectives can not be considered today a modern sector and I can assure you that the Government and the Spanish fishing sector have made a great effort to become a reference in the defense of these values.

In this sense, we are conscious of the responsibility that we assume in this new encounter and the importance of our decisions, in particular, when the renewal of the New York Agreement on highly migratory species starts next year, for which the tuna RFBs must demonstrate their commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of the resources.

A good indication of this would be to adopt effective regulatory measures for the stock of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, such as the establishment of a closed fishing season from July until the end of the year, due to the serious state of the stock. This would respond to the wishes of many of the Contracting Parties and representatives of the sectors involved here present who want a Commission that is effective and coherent in its approaches to sustainability.

We believe this should be a common effort and an example for other organizations, as has been the case since the beginning of ICCAT.

In another context, for some years now, our attention has concentrated on the world-wide fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

We believe that without firm control over these activities, we will not achieve the objectives that were established by this Organization.

For this reason, as Minister of Fisheries fully convinced of this, I would like to urge all Contracting Parties and other participants, to unite efforts and continue to advance in adopting measures that assure the complete eradication of this blemish, which endangers the adequate sustainable development of fishing, and with it, the maintenance of an activity that is fundamental from an economic point of view, and more importantly, from a social and environmental point of view.

I am sure that in order to confront the future challenges of fishing, it is essential that the Regional Organizations competent in the regulation and management of the resources initiate a process of profound transformation.

This transformation will allow us to reach the fundamental objectives, such as the aforementioned fight against illegal fishing, the carrying out of fishing that respects the environment, the limiting of the fleet capacity by means of a quota system of the fishing grounds and the promotion of responsible trade of the fishing products.

Thus, it is necessary to improve compliance of the Recommendations that emanate from the Regional Fishery Bodies, since they are the only mechanism that can regulate the fisheries of straddling and migratory species.

Therefore, I would like to recall that to achieve their goals, these Organizations have the necessary legal instruments, such as, amongst others, those derived from the provisions of the United Nations in fishing matters or from FAO itself, in whose framework the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing was approved 10 years ago, of which Spain was one of its major promoters.

This Code offers adequate guidance to achieve sustainable and responsible fishing, and countries have already incorporated many of its principles and regulations in their legislation.

It is essential that countries develop strategies to counteract against fishing that does not respect the marine environment, especially if we take into account that, according to recent studies, this activity is increasing.

Such fishing is seriously undermining national and regional efforts for sustainable conservation and management of the marine stock, and we must all collaborate to end this activity.

In this sense, I would like to transmit to you the message calling for the need to strengthen the role of the Regional Fishery Bodies as a common project for us all.

It is precisely in these fora where the guidelines for responsible fishing must be established with the application of the same decalogue for all the fleets that operate in fishing grounds and a harmonization of the technical measures of conservation in a way that will affect them all equally.

Today's problems are global and thus, the solutions must also be global.

Furthermore, and we must not forget, that we as Contracting Parties must fully assume our responsibilities, working and providing sound and reliable statistical data that serve as a reliable instrument to scientists who carry out the assessments of the stocks and their forecasts for the future.

Without this adequate contribution, international credibility is undermined, which is a basic milestone so that all the sectors concerned become aware of the problem.

If we really believe that fishing is an activity that contributes invaluable benefits to society, we must be very serious about its responsible management and we must direct all the necessary measures and efforts towards this objective.

Although it may seem repetitive, we must not forget that the transmittal of continuous and systematic messages in defense of the environment will allow, as is now occurring more and more, that the society as a whole unites in the defense of these values.

A committed society is the best mechanism to achieve the future for which we all hope.

Fora such as this facilitate the work and thus have an added value that I would like to emphasize.

Furthermore, I consider that the decisions adopted in this important forum constitute a clear example for other fishery Organizations at the world level, and thus the work that is achieved here must be responsible and coherent with the commitments established by this Commission.

In this context I would like to conclude my address by reiterating my country's commitment to sustainable and responsible fishing in the international framework, i.e., fishing of the 21st century. This is the path that we must follow and the one we cannot renounce.

Thus, I would like to open the 19th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, once again thanking you for your presence at this forum, sure of its success and convinced that at the end of the meeting we will be closer to fully achieving the objectives for which the Commission was created.

3.2 OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

Belize

It is indeed an honor for Belize to become a Contracting Party of ICCAT. I believe that most of you will be familiar with the enormous progress which we have made in ensuring the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures during the period from 2001 up to date. I can assure you that our total commitment is ongoing. As a Contracting Party we now look forward to participating together with all other Contracting Parties in furthering the interests of conservation of all species which come within the ambit of ICCAT. In so doing, we will be placing an equal emphasis on the responsibilities and performance of developed fishing nations as well as those of developing fishing nations and registries in the interests of diminishing IUU activities.

I take this opportunity to refer to our 2005 Annual Report which was submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and circulated to you from which you will observe our continuing progress. Also, I would like to inform you that we have reported to the Executive Secretary on July 27, 2005 at the time of the submission of our statistics that there are no Belize registered fishing vessels on the high seas catching tuna or tuna-like species within the ICCAT Convention area. As a Contracting Party, this will change in 2006. We will therefore be applying for catch allocation at this meeting by attending the following Panels:

- Panel 1: Tropical Tunas (Yellowfin, Bigeye, Skipjack)
- Panel 4: Other Species (Swordfish, Billfishes, Small Tunas)

As a small developing nation, we wish to participate in this important industry. We will be guided by the advice of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and those delegates and Contracting Parties who have long-standing experience in this field.

I wish you all a successful and enjoyable meeting in Seville.

Brazil

Brazil is pleased to be in beautiful and historic Seville for the 19th Regular Meeting of ICAT. We would like to thank the Government of Spain for the excellent organization of this event and for the warm hospitality we have received. We also wish to recognize the hard work by the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat staff in the preparation for this meeting.

The Brazilian Delegation expresses as well its appreciation for the firm and able leadership of the Commission Chairman, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, under whose wise stewardship we have made significant progress and adopted important decisions to achieve the management and conservation objectives of ICCAT.

There are important issues on the table before us this year. In fact, some of the decisions that will be made in the current session could have an impact on the workings of the Commission for years to come.

We have before us the crucial task of choosing a new Commission Chairman. Brazil believes that this must be carried out in a manner that strengthens the consultation process and helps build greater trust and understanding among delegations. In this regard, we are prepared to work with all delegations in reaching a consensus decision on this matter.

The future status of the Compendium of ICCAT Management and Conservation Recommendations and Resolutions prepared by the Working Group and its possible legal implications are a sensitive issue. It must be dealt with in a balanced and careful manner, one that addresses the need to allow Parties to the Commission to fully participate in the decision/making process.

Only decisions that take into account the interests of all Parties will ultimately lead to effective management and conservation measures. In this context, we should bear in mind the particular situation of developing country members and ensure that, as we strive to attain the Commission objectives, we do not undermine their legitimate right to sustainably develop their fisheries.

Another issue of concern to Brazil has been the application of ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions in a fair and transparent manner, in order not to go beyond the scope of what was agreed upon, particularly when involving trade restrictive measures. This is important not only in the case of Resolution 03-15 but, as we have seen, on Recommendations such as [Rec. 02-22], on the positive list of vessels. Such situations are especially unfortunate if they should negatively affect developing country exports.

Greater and more effective cooperation among all parties is the only way to achieve the objectives we share as members of ICCAT. Brazil, as always, is ready to work with a constructive spirit to this end.

Canada

Canada is delighted to be in Seville, a city not unlike ICCAT itself, with a unique blend of people, cultures and religions molded by twenty-seven centuries of history and a strong maritime influence. We would like to especially thank our Spanish hosts for all their efforts in organizing the 2005 Annual Meeting.

As members of ICCAT know all too well, fish stocks around the world are being depleted. According to United Nations estimates, 75 per cent of the world's fish stocks are fully exploited or overexploited. In some fisheries, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is responsible for catches of up to three times greater than permitted levels.

Many tuna stocks are overfished and the state of other related species is also uncertain. Such over-fishing poses a direct threat to conservation and to the viability of coastal communities around the world that rely on strong, healthy fisheries.

Canada, as do all ICCAT members, takes over-fishing very seriously.

Canada was pleased to host the Conference on the *Governance of High Seas Fisheries and the UN Fish Agreement* last May. The theme of the Conference was *Moving from Words to Action*, and brought together fishing nations to confirm our shared commitment to strong, sustainable fisheries into a concrete, measurable reality.

In the Declaration, fisheries Ministers committed to the review and strengthening of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations so that these organizations would be mandated to make decisions based on sound science; apply the precautionary approach to ensure fish stocks conservation. We need to ensure their rules are clear, understandable and consistent with international agreements. Vessel capacity should reflect catch limits to ensure compliant fishing behavior.

Canada is hopeful that these commitments will lead to progress this year at ICCAT. While ICCAT has made significant achievements in the fight against IUU fishing, Canada believes that ICCAT's ability to properly manage must be improved. We need to reconfirm our shared commitment to guarding fish stocks from the threat of IUU, and generate the political will to implement concrete, practical ways to rebuild and sustain these stocks over the long-term.

We have no doubt that all ICCAT members want to make a difference. By working together, we are confident we can strengthen ICCAT by using the many tools at our disposal, and finding ways to put these tools to work to build a brighter future for tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic and for the thousands of coastal communities who rely on these fish stocks for their very existence.

We look forward to productive discussions this week.

Croatia

We would like to reiterate our appreciation to the Executive Secretary for his continuous cooperation and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and the City of Seville for hosting this meeting.

Although the Tentative Agenda for this year's Commission Meeting does not indicate thorough and difficult discussions, we are drawing closer to the time when stocks shall be re-assessed and new multi-year managing decisions will have to be taken. Thus, we believe that this year the preparatory discussions shall already commence, and the Commission is going to face some stormy seas.

Following all the communications and all the discussions in the past, particularly the intersessional activities, we would first of all like to thank Mr. Miyahara for his instructions, and would like to support his views and suggestions. This Commission has thus far reached important decisions, and has managed to work out the most difficult negotiations, but nevertheless we believe that there is still room for some improvements. The timely tabling of the proposals and focused discussions are, by all means, steps in the right direction. This is the track that we would strongly encourage and support.

The Republic of Croatia, as has been said many times, is one of the pioneers in tuna farming, and is strongly supporting responsible and sustainable development of this activity. The results of the Fukuoka meeting provide a good basis for this and, in particular, the document drafted by the ICCAT/GFCM Working Group. However, this document needs to be discussed, and further enhancement of farming as well as fattening activities needs to be considered.

Concerning the issues at hand, we have all recently closely followed the discussions on the matter of the stock delimitation line. This, of course, is an important issue, and we believe that responsible scientific advice should be the one that will make the difference. The scientific community needs to evaluate and assess the status of the stocks, just as much as it needs to provide the answer to the question on the mixing of stocks. The issues of spawning stock biomass may not be overlooked when considering the protection of the stocks. All these questions are time and resource-consuming, but we strongly believe that only with them answered can we truly move to the level of decisions. Provisional decisions on any of these issues, reached without strong support from the scientific community, may in the end prove to be not only wrong, but to some extent disastrous both for the stocks and for those living from this activity.

Regarding the implementation of the recommendations, we would like to use this opportunity to inform the Commission that the Republic of Croatia has implemented all relevant provisions, including the minimum landing size, and is enforcing the control measures to the maximum extent possible with the available institutional capacities and resources. Along this line, we have also initiated the VMS system, tracking the activities of tuna fishing vessels, and are currently working on further installations. The Republic of Croatia has also, following the recommendations adopted last year, initiated the monitoring program of tuna farms.

Tuna-related activities have developed significantly in the last years. Perhaps now is also the time to consider not only the issues of the biological and ecological significance, but those related to the market as well. It is our strong belief that only through a good regulation of the market can we truly control what goes on in the field. The fish can be caught by any one vessel in any one area, and this might be difficult to control, but it will in any case reach the market at some fixed point. The export and import data, verified by the countries, can indicate what is actually happening both in the sea as on the market. Just as well, market-related mechanisms can be the only ones truly effective when it comes to the issues of the IUU. Following the FAO resolution reached in February in Rome, all regional fisheries management organizations are called upon to discuss and take measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. This has in the past shown to be the most difficult issue, and the white and black lists have not had a true effect so far. Perhaps it is now time to consider what actual mechanisms can be employed to this end.

Another pending issue is the question of the relation of this Commission with other RFMO's covering the areas of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The Republic of Croatia is willing to support any option acceptable to the Commission, but feels that this issue should be resolved in order to prevent future overlapping and misunderstandings that could be caused by them.

Finally, allow me to once again to thank the Executive Secretary and to congratulate him for all the achievements and efforts he has put into successful functioning of the Commission, and to wish us all a fruitful meeting.

European Community

Firstly, on behalf of the European Community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants to this year's ICCAT meeting here in Seville and, in particular, a special welcome to our new ICCAT members.

This ever-growing membership, now at 41 Contracting Parties, while reflecting the desire of parties to cooperate for the conservation and management of resources, poses its own challenges for the effective functioning of this organization.

The major challenge is ICCAT's capacity to achieve the objectives that it has set itself in managing and conserving the tuna stocks in the Atlantic Ocean. The continued expansion of ICCAT over recent years brings to the fore the issue of arriving at consensus on effective conservation policy. In our view, increased dialogue and consultation is essential to ensure that all Parties' legitimate interests are taken into consideration when decisions are being taken. Equally, however, whilst we must strive for that consensus, we cannot afford to progress at the pace of those members resistant to change and innovation and, in particular, the application of the most recent international law on fisheries.

Of particular importance for the EC is the management of bluefin tuna. As everybody knows, this stock, amongst others, will be "center stage" in ICCAT's deliberations at the 2006 annual meeting as we have to adopt a new multi-annual management program.

In 2002, ICCAT adopted a coherent and balanced package for the management of this stock. Some measures, such as those regulating the farming activities, have been subject to progressive improvements to take account of the reality of this activity.

However, and despite the panoply of measures adopted by ICCAT, significant management and conservation concerns still subsist. Over the last year there are worrying indications of developments and practices which undermine significantly the management objectives fixed by ICCAT for this stock. The organization should not hesitate to examine each case of non-compliance and apply the necessary measures to penalize those who are not respecting, be they Contracting or non-Contracting Parties.

The EC is confident that the deliberations in the ICCAT working group during 2006 will facilitate the identification of what should be the content of the new multi-annual management program for bluefin tuna. Parties should be conscious that an important factor for the success of these negotiations will be the input of the Scientific Committee. To this end, we should ensure that it disposes of all the data needed for a proper evaluation.

Furthermore, in regard to certain key stocks, ICCAT needs to give more consideration to market issues and ensure that conservation measures adopted by ICCAT for stocks, such as bluefin tuna and bigeye tuna, are not undermined by the level of imports into the final consuming markets. Of course, flag States have the primary responsibility to control their vessels, but importing States must also act in a responsible manner by monitoring their level of imports of such products and ensuring that agreed ICCAT quotas and catch levels are being respected. IUU fisheries are essentially market driven and this needs to be addressed in our discussions.

We agree with the priority issues identified by the Chair that need to be addressed in the days ahead. In particular, those relating to compliance issues and to monitoring, control and surveillance, notably the management of transshipment activities, need to be resolved.

Compliance is an issue of particular concern for the European Community. We have seen that the sacrifices by certain fleets for conservation objectives and the result of these actions have been damaged and undermined by the actions of other Contracting Parties' fleets. This activity is putting the credibility of the organization as a whole into question. ICCAT has to be seen to be standing up against this blatant disregard of the organization.

The momentum that was generated regarding the actions adopted to combat IUU fishing activities must be maintained. This is a continuing battle, as those involved in such activities are quick to adapt and find ways to evade corrective action.

A priority for the Community is the budgetary problem faced by ICCAT. There is a growing trend for Contracting Parties not to respect their financial obligations. This is putting the organization into serious operational difficulties. ICCAT shall have to consider additional measures to address this problem, including withdrawing rights from Parties if they continue this practice of non-payment, or late payment, of their obligatory contributions. The result of this non-payment effectively means that the others have unfairly to cover a greater share of the budget.

Finally, I would like to refer to the selection of the Chairperson of the Commission. The person who is elected will be the motor of the work of the Commission. Given the challenges that I have earlier pointed out for coming meetings, this will not be an easy task. It is one of the major decisions to be taken at this session, and it is one that must not be taken lightly. We need a high caliber person for this responsibility, a person who has the confidence of all members.

I would like to close by reiterating the Community's commitment to this organization, its desire for transparency, dialogue, and consultation with our partners in ICCAT. We look forward to a very busy week which, with the willingness and commitment of all around the table, should provide the results that we expect from this leading regional fisheries organization.

France (Saint Pierre & Miquelon)

In the name of France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) I would like to thank Spain for hosting the 19th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. I would also like to express our satisfaction at the growth of this Commission which acquired new members this year, and to whom we extend a welcome.

France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) shares the concerns of the countries here present concerning the protection of the tuna stocks in the Atlantic, which consists of fishing in a sustainable manner, particularly so that future generations as well as the populations dependent on fishing can develop greater respect of our environment and its resources.

In 1998, France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) was allocated a fixed quota of 4 tons of West Atlantic bluefin tuna per year, of which the overages or underages have to be added to or deducted from the year following the year of the catch. Likewise, as concerns North Atlantic swordfish, France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) has been allocated a fixed quota of 35 tons per year, for which the overages or underages must be added or deducted two years after the year of the catch.

If after these implementations, the reports of underages have resulted in an increase in the annual fishing possibilities, these initial quotas are insufficient for our archipelago whose population of 7,000 is dependent on fishing.

Thus, following the stock assessment scheduled for 2006 by ICCAT Recommendations [Rec. 04-05] and [Rec. 03-03], France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon), will request a significant increase of the catch quotas of West Atlantic bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish than that currently assigned to them in order to respond to the needs of the population of Saint Pierre & Miquelon.

We wish you every success at this meeting, and that following responsible and constructive discussions, together we can continue on the path to sustainable management of fisheries for which we all aim.

Japan

It is a great pleasure for Japan to be here in the beautiful city of Seville. On behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Government of Spain and the European Community for hosting the 19th Regular meeting of ICCAT.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to raise the following issues in which Japan places high priority at this meeting.

ICCAT marked significant progress in taking conservation and management measures as well as combating IUU fishing. ICCAT also took actions as regard to compliance so as to ensure the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures. However, non-compliance by some CPCs is still a serious problem which threatens the sustainability of tuna resources not only in the Convention area but also in every ocean. Last year Japan provided information on laundering activities and excessive catches by Chinese Taipei fishermen. Chinese Taipei was identified and requested to rectify its fishing activities within one year. After last year's decision, Japan has been monitoring and examined the import records and other relevant information. To our regret, it again turned out that the situation has not been rectified and even became worse.

I would like to point out here that this Chinese Taipei problem is not a problem of one year. Over ten years, Japan strenuously worked to eliminate IUU fishing by tuna longline vessels. The Commission acknowledged our effort and extended assistance to this effort. The IUU vessel list and positive listing measures are good examples of the Commission's actions for this purpose. However, the Chinese Taipei fishing industry always found loopholes and backdoors of those measures and tenaciously continued in innovative and changing ways, their over-fishing, excessive fishing capacity building and involvement in IUU fishing. In our firm belief, Chinese Taipei fishermen are continuing laundering activities and depleting tuna and tuna-like resources by excessive and illegal exploitation. It is time to take decisive action on this long-standing problem. To wait and see is not an option this year.

I would like to refer to another compliance issue.

In 2006, the Commission will face critical decisions on new TAC and other conservation and management measures for some important species such as bluefin tuna and swordfish.

Japan considers it a good idea to start from this year a review process of the existing measures, putting particular emphasis on the following point. Catches of East Atlantic bluefin tuna for farming have been increasing and reached over two-thirds of TAC, the appropriate management and monitoring of farming are indispensable. The level of implementation of Recommendation 03-09 is extremely low. Even a total amount of fish for farming is not reported. As a result, a reliable total catch of East Atlantic bluefin tuna is unknown. Bluefin tuna farming is a sort of black box for East bluefin tuna management. The Commission should review compliance with Recommendations 03-09 and 04-06. Those farming facilities with non-compliance should be de-listed from the record of farming facilities.

The last point I would like to express is the effective regulation on transshipment. We presented our proposal after consultation with other concerned Parties and are open to any constructive suggestions. It is our sincere hope that the Commission agrees on transshipment control measures based upon our proposal this year.

Korea

On behalf of the Korean delegation it is a great honor and pleasure to be a part of the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission in this historical and beautiful city of Seville.

We would like to convey our respect and gratitude to Mr. Driss Meski, Executive Secretary of ICCAT, and his staff for their hard work for this meeting. In addition, we would like to extend our thanks to the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and, in particular, the *Junta de Andalucía* for hosting the 19th ICCAT Meeting.

Korea, as a responsible fishing country, signed the ICCAT Convention in 1970 and initiated its fishing for tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 1991. Korea has actively participated in any measures necessary for the stock conservation and would like to ask non-contracting parties to cooperate in the stock management measures and to become a member of the Commission.

ICCAT, with the long history among tuna-related international fisheries organizations, has set the standard for excellence in systematic management and framework, enabled the Commission to recommend and implement various schemes for stock conservation and management in the Convention area, resulting in serving as a model for other regional fisheries management organizations.

In this respect, we are sure that the task of consolidating the ICCAT management and conservation measures will provide useful tools for the Commission and will put us ahead of other international RFMOs. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics for their dedicated activities to evaluate our common and valuable resources for our mutual goal of conserving the tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean.

We all know that we have discussed a variety of important issues in previous years at our annual Sessions, working group meetings and special meetings. During this session we should continue to discuss these troublesome and persistent issues along with other issues, such as, transshipments, under/over harvests, and the establishment of a Working Group on Fishing Capacity, for the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention areas. We should discuss these matters openly and bare our innermost thoughts so that we may discover each others compliance capabilities for ensuring the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures.

Finally, we express our appreciation to Mr. Miyahara for his extraordinary leadership at the ICCAT meetings and we would like to extend our thanks to the Panel Chairs for their efforts. We expect that this meeting will have fruitful results through full discussions.

Libya

The Libyan Delegation would like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for its continuous hard work in the preparations and arrangements for the Commission meetings. The Libyan Delegation is very pleased to take part in this meeting while we regret that we were not able to attend in the meetings of the last few years due to some reasons beyond our control.

Fishing for tuna and tuna-like species has been an important activity in the Libyan fishery and forms a large component of the total pelagic catch. It is also an old Libyan tradition to catch this highly migratory species along the Libyan coast since the beginning of the last century and occupies an advanced place in the Libyan economy, where there were several canning factories and several means for catching tuna, such as trap nets. Nowadays, the Libyan fleet for catching tuna consists of nine longliners and 19 purse seine vessels.

As a Contracting Party of this Commission, Libya fulfills its obligation to ICCAT Recommendations, since historic catch data were provided and Libya is taking part in SCRS activities.

As concerns research, Libya continues to participate in research projects within the COPEMED program. Even after the completion of this program, the Marine Research Center is taking part in different areas of research concerning bluefin tuna, the objective of which is to study the fishing, ecology and biology of this valuable species and to compare the results with others from the region. In the meantime, several scientific papers on bluefin tuna have been published in the ICCAT *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers*. The ultimate aim is to improve our present knowledge in order to take the necessary measures to conserve large pelagic fish.

Although Libya did not take part in tagging experiments, it has recovered several tags which were transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat.

As you know, Libya faced a long embargo, which affected our plans to improve our fishing activities from one time to another. Libya issues fishing permits to a limited number of vessels working under joint ventures, with the condition that they observe the ICCAT regulations. For example, part of those precautions was ensuring the presence of Libyan observers on board each vessel during the fishing season. However, during the last two years Libya, in its legislation, has granted fishing permits only to those vessels carrying a Libyan flag and we are doing our best to improve our fishing fleet to work within ICCAT measures. While doing so, our country faces some problems, such as the illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries which is one of the most serious concerns facing Libyan authorities and one that undermines the conservation and management measures of the Libyan bluefin tuna fishery. Each year several IUU and other flag vessels are recorded in the Libyan jurisdictional waters, so that we strongly hope that the Commission will take the necessary measures to eliminate all IUU activities in the region. Due to this, Libya has recently announced a fishing protected zone up to 62 nm from its territorial waters.

The second problem we are facing is quota allocation. Considering that we were unable to attend the meetings as previously mentioned where quota has been allocated, we feel that such allocation is unjustifiable, inequitable, and unfair. Libya does not agree with any measure adopted in a discriminatory manner that jeopardizes acquired rights or that do not take into account our legitimate aspirations as a developing country towards improvements in the Libyan economy and social advancement by such allocation. In the light of the unfair adopted recommendation concerning a multi-year bluefin tuna quota allocation in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean, Libya found itself in a position to object to the allocated quota. In spite of this, Libya, as a Contracting Party, respected that allocated quota in the past few years, hoping that the Commission will consider justifiable and fair quotas in the future, taking into account the potential and the activity of Libya in the fishing bluefin tuna.

While doing so, Libya will do its best to remain in conformity with all ICCAT regulations as we have been doing, and we shall continue to contribute and collaborate with international organizations such as FAO, GFCM and ICCAT, towards the responsible and sustainable management of tuna fishing and for general fishing in the region.

We wish you a successful meeting this year and we thank the Secretariat again for its efforts. Finally, we would like to thank the Spanish authorities for hosting this meeting in this historical famous city.

Namibia

The Namibian delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and, in particular, the *Junta de Andalucía*, for hosting this august meeting in the beautiful city of Seville. We are grateful to the broad membership of ICCAT for the innovativeness and flexibility with which this Commission has crafted and implemented management measures in the direction of greater sustainable utilization of the species under its mandate.

As a developing coastal state, Namibia has devoted valuable scarce resources to the design and implementation of a national fisheries management regime. In no more than fifteen years of our existence as an independent nation state, Namibia has taken bold steps to manage her fisheries and discharge her flag state obligations in a responsible manner. Namibia's Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system ranks among the most efficient in the world, conferring full control over all fishing activities and processing plants. The quota management of Namibia's share of marine resources under the purview of ICCAT is incorporated in our rights-based Individual Quota (IQ) management system, ensuring effective implementation of ICCAT management and conservation measures under our national laws. An autonomous Fisheries Observer program provides for complete observer coverage and, notwithstanding economic hardships, progress is made in achieving complete Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) coverage for all trawlers, longliners and Surface Bait boats under the national VMS regulatory regime. Namibia's National Plan of Action for the Management of Sharks is in its second year of implementation, the National Plan of Action for combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) is its final stage of coming into force.

As a member of the ICCAT family, Namibia is convinced that we are all responsible enough to accommodate full implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*. It is this common responsibility that propelled the ICCAT family to develop and implement sharing arrangements and corresponding conservation and management measures. Our view is that these sharing arrangements, these gentlemen's agreements, only constitute a transitional stage. The opportunity is now propitious for the broad membership of ICCAT to steamroll the implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*.

Namibia believes that progress towards efficient allocation of fishing possibilities should be accompanied by concrete measures to address the issue of overcapacity in ICCAT fisheries. Measures to equilibrate capacity are important as the growing interests of developing states to have their fair share of the resources are recognized. It is in the common interest of all parties that productivity of the stocks and their economic performance are the most efficient.

Norway

It is a pleasure to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Spain and the city of Seville for hosting the 19th Regular Meeting of ICCAT and for providing us with convenient facilities in this beautiful area of Andalusia.

Norway became a full member of ICCAT in March 2004. It had a central role in science and fishing of Atlantic bluefin tuna up until around 1970, providing detailed catch statistics starting in 1950 comprised of individual fish weight and total numbers caught by purse seine set in each fishing region around the Norwegian coast for the period. During the last decades very few adult Atlantic bluefin tuna have been migrating and feeding in the highly productive northern ecosystems such as the Norwegian Sea. Norway claims that this situation is indicative of the unhealthy state of the bluefin tuna population, represents long-term sign of considerable growth over-fishing, signaling that the bluefin tuna population is not managed in a sustainable way.

Norway aims to work actively within ICCAT for collecting credible catch data from the fishing fleet including fish transfer operations in order to perform reliable assessment and precautionary quota recommendations on the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock. Norway strongly supports lower overall fishing quotas for the next assessment period and increased minimum landing size due to the current degree of over-exploitation.

Norway would like to see more efforts made by ICCAT members to combat the illegal over-fishing including illegal catches and landing of undersized fish, which not only contributes to over-fishing, but also makes formal stock assessments problematic. In addition, Norway would also request that members make every effort to record the levels of wild caught fish used for on-growing purposes so that they are reported in the official landing statistics. Norway would suggest ICCAT to consider the possibility to apply egg surveys on Atlantic

bluefin tuna as a possible mechanism to provide a future fishery independent assessment. Norway will work within ICCAT to let the bluefin tuna regain its historical heights in biomass, distribution area and migration patterns beneficial for all member states.

Sao Tomé & Príncipe

Sao Tomé & Príncipe would like to express its satisfaction at being able to participate in the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission, and also congratulates the Secretariat of the Commission for the organizational work it has done for the ICCAT membership, as well as the Government of Spain and the authorities of Seville for their hospitality.

For Sao Tomé & Príncipe, and I am sure for all the members, fishing resources are of fundamental importance in reducing poverty and for the well being of the population.

My country is considered as having insignificant fishing since there are no industrial landings of fish at the ports. However, we know that we have great fishing potential. I am talking about a country in the Gulf of Guinea with more than 130,000 m² of maritime territory, where resources are being utilized by those that know we do not have the capacity to monitor our Exclusive Economic Zone and who therefore extract the resources at no cost. We are sure that through ICCAT we will analyze the possibilities of combating the inequalities and adopt measures in the distribution of quotas or scientific studies, taking into consideration that the resources of each country constitute national wealth and as such are a key component for the well being of the nation.

To improve the fishing sector, my government is developing programs aimed at strengthening the current management scheme and analyzing the data available to guarantee the vitality of the fishing sector. To achieve these objectives, it will be necessary to build our technical and analytical capacity with the assistance of everyone.

Turkey

As the Turkish delegation we are delighted to be here in this beautiful city, Seville. We would like to thank the Spanish Government for hosting the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission.

Turkey, being fully aware of the importance of the sustainability of the living marine resources, has been cooperating with ICCAT since 1992 and has been sharing the necessary information with ICCAT. After becoming a member of ICCAT, Turkey has made strenuous efforts to fully comply with the ICCAT rules. Necessary steps have been taken to implement the ICCAT rules in our country as a result of the austere measures, such as reducing the quota to the level specified by ICCAT, though originally amounting to 4,900 tons and despite the insufficient and unfair amount of quota according to our view. For implementing the ICCAT rules, new legislation has been passed and implemented in order to provide for the sustainable development of bluefin tuna farms and to monitor and control bluefin tuna fishing which interests thousands of people, the socio-economic perspective being taken into consideration.

Furthermore, research in fields where deficiencies are detected has been initiated and the necessary contribution has been made to the research carried out on an international basis. Turkey attaches the utmost importance to the research for the determination of the structure of the bluefin tuna stocks and the aquaculture, and to the allocation of sufficient funds and development of a new management plan in the light of the data to be obtained from the above-mentioned research. In this scope, it is obvious that the dispatch of the necessary information by the related countries to the ICCAT is of great importance.

Turkey points to the necessity of revision of the minimum catch size and weight of bluefin tuna to be caught, being aware of the need of giving a chance to every bluefin tuna in nature to breed once, in order to provide for the sustainability of the living marine resources.

Moreover, we certainly believe in the necessity of underlining the importance of fair distribution of the total allowable catches to be determined by scientific methods among the Contracting Parties to ICCAT.

As the Turkish delegation, we hope that the outputs of this meeting will contribute to a better functioning of ICCAT and we would like to extend our gratitude to the Chairman for his leadership and the Secretariat for its support of the Commission's work.

United States

It is a pleasure to be in Seville, Spain. We would like to thank the Government of Spain for hosting the 19th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. Seville is historic and beautiful and we look forward to enjoying the city and its interesting Andalusian culture.

This year we have a busy meeting ahead of us, including the election of a new Commission Chairman. The United States would like to acknowledge the excellent progress the organization has made under the able leadership of our current Chairman, Mr. Masanori Miyahara. Mr. Miyahara's good efforts to improve the transparency and inclusiveness of the organization should be celebrated and continued.

We have expressed concern in the past about the effectiveness of decision-making when proposals are developed in small, informal meetings and circulated for the first time very late in the meeting. The burden this practice places on all delegations is particularly significant and can lessen the effectiveness of the process. We firmly believe that greater efforts should be made to circulate documents early and discuss them thoroughly in formal sessions. Such practices will inevitably lead to more inclusive and informed decision-making.

ICCAT needs to improve its capacity for science-based decision making. Poor data monitoring and reporting in a number of fisheries has been a fundamental problem for ICCAT for a very long time. Efforts made to date have not effectively addressed data gaps, particularly those inhibiting robust stock assessments. ICCAT needs a process to clearly identify and fill those gaps. We believe the issue of improving data should be ICCAT's top priority this year. It is of principal importance to ensure that ICCAT remains a science-based management organization. We acknowledge the first steps the Commission has made in reforming data collection with the data fund, and we support Chairman Miyahara's suggestion that this fund be included in the Commission's annual budget.

The United States is proud that one of our prominent fisheries scientists, Dr. Gerald Scott, has been elected as SCRS Chairman. We know he will serve the Committee well. The SCRS has a tremendous workload over the next two years, and we are concerned about the impact it may have on the ability of the SCRS to maintain its high scientific standards to support management. The United States is interested in addressing stock-related issues this year. In particular, we would like to revisit the changes made in 2004 to the Gulf of Guinea time and area closure, and consider the outcomes of the SCRS review of the stock assessment for shortfin mako shark in 2005.

With regard to the management of Atlantic bluefin tuna, the United States believes that the Commission needs to continue its work on integrated management. The SCRS has provided a prioritized research proposal that supports the development of operational models. ICCAT should endorse this proposal and fund this research. Furthermore, we look forward to hearing reports from parties on their implementation of commitments made at the 2002 ICCAT meeting with regard to reductions of small fish and data improvement, as well as those relating to farming.

ICCAT needs to continue to be a leader in international fisheries governance. In that regard, the Commission should continue to take the full impacts of its fisheries on the marine ecosystem into consideration by continuing to develop approaches that minimize by-catch. The United States agrees with statements of other Parties that ICCAT needs to take a serious look at its monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures, particularly transshipments. We also think the use of observers in ICCAT fisheries needs full consideration. Observers are a valuable means for monitoring fisheries and improving data. In addition, we would like to see the discussion of implementing observer programs continue this year.

The United States also recognizes and supports measures to improve the functioning of the Commission, including the development of a new compendium of management measures and mail voting procedures. We would like to see a continuation of the effort by the Commission Chairman and the support of all Parties involved in improving the ICCAT process.

We look forward to working with you all on these and other matters at this year's meeting.

Uruguay

On behalf of the delegation of Uruguay, I would like to express our appreciation to the city of Seville and to the Government of Spain for hosting the 19th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation

of Atlantic Tuna. We would also like to thank the Secretariat staff for the preparation and organization of the meeting.

During this year Uruguay has made a great economic effort in canceling a large part of the debt it had with the Commission. It has participated actively in the SCRS meeting and is present here today for the first time with a delegation comprised of various participants from the national fishing sector. This effort shows Uruguay's commitment to this Commission.

The new administration that has started in our country is exerting its greatest efforts to apply the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and to collaborate with all the organizations of management and conservation of fishing resources. In this sense, Uruguay has initiated the process of developing plans of action for the conservation of sea birds and sharks.

As a coastal State of the Atlantic Ocean which has an impoverished economy, Uruguay claims a fairer distribution of the resources under the mandate of the Convention of this organization. These straddling and highly migratory resources spend part of their life cycle in the jurisdictional waters of many coastal States.

It is essential to improve the scope of participation of the different working groups of the Commission, generating plural attendance, where poorer countries are represented, since their economies depend in large part on these resources.

Uruguay is confident that this 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission will strengthen the functioning and the commitment of this organization, and that of the Contracting Parties, with the conservation and an equitable distribution of the resources.

3.3 OPENING STATEMENTS BY COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES

Chinese Taipei

First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend my appreciation to the government of Spain for hosting this 19th Regular Meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful city of Seville and for its warm hospitality. With a heavy agenda in front of us, we still hope we have chance to see other parts of Seville other than the hotel. My appreciation also goes to the Secretariat for arranging the logistics of the meeting.

Last year the ICCAT Commission meeting requested Chinese Taipei to improve its fisheries management. During the year, the fisheries authority of Chinese Taipei has done its utmost to rectify the deficiency of its fisheries management, MCS, and reduction of vessels commensurate with fishing quota of bigeye tuna. A PowerPoint presentation has been prepared to allow members of ICCAT to have an in-depth understanding of what efforts Chinese Taipei has made in the year to improve its fisheries management.

During the year, the authority of Chinese Taipei, in particular, decision-making officials in the government, have been facing a tremendous challenge, and have made all efforts to convince high-level administration to squeeze budget to undertake a vessel reduction program to 120 large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels in 2005-2006, and to enhance measures on the management of fisheries. Facing the difficulty of shortage of manpower, recruitment of military service substitutes was even applied. The authority of Chinese Taipei dare not say it has done a perfect job, as time is needed for the implementation and experiences should be accumulated on some of the measures, thus proving to be effective.

As a democratic and open society, formulation of policies will always encounter political pressures from different sectors. The determination and will expressed by the fisheries authority in facing huge pressure from the industry can well demonstrate the understanding and good will of our government in dealing with the matter. Some of the major measures taken can be considered as a forefront in the world:

- In order to cut any linkage between the legitimate licensed longline fishing vessels and the IUU fishing vessels such that the statistical document issued to the legitimate licensed vessels would not be used by the IUU vessels, to those ocean areas under the competence of IOTC and WCPFC, which have not yet adopted quota allocation, Chinese Taipei has made a self-restraint on the fishing activities of its fleet by applying individual quota to fishing vessels;

- To prevent expansion of global fishing capacity, before adoption of such measures by RFMOs, regulations have been promulgated to prohibit exportation of fishing vessels unless replacement of scrapped or lost vessels as declared by the importing countries or at the approval of the relevant RFMOs;
- In order to combat IUU fishing vessels, only those vessels on the positive list of RFMOs are permitted to enter into the ports of Chinese Taipei.

It is noteworthy that the measures pushed by the fisheries authority of Chinese Taipei are facing huge political pressures from various sectors, including acute criticisms from the shipbuilding industry. Yet the Fisheries Agency has stuck firmly to its decision. This demonstrates the good faith of the government of Chinese Taipei, and it is hoped that these efforts will have the support and recognition by the international community. In addition, such positive attitude from the international community will provide the government of Chinese Taipei a firmer position to resist the criticism from the shipbuilders.

The development of the high seas fisheries of Chinese Taipei has a long history. It was only after the adoption of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement in 1995 that the international community had gradually provided room for accommodating Chinese Taipei as a partner in the conservation and management of high seas fisheries. The special consideration of the international community in our situation should be cherished, and the Fisheries Agency is willing to exert its greatest efforts in managing the fisheries resources to ensure their sustainability.

Rome was not built in a day. Likewise, a package of stable and proper fisheries management measures cannot be done in one day. Under the encouragement from members of the international community, Chinese Taipei has strived to make improvement. We know we have to do more, and thus our government has decided in further reduction of 40 large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels, making a total reduction of 160 vessels.

Some members insisted that Chinese Taipei should be sanctioned on its continued non-compliance with the conservation measures adopted by the Commission. I am not expecting all members to speak kind words for us, but I hope that we are treated fairly. In the past, only those non-members that have not responded to ICCAT's letter of warning were sanctioned. The Commission may continue sending us a warning letter, giving us deadline for rectification, yet sanctioning is much too harsh and unfair.

As a prestigious fisheries organization like ICCAT, the Commission has always been treating controversial matters fairly and we hope the Commission can also be fair in our case.

Finally I hope this regular meeting of the Commission will be fruitful.

3.4 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Game Fish Association (IGFA)*

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) was founded in 1939 and is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping. Originally housed in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, IGFA has always had strong ties with fisheries research and management.

In the subsequent 66 years, IGFA has endeavored in its goal of promoting the sport of angling not only as recreation, but as a source of scientific data and economic prosperity. In addition to compiling decades of catch information from around the world, IGFA staff, trustees, and international representatives have participated in international cooperative research and management efforts. Presently, IGFA represents its membership and recreational anglers in general on numerous regional, national and international fisheries management panels, and also funds and participates in research relating to highly migratory species and their habitats.

When educating recreational anglers and representing their interests, it is of utmost importance to follow the activities of national and international fishery management organizations such as ICCAT. The species of fish under ICCAT's purview are also of great socio-economic importance to recreational anglers.

*Due to exceptional circumstances, the IGFA was unable to attend the Commission Meeting, as planned, but submitted this statement by mail.

IGFA has an International Committee of Representatives with individuals in almost 100 countries around the world, including nearly all ICCAT Contracting Party nations. These men and women have been chosen for their integrity, fishing knowledge and concern for sportsmanship and conservation. The International Committee's members report to IGFA on various issues affecting recreational fishing interests and serve as an informational conduit to their respective regions.

IGFA would like to draw the Commission's attention to the recreational/charter fishing requirements for a biomass well above MSY in order to sustain viable recreational fisheries. Specifically, marlin, sailfish and spearfish are very important recreational species, and their utilization by this sector will frequently represent a more sustainable long-term economic return for members within the ICCAT area of competence. Subsequently, IGFA and its members remain concerned with the poor condition of these stocks, particularly white and blue marlin. It is imperative that by-catch of these recreationally important species is reduced and by-catch that does occur is accurately reported in a timely manner.

In many of the international fisheries commissions, recreational and charter fishing have not previously been adequately recognized as a significant user group that provides valuable revenues to many nations, especially with long-term secure access to well managed fish resources. IGFA strongly believes that responsible recreational fishing and fishing tourism brings very significant economic benefits to many countries that should be recognized in forums such as those provided by ICCAT. Existing examples of the positive economic benefits in the Commission's area of competence include Cape Verde, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and the United States, just to name a few. To that end, IGFA recommends to all the Contracting Party nations of ICCAT to examine their recreational fisheries or prospective recreational fisheries, as a means to build a sustainable tourism economy within their jurisdiction. We hope that, as an observer, IGFA will be able to accurately represent recreational anglers, and contribute to the commission so that our fisheries resources are managed in a sustainable manner for all users.

Medisamak

Medisamak is the Association of professional organizations of the fishing sector of Mediterranean coastal countries. It was created on May 7, 2004 in Tunisia with the financial support of the European Union within the framework of the plan of action for the Mediterranean.

Today Medisamak represents the professional organizations of the fishing sector of 14 coastal countries (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Slovenia, and Spain). The Association deploys all the necessary efforts to assure dialogue with the countries that are not yet represented.

Included among the principal objectives of the Association are: the defense of the general and specific interests of the fishing professionals in the Mediterranean in a spirit of sustainable management of the resource, the harmonization of the conservation and management measures of the fishing resources in the Mediterranean and the promotion of relations among the member organizations in establishing among them the lines of cooperation and collaboration.

In addition, Medisamak constitutes an important platform for dialogue among the Mediterranean fishing professionals as regards consensus and research on matters related to fishing and the environment.

Medisamak enjoys permanent observer status in GFCM, and follows the work of the European institutions, ICCAT, the United Nations, FAO and all organizations actively involved in the management of fish in the Mediterranean, in respecting the specific needs of each country represented.

On the other hand, Medisamak has notably created a working group on bluefin tuna which has met three times since its creation at the end of 2004 and in a framework in which collaboration with the International Federation of Sport Fishing at Sea is assured. The proposals of Medisamak adopted during the last meeting of this working group on October 18 and 19, 2005 are available, as well as the statutes of the Association and a press release on the work of the Association.

3.5 CLOSING STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

Chinese Taipei concerning the adoption of Recommendation 05-02

First of all, I must extend my appreciation to those who spoke in the PWG to protect the due process of the Commission in taking such action against us. I regret that, despite our effort in improving our fisheries management and MCS and implementing a huge vessel scrapping program, the Commission has decided to impose a heavy catch limit reduction on our bigeye tuna fishery based on *prima facie* assumption presented. We have no alternative but to say we cannot accept the decision made by the Commission. However, I am sure our entire government will make its best effort to comply with provisions of the Annex to rectify the deficiency in our fisheries management.

Japan concerning the Adoption of Recommendation 05-02

First of all, Japan can go along with the proposal. Japan believes that the adoption of this recommendation regarding control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic bigeye tuna fishery is a necessary step to maintain confidence of the Commission. But at the same time, Japan notes that this decision establishes a precedent and clearly adversely affects the Commission's future ability to take effective counter measures against IUU fishing.

This proposal is far less than what Japan wished to see. According to the proposal, we will have to wait another full year to ensure total rejection of the recurrence of IUU operations by Chinese Taipei. The proposal does allow Chinese Taipei to continue its bigeye fishery in the Convention area in 2006. This makes market States continue to confront risks of import of illegally caught bigeye.

Secondly, Japan has shown maximum flexibility to enable the Commission to retain its credibility. However, Japan's flexibility should not be seen as deviation from its fundamental position.

Japan will continue to be keen on how Chinese Taipei will fulfill its obligation set forth in the proposal. At the same time, Japan will spare no effort to fulfill its responsibility not to import illegally caught tuna and will do so in the most serious manner during 2006. Namely, Japan will make its utmost effort not to import tunas without a guarantee of 100% compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Japan strongly hopes that Chinese Taipei will do its best to comply with all the conditions and demonstrate its determination to fight against IUU fishing in 2006, thereby contributing significantly to cooperation in the Commission. Japan is willing to continue to work with Chinese Taipei to this end.

Lastly, Japan wishes to point out that, during the course of the difficult work towards finalizing this proposal, we observed a very strange phenomenon. Certain delegations strongly accused IUU fishing by Chinese Taipei and the openness of the Japanese market and requested strongly and repeatedly that Japan close the market against IUU products and over-caught tunas. The same Parties opposed the Japanese proposal to take trade restrictive measures against Chinese Taipei and strongly supported to allow Chinese Taipei to continue fishing operations in the Convention area. Japan does not support the unilateral imposition of trade restrictive measures and therefore cannot accept unreasonable accusation from such a double standard.

If IUU fishing of Chinese Taipei origin continues in the future and if the Commission cannot take trade measures against other countries in the future on the basis of fairness and equity, the responsibility lies, not with Japan, but with those who opposed the trade measure and pushed hard to allow Chinese Taipei to continue its fishing operations in the Convention area.

Japan's view is that CPCs will not help in any form Chinese Taipei longline vessels, other than those indicated here, to continue to operate in the Convention area.

REPORT OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

4.1 REPORT OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP INTERGRATED & COORDINATED ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (Fukuoka, Japan-April 20 to 23, 2005)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan), who welcomed participants.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1**.

There were no oral or written opening statements.

2. Election of the Chairman

The Working Group Chairman, Mr. Francois Gauthiez (EC-France) was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Julien Turenne (EC-France) served as his replacement. He thanked Japan for hosting the meeting.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Ms. Kelly Denit (United States) was appointed Rapporteur for the Working Group.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**) was adopted without amendment.

5. Review of information relevant to stock structure and mixing

The Chair requested an update from SCRS regarding any new data collected since the last Working Group meeting.

Dr. Joseph Powers (Chair of the SCRS Bluefin Tuna Species Group) reported that new information over the last year has been limited. He emphasized four main needs of the SCRS including: improved catch data, stock structure research, environmental effects on tuna, and modeling of population structure. He highlighted that there has been additional electronic tagging since the last meeting of the Working Group, and that the SCRS is in the process of accumulating the data. It was pointed out that most of the tagging is occurring in the western Atlantic and that the data indicate there is movement across the current boundary that is greater than previously thought. One hypothesis is that there is spawning site fidelity; however, the lower number of tags in the eastern Atlantic makes it difficult to assess movement fully. Dr. Powers also underscored the continued concern of the SCRS over catch data related to the Mediterranean and the need to collect good data from farming.

The delegation from the EC wanted clarification of the purpose of the SCRS bluefin tuna research meeting scheduled for June of 2005. Dr. Powers stated that the meeting will be used by the SCRS to form a work plan to respond to any requests that come from this Working Group.

The Chair pointed out that the research plan was the focus of the Working Group meeting in 2004, but at this time the main task is to develop various management options in order to get an SCRS review of each.

The Japanese delegation requested further information on the level of research activity over the past year. Dr. Powers responded that the SCRS research proposal for bluefin tuna has not yet been agreed by the Commission. Individual countries are conducting research on Atlantic bluefin tuna; however, it has not been done in a coordinated manner.

The EC suggested that the Group return to this discussion after the deliberations concerning the management options since those will be part of the driving force for the research. It was also pointed out that tagging studies are continuing within the EC.

The delegation from Turkey stated that they have been conducting tagging studies in the eastern Mediterranean in conjunction with the EC and would be happy to expand that program if needed.

The Japanese delegation returned to the point that there has not been much advancement on the research of bluefin tuna despite repeated requests by the Working Group and others. They emphasized a desire to see a timetable for the coordinated scientific research to be conducted come out of this meeting.

The delegation from Korea stated that there has been research on the genetics of bluefin tuna and that this information could be useful for this debate.

The delegation from the United States emphasized that the research needs have been covered in minute detail in previous meetings. The goal of this Working Group meeting is to determine management alternatives that will effectively manage bluefin tuna. The lack of improvement in the western stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna, despite management measures, indicates that there is a need to consider alternatives to the status quo.

6. Develop alternative options for managing Atlantic bluefin tuna and consideration of the feasibility of alternative scenarios

Proposals for management alternatives were presented (see **Appendices 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 to ANNEX 4.1**) and discussed. The recommendations resulting from this discussion are included under Agenda item 8 below.

The ICCAT Secretariat also presented the “Guidelines on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming Practices in the Mediterranean” developed by the joint ICCAT-GFCM Working Group (see Appendix 7 to the 2005 SCRS Report).

7. Other matters

There were no other matters discussed.

8. Recommendations

The Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies recommends that the SCRS:

- Assess the impact and effectiveness of the current multi-annual management plan, including the new minimum size, the eradication of the tolerance and the regulation of farming activities.
- Evaluate the effects and consequences on the juvenile component of the stocks of current pattern of fishing for supply of fish farming activities.
- Advise on possible additional measures, which might be envisaged to reinforce the current management measures.

The Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies also requests that the SCRS evaluate the conservation and management benefits to the spawning and/or juvenile components of the bluefin tuna stocks, and the feasibility and implications of the following scenarios:

- Maintenance of the current management regime, modified where appropriate, in the light of the SCRS advice;
- Maintenance, modification or elimination of the current boundary at 45 degrees W and the management consequences of eventual changes on the current management measures in place for both Western and Eastern stocks;
- Setting appropriate management measures for areas identified by the SCRS where mixing occurs on a regular basis;

- Identify spawning and nursery areas and, for those areas, evaluate the impact and effectiveness of time and/or area closures for commercial, sport and recreational fisheries.
- Without prejudice to the second bullet above, eliminating the current 45 degree W management area boundary and instead introducing time and area closures for directed bluefin tuna pelagic longline fishing activities.

The Group recalled that the research efforts needed to be better harmonized and coordinated and that the SCRS should establish priorities within its proposed research program and in this regard should inform the Commission on the feasibility of operational models to take account of mixing.

The Group noted the burden of work that has been asked of the SCRS, recalling that the SCRS is to provide advice on the identified recommendations in time for the 2005 Commission meeting. The Working Group underlined the importance that recommendations covering the provision of size-related catch data, sampling on farming activities, and plans and results to reduce juvenile fish catch to the Commission be complied with (Recommendations 04-06, 03-09 and 02-09).

The Group also emphasized the need for intensive preparation for the 2006 annual meeting of the Commission, due to the heavy workload associated with this meeting. The need for either a further meeting of the Working Group in 2006 or meetings of a different format should be considered by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2005.

9. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted during the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The delegations joined the Chairman in thanking Japan for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality. Thanks were also extended to the Chairman, and to the Secretariat, Rapporteur and interpreters for their efficient work.

The 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review of information relevant to stock structure and mixing
 - 5.1 Review of scientific information on bluefin tuna biology
 - 5.2 Review of historical data from the fisheries
 - 5.3 Evaluation of available biological information on stock structure
 - 5.4 Consideration of available biological information on mixing
6. Develop alternative options for managing Atlantic bluefin tuna taking account of information arising from Items 5.1 to 5.4 and consideration of the feasibility of alternative scenarios
7. Other matters
8. Recommendations
9. Adoption of the report
10. Adjournment

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Documents Presented at the Meeting

3.1 Japanese Concept Paper on Integrated & Coordinated Management Strategies for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

In 1981, the ICCAT established the boundary of 45 degrees W in the mid-Atlantic and started separate management measures for the western and eastern Atlantic. However, this boundary is not based upon scientific evidence but picked up just for practical management purposes. Moreover, the SCRS admitted from the beginning significant uncertainties with stock structure and migration patterns of bluefin tuna while accepting the two-stock assumption for its assessment. It should be recalled that one population in the entire Atlantic and the Mediterranean (low or even no spawning site fidelity) is also a plausible and scientifically valid assumption.

On the two-stock assumption, the western stock was assessed to be depleted in 1981. Since then the total catch of western Atlantic bluefin tuna has been restricted to an extremely low level whereas the Gulf of Mexico has been closed to protect spawning bluefin tuna. However, during the past two decades, the western bluefin tuna stock was always estimated to remain at the historically lowest level every time the SCRS conducted a stock assessment. The only logical conclusion we can draw from this experience is that the stock assessment involves fundamentally wrong elements or assumptions.

As a result of the recent development of tagging studies, it turned out that the degree of intermingling of eastern and western spawned fish is much larger in terms of time and areas in the entire Atlantic than was expected before. Such studies should be intensified to enhance both the quality and quantity of information on the degree of intermingling. But those studies take years to be completed. At least sampling in the spawning areas has to be conducted to find the composition of fish of eastern and western origins by use of otolith isotope analysis technologies.

The high degree of intermingling recently confirmed poses a fundamental question on the current management boundary of 45 degrees W. Japan would strongly urge the Commission to abolish this boundary while strengthening the measure to protect spawning and small fish, particularly that in the western Atlantic.

Further, in the past two decades, the utilization of Atlantic bluefin tuna somewhat lacks a fair balance between western and eastern sides of the Atlantic. The western catch was extremely low whereas the eastern catch grew dramatically (**Figure 1**). Although it is practically difficult, the current balance should be changed gradually so that a more balanced utilization of Atlantic bluefin tuna is achieved in the entire fishing area.

Suggested changes to the management strategy

1. Intensified research

A five-year research program should be established to cover the following items:

- (i) Otolith isotope analysis of samples obtained in the spawning areas: the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Mexico. For this research, a small amount of sampling quota should be established for the Gulf of Mexico.
- (ii) Increase of archival tag releases. The target of total released fish should be 500 (100 annually).

2. Management measures

- (i) Abolishment of the 45 degree W boundary and establishment of new management areas: the Atlantic and the Mediterranean (**Figure 2**).

Protection of spawning fish:

- Closure of the area North of 20 degrees N and West of 65 degrees W and 35 degrees N and West of 55 degrees W from February 1 to June 30 (**Figure 2**).
- An additional closed season or any other measure to protect spawning fish in the Mediterranean.

- (ii) Gradual change of balance of catches in the eastern and western Atlantic.

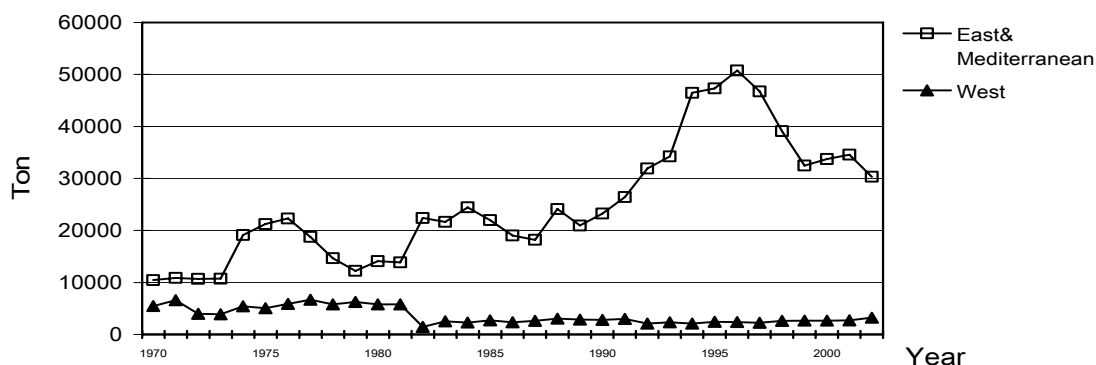


Figure 1 to Appendix 3.1. Historical catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

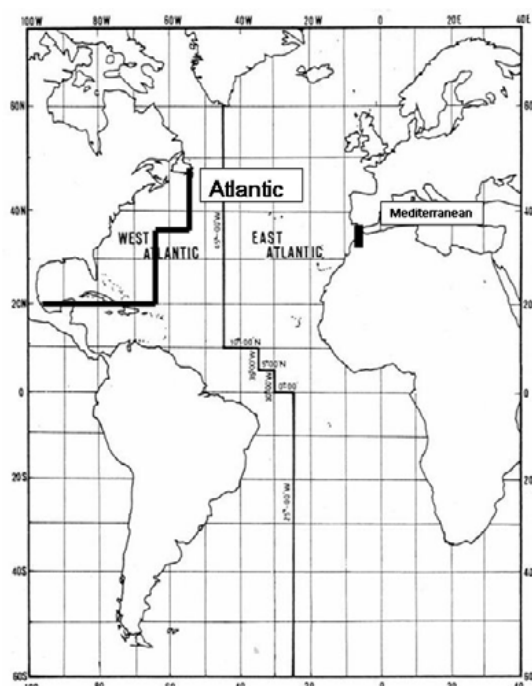


Figure 2 to Appendix 3.1. Suggested management areas.

3.2.a Explanatory Memo on the U.S. Proposal (United States)

Background

In November 2002, the Commission recommended [Rec. 02-11] that a Working Group, comprised of scientists and managers, be established to evaluate all available biological information relevant to the issue of Atlantic bluefin tuna stock structure and mixing, and to develop operational options for implementing alternative approaches for managing mixed populations of Atlantic bluefin tuna, considering scientific information on the biology of bluefin tuna, historical data on fisheries, and the feasibility of alternative scenarios. The Working Group met in Dublin in 2003 and defined the initial parameters for the functioning of the Working Group. The second meeting of the Working Group, held in Marseille in May 2004, was used to establish the present scientific understanding of bluefin tuna biology, reproduction, and migration as it relates to a scientific basis for management of this species in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Subsequently, the Commission agreed in 2004 that a third meeting of the Working Group would be held in Fukuoka, Japan, from April 20-23, 2005. At this meeting, the Working Group is to elaborate a range of management options, which will be referred to the SCRS for evaluation and advice. The Commission will consider the SCRS advice at the 2005 Commission Meeting in Seville, Spain.

Purpose and overview

This U.S. proposal (attached) presents several management options for consideration at the third meeting of ICCAT's Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies. The options presented are predicated on basic information presented in the SCRS Report of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Mixing (SCRS 2001; excerpts are included in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3.2.a to ANNEX 4.1**: what is known, what seems likely and what is unknown). This report coupled with subsequent SCRS advice suggests that managers consider some basic realities in developing bluefin tuna management strategies. These are as follows:

- 1) Data on basic catch and effort from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are poor such that it will not be possible to obtain scientific advice with much certainty based on assessments of these data. Nevertheless, catches are known to have been high and are expected to have remained high such that the resource may be in jeopardy. Contributing to this situation is the continued high catch of small individuals;
- 2) Western Atlantic bluefin have been depleted relative to the 1960s and 70s and, despite continuing and significant management actions over more than two decades, demonstrable recovery of the western resource has not yet been forthcoming;
- 3) There are at least two breeding populations of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic and Mediterranean: those spawning in the Mediterranean and those spawning in the Gulf of Mexico. However, there may be substantial mixing of these two breeding populations in various areas of the ocean. Therefore, it is perceived as no longer useful to use the concept of a single fixed boundary. Since there are at least two breeding populations with mixing, it is unlikely that a single geographic boundary between the western and eastern Atlantic will be effective in separating bluefin tuna of Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean origin into non-overlapping populations; and
- 4) Because mixing of fish across boundaries is known to occur and may be substantial in specific areas, recovery objectives for the western breeding population and the western fisheries may depend upon management actions in the east.

It is, therefore, prudent to strengthen conservation measures until such time as there are assessments that reliably indicate that the resource is healthy and conservation measures can be relaxed. These measures should be broadly based across the various fisheries, practical to implement, and spatially explicit. While scientific uncertainty in basic biology and migration parameters will preclude exact evaluation of these measures prior to their implementation, the SCRS should examine the possible usefulness of these measures and suggest monitoring regimes for more rigorous evaluations in the future should the measures be implemented.

Proposed options

Currently, bluefin tuna are managed on the basis of two management areas (the western Atlantic versus the eastern Atlantic plus Mediterranean). In its Mixing Report (2001), the SCRS suggested that four additional management areas be formally considered in the development of subsequent management procedures and evaluations. These include the Gulf of Mexico, western Atlantic, central Atlantic, northeast Atlantic, and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. While the complexity of developing management measures for six areas appears daunting, specific measures for each of these areas are *already* being implemented through national programs. Thus, the proposed options presented in the attached proposal will build on these existing measures with the goal of formalizing and strengthening the multi-management area approach. The Working Group should debate the specific boundaries suggested in **Figure 1** of the proposal, however. Such debate should include combining and/or splitting management areas and/or suggesting alternative boundaries. In this discussion, the Working Group should keep in mind that the known movement and mixing of bluefin tuna suggests that spatial management needs to be broad in scope.

The management options presented in the attached proposal fulfill at least one of the following basic goals: (1) to reduce the risk to the breeding populations by reducing mortality and disruption on the spawning grounds during spawning periods; (2) to establish precautionary caps on total mortality in areas where mixing between the breeding populations is likely to be extant in order to reduce the risks to the western bluefin tuna stock and to improve the probability of success of the western Atlantic rebuilding program; and (3) to reduce mortality on juveniles through changes to minimum size measures and other means. The options are presented along with a request for evaluation by the SCRS.

Monitoring and research requirements

The SCRS suggested a research and monitoring strategy (SCRS/2003/014) which grouped the research activities into four major categories: (I) Basic Data, including catch and effort statistics, reproductive biology and mortality; (II) Stock Structure, including tagging, spawning sites, biological markers and spatial distributions; (III) Environmental Variability; and (IV) Modeling, including operational models, assessment models and management procedures. Subsequently, the Commission has emphasized the need for management evaluation; thus, the SCRS recommended that research over the short-term be focused on activities I, II and IV (because activity III, Environmental Variability, is likely to require a longer term research effort).

Evaluation of the management options discussed in the attached proposal must be linked with the research and monitoring activities. There must be a commitment to stewardship responsibilities if management is to succeed. In that regard, the SCRS should provide a revised proposal to address the priority areas of monitoring and evaluation required by the Commission. In doing so, it should be recognized that if management is to succeed in achieving sustainability, management will not be static, management and monitoring systems will have to be flexible, and continual monitoring, evaluation, and re-evaluation will be required.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3.2.a to ANNEX 4.1

Excerpts from the SCRS Working Group Report on Bluefin Tuna Mixing (2001)

What is known:

1. There are at least two spawning areas.
2. More fish spend time on the side of the Atlantic where they were tagged than migrate far away, either because of a location-specific preference or a slow rate of diffusion. This implies the potential for localized depletion.

What seems likely:

3. There is a substantial degree of spawning-site fidelity. This seems likely because it is generally believed for other species (not necessarily tunas) where there is a basis for making a determination. The lack of genetic differences does not imply otherwise. So far, archival tagging has not shown that any fish visited both known spawning grounds. It was also noted that, lacking evidence that there is low spawning-site fidelity, it is precautionary to manage assuming that there is fidelity.
4. The distribution of fish from the two known spawning areas overlaps, at least for part of the year, for a large proportion of the Atlantic Ocean. This conclusion is clearest for the region extending from the North American continental shelf and slope, northeast toward the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and beyond. There is probably some overlap elsewhere, but there is little data upon which to draw conclusions.
5. As a result of the overlap in the distribution of bluefin tuna discussed in number 4, some fish of eastern origin are caught in the West Atlantic management area, and *vice versa*.
6. The feeding ground for the bluefin found in the West Atlantic management area (from western and/or eastern origin) extends north and east across the 45°W line, such that bluefin are also vulnerable to fishing in the East Atlantic management area.
7. Under the current management scheme, the catch of western-origin fish in the East Atlantic management area generates a higher proportion of the fishing mortality rate on the western-origin fish than is the case for the converse scenario. This conclusion is likely because the population size in the eastern Atlantic is large compared to that in the western Atlantic.

What is unknown:

8. Depending on the degree of overlap, number 5 may also contribute to higher fishing mortality on western-origin fish since tuning indices are influenced by the contribution of eastern-origin fish.

9. The composition of fish originating from the two known spawning grounds is unknown for all locations, although it seems likely that the fish near known spawning grounds during the spawning season mostly originate from that spawning ground (see numbers 2, 3).
10. The effects of environmental, oceanographic and other influences on short- and long-term changes in movement patterns.

3.2.b Proposal for Alternative Bluefin Tuna Management Options and Needed SCRS Evaluations (United States)

The following management should be evaluated by the SCRS:

1. *Consider ways to reduce mortality and disruption of bluefin tuna on the spawning grounds during spawning periods, including possible enhancements to current time and area closures and gear modifications.*

SCRS Evaluations: The SCRS should evaluate the potential conservation benefits and fishery impacts of spatial, temporal, and/or other changes to existing time and area closures to protect spawning bluefin tuna. SCRS should also advise on the potential conservation benefits and fishery impacts of new or additional time/area closures to protect spawning bluefin tuna. In addition, SCRS should provide advice on possible gear modifications, including circle hooks, which could reduce the mortality of mature bluefin tuna taken incidentally on the spawning grounds and the fishery impacts of such modifications. SCRS should evaluate the effect of such modifications both in conjunction with time/area closures and as complementary but independent measures. Finally, SCRS should evaluate the potential implications of farming/fattening operations on the effectiveness of existing and potential time/area closures.

2. *Establish precautionary caps on total mortality in areas where mixing between the breeding populations is likely to be extant. Changes to be evaluated should include, but are not limited to, the following:*
 - (a) Implementing a precautionary catch limit of 1000 t in the central Atlantic (Area 3 in **Figure 1**).
 - (b) Implementing a precautionary catch limit of 1500 t in the northeastern Atlantic (Area 4 in **Figure 1**).
 - (c) Implementing a combined precautionary catch limit of 2500 t in the central and northeastern Atlantic combined (Areas 3-4 in **Figure 1**).
 - (d) Establishing a precautionary buffer zone in the central Atlantic (Area 3 in **Figure 1**) where the only catches allowed would be minimal (~500 t) for the purpose of monitoring until research on the origin of these fish indicates the level of catch should be altered.
 - (e) Combining the current western management area with the central Atlantic and implementing a combined quota. (Areas 1-3 in **Figure 1**).

SCRS Evaluations: The SCRS should evaluate the potential conservation and fishery impacts of options 2a-2e, including various and feasible combinations of the above. For options 2a-2d, the proposed approaches should not result in an increase or decrease to the current TACs for the East or West Atlantic, although effort will be affected. The long-term implications of these options will depend upon the degree of mixing and overlap of distributions; therefore, a range of mixing rates should be evaluated (such as in SCRS/2003/108). Additionally, the short-term change in catch relative to current catches throughout the Atlantic and Mediterranean under current effort distributions should be evaluated. In the case of a combined quota (option 2e), the SCRS has evaluated this option previously (for example, SCRS 2002). Indeed, this was one option mentioned in the Mixing Report. While assessments can be conducted on combined areas, the results will have to be interpreted in the context of what proportion of the central Atlantic catches were believed to be of western or eastern origin.

3. *Consider ways to increase the survival of juveniles*

SCRS Evaluations: The SCRS should evaluate the conservation benefits and fishery impacts of increasing bluefin tuna minimum size limits. The evaluation should be done in terms of increased yield- and spawners-per-recruit, reductions in catch, and distribution of catch by gear. A variety of sizes should be considered. Similarly, the SCRS should advise on other ways to reduce mortality on juveniles

and the impacts of these measures, including establishing or enhancing time/area closures, establishing fisheries specific TACs, and other feasible approaches.

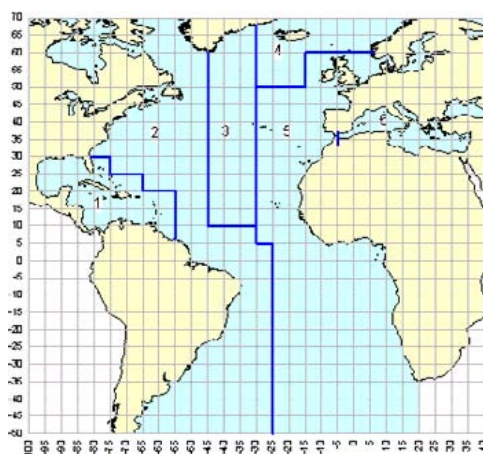


Figure 1 to Appendix 3.2. Source: 2001 ICCAT Workshop on Bluefin Mixing.

3.3 Proposed Description in the Report of the Group on Management Strategies (Japan and United States)

Recognizing that there are distinct spawning grounds in the Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean Sea, with fish originating from the two spawning grounds mixing in the Atlantic Ocean;

Acknowledging that no boundary can entirely separate bluefin tuna of western and eastern origin;

Noting that fisheries and management on either side of the current East-West boundary affect the populations on the other side of the boundary;

Recalling that according to SCRS, the western Bluefin tuna population is at a historically low level and that the catch in the eastern Atlantic remains high.

Therefore, the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies recommends that SCRS evaluate the conservation benefits to both spawning and juvenile fish of:

1. Continuing existing measures;
2. Eliminating the current 45 degree west management area boundary and instead introducing time and area closure for pelagic fishing activities such as a closed area north of 20 degrees N and west of 65 degrees W and 35 degrees N and west of 55 degrees W;
3. Setting catch limits or other appropriate restrictions in areas where mixing occurs; and
4. Setting time and area closures, minimum size measures and gear restrictions;
5. Changing the current boundary between western and eastern management areas.

The Group also recommends that the Commission should adopt a new coordinated research program for Atlantic bluefin tuna at its 2005 meeting based upon advice from SCRS and that SCRS should also consider further development of operational models to take account of mixing.

The Group requested the Secretariat to remind all the CPCs of the requirements of data provision and sampling on farming activities as well as those of reporting to the 2005 Commission meeting on their plans and results to reduce juvenile fish catch as provided in Recommendations 04-06, 03-09 and 02-09.

4.2 REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW STATISTICAL MONITORING PROGRAMS (Fukuoka, Japan, April 25 to 27, 2005)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, who welcomed participants. Mr. Meski thanked Japan for hosting the meeting. He welcomed the representatives of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) who attended the meeting.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

There were no oral or written opening statements.

2. Election of the Chairman

Ms. Kimberly Blankenbeker (United States, PWG Chair) was elected to Chair the meeting.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Ms. Kelly Denit (United States) was appointed Rapporteur for the Working Group.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**) was adopted. Japan requested time at the end of the first day to give a presentation on a pilot study of new fresh fish tracking technology. In addition, the Chair noted the interrelated nature of Agenda items 6-9 ([Res. 04-16]) and suggested it might be necessary to take these issues together, although efforts would be made to organize the discussions clearly.

5. Review of the Meeting Terms of Reference

The Chair reviewed the Terms of Reference for the meeting.

6. Review of the provisions and objectives of the existing programs and

7. Examination of the functioning of the programs, including the impact of trade flows and practices

Agenda items 6 and 7 were determined to be interrelated and therefore discussed together. The Chair provided a brief overview of the current statistical document programs, asking each party to keep in mind the two roles of ICCAT's Statistical Document Programs, namely for statistical purposes and to support ICCAT's compliance regime.

The Working Group considered the concerns expressed by the Secretariat and several CPCs regarding the provision of information to the Secretariat on the validation procedures of national statistical document programs insofar as addressed by existing instruments previously adopted by the Commission (BFT [Res. 94-05], BET [Rec. 01-21, Annex 4], SWO [Rec. 01-22, Attachment 6]).

The Working Group's interpretation of these existing instruments was that all CPCs and NCPs submit, as a minimal requirement, the name and addresses of organizations authorized to issue/validate ICCAT Statistical Documents, as well as their official seal. If the national law of a given CPC/NCP requires that such authorization be granted on an individual basis, then a list of names and sample signatures of individuals so authorized shall be provided to the ICCAT Secretariat. Based on that understanding, for those CPCs/NCPs whose national laws do not require an individual nomination, the lack of provision of individual names and sample signatures to the ICCAT Secretariat shall not be used as grounds to refuse imports from that CPC/NCP. The ICCAT Secretariat shall include in its database the date on which each CPC/NCP provided information to the Secretariat on the

institutions/individuals authorized to issue/validate ICCAT Statistical documents. The Working Group also confirmed that the existing recommendations require that each statistical document shall have a signature of an official of the organization that has been notified to the Secretariat.

The European Community, Japan, the Secretariat, and Chinese Taipei each presented their respective working documents or proposals (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**). The proposals were discussed at a general level, with a variety of views being expressed. The Working Group recognized that the inclusion of these source documents was for informational purposes only.

8. Consideration of the potential for trade monitoring and information exchange to support ICCAT conservation and management measures, including review of other international initiatives

Representatives from the CCSBT, IATTC and IOTC gave short presentations on the statistical monitoring programs currently in use by their respective organizations. The CCSBT offered to provide a recent statistical document review report to the Working Group for its consideration. Additionally, in the absence of a representative from CCAMLR, the representative of the EC who was familiar with that program gave a brief overview of CCAMLR's catch documentation scheme.

The Working Group received information on IC tags and other high-tech tracing systems and felt that it would be useful to continue to receive information on these systems. Mr. K. Yamauchi (Japan) gave a brief overview of a pilot study that was conducted on the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) as a means of tracking fresh fish product. A copy of the presentation is available from the Secretariat.

9. Discussion of possible improvements to ICCAT's Statistical Document Programs, including potential resource implications

The Working Group noted that there was a certain amount of convergence in the issues identified in the working documents as well as in the relevant proposals. Some of the issues discussed related primarily to the operation and implementation of the existing programs in the near term and into the future. Other proposals would broaden the scope and applicability of ICCAT's programs including to address potential loopholes in the current systems. During discussions, certain themes became evident. A number of proposals were intended to strengthen the ICCAT programs against fraud and abuse and to standardize to the extent possible implementation of the programs across ICCAT's membership, including by clarifying terms. Some proposals related to further expanding the role of statistical document programs in ICCAT's management and compliance regime. This was an area of particularly divergent views. Facilitating information exchange was another theme. In some cases, a proposal might assist in addressing a number of objectives, such as establishing information sharing mechanisms. Additionally, it was noted that improved monitoring of processing facilities is an important future step. Some delegations stated that future considerations should also include the use of IC tags or other high-tech tracing systems that may be used to improve the effectiveness of the SDPs. The Working Group agreed on a number of proposals, which are presented in Agenda Item 10 below.

Consensus could not be reached on all options discussed. These included:

1. Guidelines for verification of statistical documents and re-export certificates. While considered to be within the mandate of the Working Group, concern was expressed regarding the implications of these guidelines to domestic systems that may already be in place. Parties were requested to conduct a more thorough internal review and provide this information in written form to the Commission in 2005 for further discussion (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**).
2. Definitions of international trade terms. The Working Group noted the complexity of this issue, particularly in light of domestic laws and regulations of each CPC. The Working Group agreed that this matter would benefit from internal review by each CPC and could be returned to later, perhaps at the 2005 ICCAT meeting. One participant expressed concern that defining these terms may be outside the purview of the Working Group (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**).
3. Declarations by operators and endorsements by authorities. One party expressed concerns about the scope of the declarations contained in the statistical documents and re-export certificates and the fact that such declarations contain reservations. The Working Group noted the legal complexity of this issue, particularly in

light of domestic laws and regulations of each CPC. The matter may be revisited in the future, perhaps at the 2005 ICCAT meeting (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**).

4. Approaches to complement the existing statistical document programs. These include (1) monitoring procedures for the purse seine and baitboat fisheries for bigeye tuna and for trade in fresh bigeye, given the current exemptions from the SDP; (2) improvements to monitoring systems at processing plants, including those plants in tax-exempt areas, to maintain links between the statistical documents required for deliveries and the re-export certificates required for outbound shipments. One party noted that developing good definitions of terms would assist in addressing processing issues.
5. Catch Information, catch limits and programs: A proposal was made to require that statistical documents be generated at the time of catch in order to improve catch monitoring and the use of allowable catch limits. Strong concern was expressed by some parties to this proposal. One party noted that such a change would be unacceptable and would alter the scope of the statistical document programs leading to its possible use to support unilateral and discriminatory trade measures. It was stressed by some parties that flag states must be the only party responsible for implementation of their quotas or catch limits, not a third party. One party noted the proposal to implement a CCAMLR-like catch document scheme could weaken ICCAT's program by eliminating the requirement for flag state authorization. The Working Group could not come to a common view on the proposal. One party suggested that CPCs reflect on the matter and reserved its right to raise the issue in the future.

10. Consideration of next steps for the short, medium, and long-term, including development of recommendations, as appropriate

- A. Implementation. The Working Group noted that full implementation by all parties was necessary to ensure maximum effectiveness of the Programs. The Working Group suggests that:
 1. The Secretariat request, in advance of the 2005 meeting, that those CPCs which import tuna and tuna-like species covered by the statistical document programs and have yet to implement the SDPs to implement them immediately;
 2. The PWG and Compliance Committee review at the 2005 meeting each CPC's implementation of the Statistical Documents Programs (SDPs);
 3. The PWG and Compliance Committee evaluate the responses received from the CPCs identified in paragraph 1 and, if necessary, consider appropriate actions at the 2005 meeting.
- B. Document protection. The Working Group recognized the concern over potential forged and fraudulent statistical documents and recommends that the Commission outline steps CPCs could take to reduce fraud such as, exchange of information in real time, the use of special paper, carbon copies and/or unique document numbers. It was noted that there were other potentially effective measures such as (a) that product quantities be written in both numbers and letters, and (b) that blank spaces be deleted from the forms, and (c) that any modifications of statistical documents that have already been validated require approval. The development of a procedure to create unique document numbers should be discussed by the Commission and take into account current procedures already in use by some CPCs. The Working Group also recognized that developing a system of exchange of real-time information would be a key step to help deal with the issue of fraudulent documents.
- C. Consignment identification. The Working Group recommends that the re-export certificates for all species be altered to require the inclusion of the document number of each original statistical document associated with the product being re-exported. The adjustment should take into account that product can be consolidated before re-export, which could require inclusion of multiple document numbers on the re-export form. The Working Group noted that the instructions for the form will also need adjustment. The Working Group noted for the future that indications on consignments, such as name, mode of transport, and the bill of landings, should appear on the statistical documents and re-export certificates.
- D. Standardization. The Working Group noted that the data needs for each species may vary, and recommends that statistical documents remain species specific.
- E. Document retention. The Working Group noted a need to specify a minimum retention time for all statistical documents and recommends the Commission discuss specific options, e.g., retaining periods of two or three

years for importing/exporting private parties and over five years for CPC authorities, at the annual meeting in 2005.

- F. Link to other import/export formalities: The Working Group noted that the SDPs could be enhanced by linking them with other import and export procedures, such as the WCO Harmonized tariff code system as import and export data could be more easily cross-checked and verified. Some CPCs have already made this link, at least retrospectively. The Working Group recommends that ICCAT explore ways to establish a cross reference between, on one hand, statistical documents or re-export certificates and, on the other hand, the relevant declarations of imports, exports and re-exports. The Working Group also recommends that CPCs with experience in these matters provide relevant information in their Annual Reports that will be submitted for the 2005 ICCAT meeting.
- G. Cooperation and exchange of information: The Working Group strongly felt that cooperation between Parties would be a very effective way to deal with issues associated with fraudulent documents and questions regarding the validity of statistical documents, while noting the matter needs further development. The Working Group did agree to recommend the development of cooperation and information exchange mechanisms as a priority. As a first step a list of contact points should be created and maintained by the Secretariat to facilitate communications regarding these matters. The issue of developing procedures to address retrospective validation of documents should be a part of the overall work to improve cooperation and information exchange. The Working Group asked that CPCs provide written information on matters of practice concerning retrospective validation procedures in time for the 2005 ICCAT meeting.
- H. Access to information by non-CPCs: The Working Group recommends that the Commission give the Secretariat a mandate to allow Non-CPCs to have access to the validation and catch information maintained by the Secretariat in order to verify their information and facilitate the effectiveness of the SDPs, and to request that all relevant trade data be provided. The Commission should review this issue at the 2005 annual meeting.
- I. Reporting concerns and conversion factors: Given the difficulties faced by the Secretariat in converting some product forms to whole weight, it is recommended that the Commission direct the SCRS to review possible conversion factors for tuna products, including the non-standard product forms of “steak” and “block”. Such support of the Secretariat's efforts to implement agreed statistical document programs is essential. The Commission should also direct the Secretariat to liaise with CPCs to address problems in submissions including the drafting of a circular to CPCs on relevant issues. The Commission should also direct the Secretariat to produce a table of statistical document data, similar to the compliance table, for consideration by ICCAT at its annual meetings. The Working Group further recommends that the Commission remind all Parties of their obligations to submit statistical document information in a complete manner, including the area of catch, that electronic versions that allow interaction with the data (e.g. Excel) be submitted and that the submissions be given in one of the three official ICCAT languages to facilitate database entry.
- J. Electronic statistical document program: Recognizing that the full implementation of an electronic system is clearly in the future and taking note that some countries may have difficulties in implementing such a system, the Working Group recommends that a pilot project on the use of an electronic system be conducted. However, the Group acknowledges that the resource implications of this project for the Secretariat and CPCs should be examined. These issues should be discussed and developed by the Commission in 2005 and, as necessary into the future.

Bluefin Tuna

The Working Group recalled that in accordance with Resolution [94-04], live bluefin tuna require a statistical document, while also noting that the current form may not be adequate to address this. The Group recommends that, in conformity with [Res. 94-04], those parties participating in the catch, transport and farming of bluefin tuna provide feedback to the Working Group regarding areas of the SDP that may need improvement at the annual meeting in 2005.

11. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

12. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The Report was adopted. The Working Group thanked the Chair, Rapporteur, Secretariat and interpreters for their hard work over the course of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Chair
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Appointment of the Rapporteur
5. Review of the Meeting Terms of Reference
6. Review of the provisions and objectives of the existing programs
 - 6.1 Bluefin tuna
 - 6.2 Bigeye tuna
 - 6.3 Swordfish
7. Examination of the functioning of the programs, including the impact of trade flows and practices
 - 7.1 Bluefin tuna
 - 7.2 Bigeye tuna
 - 7.3 Swordfish
8. Consideration of the potential for trade monitoring and information exchange to support ICCAT conservation and management measures, including review of other international initiatives
9. Discussion of possible improvements to ICCAT's statistical document programs, including potential resource implications
10. Consideration of next steps for the short, medium, and long-term, including development of recommendations, as appropriate
 - 10.1 General
 - 10.2 Program specific
 - 10.2.1 Bluefin tuna
 - 10.2.2 Bigeye tuna
 - 10.2.3 Swordfish
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2

Working Documents

3.1 On the Functioning of the ICCAT Statistical Documentation Programs (EC)

1. Introduction

The first statistical documentation scheme for bluefin tuna of the Atlantic (BTSD), was adopted in 1992 for frozen products (Recommendation 92-01) and then fresh products in 1993 (Recommendation 93-03). In 2001, identical programs were adopted for swordfish (SWOSD) and bigeye tuna (BETSD)¹ (Recommendations 01-21 and 01-22). From 1993 to 2003, several instruments were adopted on specific points, not modifying the general architecture of the programs (list in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 4.2**).

Aiming, originally, to improve the quality of information on the catches, in particular of the non-Contracting Parties' vessels, the BTSD program, then the more recent programs, became supporting instruments for the general measures of control and compliance. Other instruments have been adopted over the years to this end which refer to that, (see list in **Addendum 2 to Appendix 4.2**).

The international trade subject to the programs experienced a strong expansion as it extended to the three species, and the volumes of each species and the number of participating countries increased. To this quantitative development, other changes must be included, such (1) as the growing share taken by the product processing between the catch by the Flag State and the importation in the final country of destination, and (2) transport by merchant ships.

¹Except for the products captured by purse seine vessels and pole and line vessels, which are mainly destined for the canning facilities in the ICCAT Convention area.

Since 1992, the general context of the monitoring of goods has been greatly changed, largely due to the development of international cooperation and information techniques.

It seems appropriate to evaluate if the current programs are sufficient to ensure their supporting role for compliance and control of management measures and the development of trade.

An analysis of the programs was undertaken on the basis of an examination of their provisions in relation to their objectives, comments regarding their functioning and the development of the trade of the products concerned. It showed a certain number of elements that need improvements, which are outlined below.

2. Analysis of the programs

By convention, the term "document" relates to the statistical documents and the re-exportation certificates, except where their specific character is explicitly identified.

2.1 Notification of the validating authorities

The countries notifying their validating authorities do not have to indicate the date of the entry into force of their measures, which creates uncertainty as to the validity of the documents.

2.2 Protection of the documents against forgery

The printing of the documents on ordinary paper simplifies the possibility of forgery or the modification of data already verified by the competent authorities. As the validating authorities generally carry out other tasks, access to the names, addresses, signatures and stamps do not present major difficulties for their copying.

2.3 Composition of the documents

The original document comprises only one sheet, which is given to the operator so that the recipient of the products can provide it to the importing country authorities. Photocopies made from the original document, which are necessary for the management of the program, by nature create difficulties in legibility and facilitate forgery (see 2.2 above).

2.4 Validating authorities competences

Depending on the individual countries, the validating authorities are not always official authorities. The role of the programs in the general context of control and compliance involves verification obligations, which are the responsibility of Government entities².

2.5 Retrospective validation of documents

In the event of import without documents, the recommendations envisage the suspension of the operation pending the presentation of a valid document, without fixing operational procedures. This can lead to differing practices across the countries involved.

2.6 Definition of the terms "export", "import" and "re-exportation"

The absence of a definition of the terms "export" and "import" can lead to differences in the implementation of the programs, insofar as they cover varying legal concepts depending on the countries concerned. The definition of the term "re-exported", appears only in the instructions sheet of Recommendation 97-04, and limits their scope to transit.

In addition to possible differences in implementing the programs, in particular on imports, as to whether the products are imported on a final or provisional basis, this absence of definition does not make it possible to have common rules for the exports from the national territory.

²In a similar context, CCAMLR changed its documentation scheme for catches of *Dissostichus* spp. so that the control functions are exercised by public authorities with the necessary powers.

This comment is also true for consignments transshipped in a port or on a merchant ship not falling under the jurisdiction of the Flag State, so that their status remains uncertain.

The products imported in a country for processing (other than for farming) are no longer covered by the programs once they are re-exported, the statistical documents can only be validated by the flag State or the State where a farm is established.

2.7 Link with the other import/export formalities

Important discrepancies have been identified between the data provided by the statistical programs and foreign trade data, even if all the countries concerned identify these products by specific codes on their customs declarations.

These discrepancies more often have their source in the absence of links between the implementation of the programs and the import or export operations, rather than in the time delays associated with the transport or the intervention of a transit country, which can lead to errors or confusion regarding the origin. The inability to consolidate the statistical program information and foreign trade statistics does not make it possible to evaluate, even in an approximate way, the volume of the flow of the products concerned and therefore casts doubt on the reliability of these data.

The absence of a linkage between the implementation of the programs and the import or export procedures, combined with the absence of specific Customs classification codes for these products in numerous countries, makes any identification in their foreign trade flow statistics impossible.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) has adopted in its Harmonized System for the designation and the classification of goods (HS), codes for all swordfish, bigeye tuna and bluefin tuna products. As from 1 January 2007, it will therefore be possible to follow the trade of these products between the some 179 countries or customs unions applying the HS, in as far as the necessary links between the certification programs and the import and export regimes will be established and defined.

2.8 Identification of the consignments

The documents make no reference to the consignments to which they refer. It is therefore possible to obtain a document for a quantity meeting the validation criteria and to use it for an equivalent quantity to which it does not relate.

2.9 The operators' responsibility

At the stage preceding the validation, the data to be certified by a single operator, the exporter, cover different fields (fishing data and commercial data). As the exporter does not necessarily have the responsibility for the vessels, each exporter has to trust to the information communicated by his supplier (s).

The term "certification" leads to confusion insofar as to what is required from the operator is to certify the veracity of a document, where only the signature of the competent authority can constitute certification.

In addition, the certification declarations are accompanied by reservations, which should not be used, since they cover elements that signatories must know.

2.10 Government validation

The obligation of the government authority is to certify (by its signature) that it accepts the declaration of the operator - which implies their preliminary verification - and not standing as a guarantor of it (and in front of whom?).

Moreover, the mechanism of comparing the import and export data (see point 2.13) supposes that errors or inaccurate declarations, which are not identified at the time of the treatment of the request for validation can be identified retrospectively.

The validation declaration seems therefore to go beyond the obligations falling to government authorities. In addition, by expressing reservations, this only further weakens their effects.

2.11 Catch information

A statistical document is generated by the exportation of the product, and not the unloading of the catch. Information on this point is collected by other means, without that a link can be easily established between the two operations and thereby the total catch and related information, like the area or the fishing gear.

2.12 Annual catch limits and programs

Certain species subject to the programs are submitted to annual catch limits/quotas, although the utilization of total allowable catches/catch limits is not connected with the quantities imported. In this connection, the possible over-fishing of the allocated catch limits/quotas can be established only at a later date, after communication of the National Reports.

Similarly, it has been noted that Flag States not benefiting from catch limits/quotas, validate statistical documents.

2.13 Cooperation and exchange of information between flag states and importing countries

The provisions relating to cooperation and exchange of information are dispersed between binding or not binding, including for similar fields, and the cooperation procedures are not defined.

The verification of the validity of the documents is only envisaged (in general and implicit terms) in the instruction sheets annexed to the forms of the documents, the same being parts of binding (BET and SWO) or non binding instruments (BFT).

Recommendation 02-22 also envisages cooperation between the importing and flag countries with a view to checking the authenticity and the validity of the documents, but it is limited to the operations of vessels of more than 24 meters.

Resolution 03-15 on trade measures makes the programs a tool of identification of suspected IUU fishing vessels, which implies the introduction of provisions for the adoption of exchange of information and verification.

There is no provision laying down cooperation between the countries concerned in the event of a validation request of a document for catches unloaded and dispatched in/from ports located outside the territory of the flag state. The same comment is true for the spontaneous notification of cases of non-respect concerning another party.

The system of exchange of information through the six monthly reports, which is governed by binding (BET and SWO) or non binding instruments (BFT), is no longer consistent with the needs of the management and conservation measures. Results are available at the annual meeting only five months after for the most recent consignment (June of the same year) and 17 months for the oldest one (July of the previous year), if all the deadlines are respected. The purpose of the semi-annual examination of the import and export data is not specified.³ Created in 1994, this system does not benefit from the secure communication systems which are widely used in other related systems (CDS–catch documentation scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. under CCAMLR).

There is no provision for cooperation between the countries concerned for the validation of a document for catches unloaded (for re-export) in transshipment ports or on ships not falling under the jurisdiction of the flag state.

2.14 Time period for the retention of documents

In the absence of standards in the recommendations, the duration for the retention of documents possibly laid down by the validation authorities and the authorities of the importing countries, can vary according to the national provisions on the matter.

³It does not take place in the absence of sufficient information.

2.15 Measures taken in the event of non-respect of the programs by the operators

In the absence of general provisions in the recommendations, the non-respect of the programs by operators means they may not be effective or may give rise to measures taken as a result of national law, either introduced following the adoption of the programs, or in violation of other standards.

The wording of the instructions sheets of the documents leaves great latitude to the national authorities in deciding which measures to take in the case of presentation of an "incorrectly completed" document (= missing, incomplete, invalid or forged), or the simple acceptance of an importation on the presentation of a new document when sanctions are imposed, administrative or otherwise. This situation could lead to divergent implementation of the programs, or even encourage their non-respect by the operators.

3. Conclusions and proposals

This analysis shows that programs need to be improved and completed on numerous points in order for them to fulfill their new role and strengthen their effectiveness.

This review is not exhaustive and should be continued within ICCAT in order to identify other possible areas for amendment. It does, however, identify and establish certain directions as regards the nature of the changes that need to be made.

Documents (items 2.2, 2.3, 2.13 and 2.14):

- Improvement of the security of the documents against forgery;
- Amendment of the forms so they become a tool that supports the exchange of information between parties leading to the good management of the programs;
- Definition of a minimum duration for the retention of documents by competent authorities and operators for control and verification purposes.

Validation (items 2.1, 2.4 and 2.5):

- Appointment and identification of public authorities with the necessary legal powers to implement the programs;
- Notification of the validating authorities at the time of entry into force of the programs;
- Adoption of a procedure of validation for documents validated retrospectively.

Scope of the programs (items 2.6, 2.11 and 2.12):

- Adoption of definitions for "import", "export" and "re-exportation" to ensure uniform implementation of the programs for all consignments which are subject to them, taking into account, notably, the case of the transactions undertaken beyond the jurisdiction of the validating authorities and that of the processed products.
- Consider the catch as the point where a statistical document should be created and no longer the export in order to improve the monitoring of catches and the use of the allowable catch limits.

Monitoring of the consignments (items 2.6, 2.7, 2.8 and 2.13):

- Improve information on the consignments in order to avoid the improper use of valid documents for products of IUU fishing and to facilitate reconciliation with foreign trade statistics

Clarification under the respective responsibilities of operators and of competent authorities (items 2.9 and 2.10):

- Reformulate the documents by fields of successive operations (fishing, export, import), each stage requiring an unreserved declaration by the responsible operator and replacement of the validation/guarantee of the Government authority by an authentication of these statements being correct at the time of the declaration.

Cooperation and exchange of information (item 2.13):

- Setting up a common cooperation mechanism for all the programs founded on a binding legal basis and consisting of a procedural framework adapted for the implementation of conservation and management measures, to apply equally to the control of the documents submitted at import as well as those submitted at the validation stage.

- Replacement of the six monthly reporting system by:
 - a mechanism for the exchange of information on a real-time basis established by a “monitoring” function given to the documents, aiming, in particular, to quickly detect possible discrepancies between the import and export/re-exportation data and to allow the countries concerned to take the appropriate measures,
 - an annual summary report, submitted to the ICCAT meeting, and drawn up by each Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, reporting their exports or imports and the results of verifications carried out or requested within the framework of the monitoring of the operations according to the mechanism presented above.

Non-respect of the programs by the operators (2.15):

- In order to facilitate the uniform implementation of the programs, define the treatment to be granted to consignments that are not in conformity, without prejudice to the measures that the countries concerned can take with regard to their operators in accordance with national law.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3.1 to ANNEX 4.2

List of the Recommendations and Resolutions Concerning the Statistical Documentation Schemes

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| – Resolution 93-02: | Validation of the documents by a governmental official |
| – Resolution 94-04: | Interpretation and application of the program |
| – Resolution 94-05: | Effective application (in particular on the exchange of information) |
| – Recommendation 96-10: | Validation between contracting parties members of the Community |
| – Recommendation 97-04: | Re-exportations |
| – Recommendation 98-12: | Validation by the Community Member States |
| – Supplemental Res. 01-23: | BETSD (document validation by Japan or Chinese Taipei for the vessels taking part in the destruction program of Japan) |
| – Recommendation 03-19: | Amendment of the document forms |

Addendum 2 to Appendix 3.1 to ANNEX 4.2

List of the Recommendations and Resolutions Referring to the Statistical Documentation Schemes

- Resolution 01-19 on the more effective measures aiming to prevent, combat and eliminate the IUU fishing of the tuna long line boats.
- Recommendation 02-22 on the establishment of an ICCAT register of the vessels measuring more than 24 meters permitted to operate in the area of the Convention.
- Recommendation 02-23 aiming at the establishment of a list of ships presumed to have carried out illegal, undeclared and un-regulated fishing activities (IUU) in the ICCAT Convention area.
- Resolution 03-15 concerning trade measures.

3.2 On the Implementation of Statistical Document Programs (SDP) (Japan)

The SDP, which was developed in 1992 to collect the information on non-Contracting Parties' fishing activities through monitoring international trade, made a significant contribution to ICCAT conservation effort for Atlantic bluefin and bigeye tunas and swordfish. The SDP has been serving as an indispensable tool for implementation of the positive listing scheme established in 2003.

The basic outline of the present SDP should be maintained since it is effectively working for eliminating IUU LSTLVs. However, it is also a fact that some logistical and/or practical problems come up after species subject to SDP were expanded and after other RFMOs started their own trade tracking programs. We will explain these problems and point out and suggest possible solutions to them as follows (see **Figures 1a and 1b**). In view of the great performance of the SDP so far, Japan does not see any need to change the fundamentals of the SDP.

1. Document Form

(1) Statistical Document form

Different tuna RFMOs defined subtly different SD forms for each species.

Suggestion

The RFMO variety can be standardized for simplification of the program. However, the form should be standardized for each species to accommodate its specific characteristics and product types. A trial to create a single form for all species will result in great practical difficulty to use it.

(2) Re-export Certificate form

Suggestion

For better checking of the Re-export Certificate for processed products, the Re-export Certificate form should include a column for describing document numbers of the statistical documents corresponding to the original material before processing. A column for the name of the fishing vessel that caught the fish should also be added.

2. Implementation

(1) Processing in tax-exempted areas

The instruction sheet of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate defines “re-export” as “passing through a country excluding tax-exempted area after export from the flag country”. According to this definition, products processed in a tax-exempted area are not subject to the Re-export Certificate. However, since the product type and weight are usually changed through processing, final products differ from the description on the original statistical document.

Suggestion

Processing in tax-exempted areas should be subject to the SDP. CPCs in whose territory tax-exempted areas exist should check the statistical documents attached to material fish at the point of entering the factories, and issue Re-export Certificates when products are exported after processing.

(2) Purse seine caught bigeye

The SDP is not applied to bigeye tuna taken by purse-seine vessels, because their catch weight and species composition can be identified only when the catch is being landed at processing factories or ports.

Suggestion

The catch amount of bigeye tuna should be monitored directly by other methods such as implementation of appropriate sampling programs at the specified unloading port. For the trade measures for the catch taken by purse seine vessels that undermine the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, an effective tool of a similar effect to the SDP should be developed separately.

(3) Fresh bigeye

Suggestion

Recently, tracing systems of animal meat products developed remarkably by tracking technologies using barcode and radio frequency IC tags. If these technologies are applied to tuna products, tunas in the market could be traced back to the point of fishing. Those systems are promising as an alternative to the SDP, and are a theme for a longer term study.

(4) Control of processing factories

Although the processed products like fillet and loin are subject to the SDP, the processing factories are not well controlled. Validity of the Re-export Certificate is hard to assess. It is usually impossible for a third party to verify link between a Re-export Certificate and attached copies of the Statistical Documents. This situation might encourage fish laundering activities through the processing.

Suggestion

To prevent the laundering activities of the longline catch in the processing factories, proper monitoring is required. For this purpose, management measures for processing factories should be adopted, which ensure that they use only material fish caught by the vessels on the ICCAT record.

(5) Verification of the information on the documents

The authorities of the import countries are required to check validity of the documents precisely to prevent tuna laundering by forgery of the documents. But the verification is difficult because the information on the documents issued by the export countries is not available on a real-time basis. Inquiries to the export countries from the import countries take much time in many cases because the national contact points are not specified. With regard to the fresh products, validity of the documents is checked in most cases after fish entered an import country to avoid quality degradation even if the doubtful document is attached.

Suggestion

If an import country and an export country could directly exchange information concerning each document, it would facilitate prompt checking of the documents. For this purpose, the contact point of each country's authorities should be registered, and a network for information exchange should be established. In addition, exporting countries should collect and provide to the Secretariat with the information on the document validated. This information will contribute to cross-checking of information by the importing countries. In the future, the validation may be made on the website.

3. Future improvements*(1) e-SD Program*

As mentioned above, an e-SDP will not only contribute to the improvement of checking of SDP but also to the speedup of the work and to the effective implementation of the SDP for fresh products. Aiming at the establishment of e-SDP in the future, the following pilot program should be developed.

- a) Export countries provide information on the documents validated on the secure location of the ICCAT website. Only the designated officers of each country's authority will be allowed to access the website. The document validated is given a serial document number by ICCAT Secretariat.
- b) Inspectors of import countries check documents submitted by importers with the information on the website.
- c) Products accompanied by the document that is consistent with information on the website will be allowed to enter to import countries.

(2) IC tags and other high-tech tracing systems

As mentioned in 2.(3), high-tech tracing systems are promising as an alternative tool to SDP, and are a theme for a longer term study. The following requirements are suggested for a new system.

- a) Fish is marked at the point of catch.
- b) Information on the marking is read and inspected at each stage of landing, processing and trade.
- c) The products not marked correctly are removed from the markets.

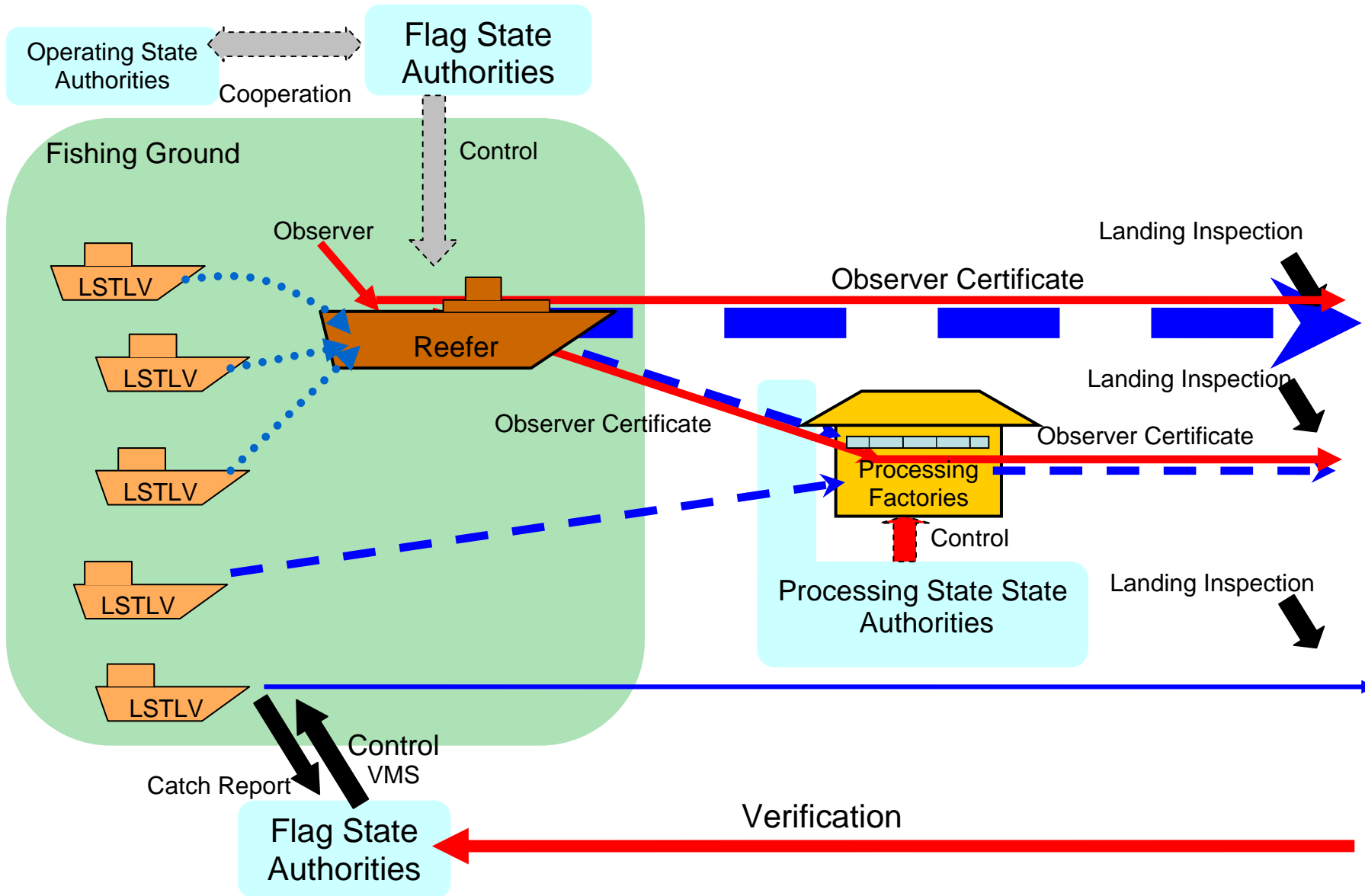


Figure 1a. Statistical Document Program and fishery management – Longline.

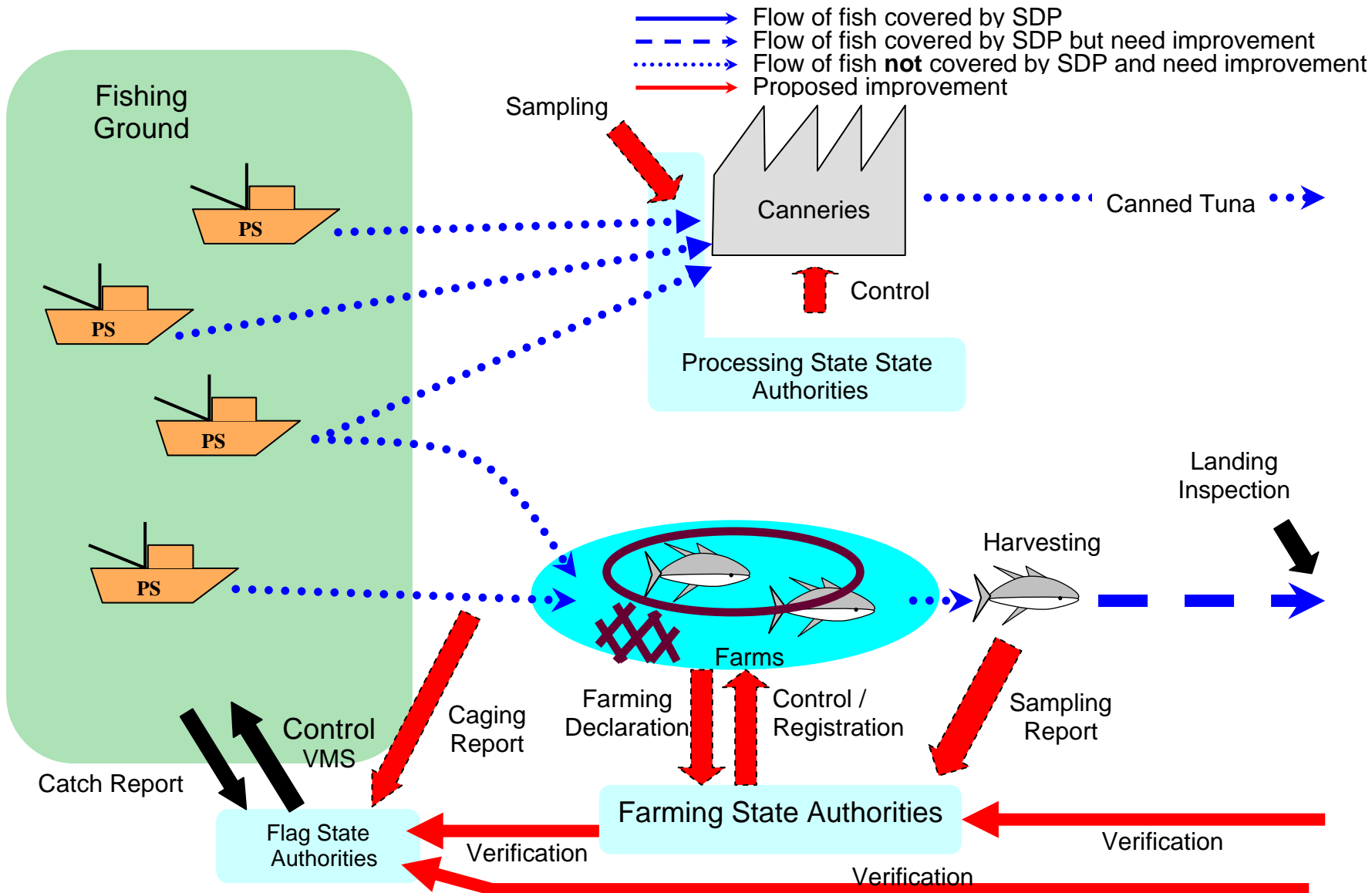


Figure 1b. Statistical Document Program and fishery management – Purse seine.

3.3 Questions Concerning the Recommendations and Resolutions Relating to ICCAT Statistical Document Programs (ICCAT Secretariat)

Introduction

While not directly concerned with the implementation of the statistical documents, nor with the interpretation of the provisions of the Recommendations and Resolutions, the Secretariat would like to take the opportunity at this meeting of the Working Group to Review the Statistical Monitoring Programs to list some difficulties encountered in the coordination of activities resulting from their implementation, with the aim of ensuring that the actions taken by the Secretariat are in accordance with the wishes of the Commission.

1. Coverage

Interpretative issues and problems relating to the coverage and resulting trade flows are discussed in the documents prepared by the EC and Japan. Please see documents SDP-03 and SDP-04. The Secretariat has also prepared a document relating to the data collected under the programs, please see document SDP-06.

One question relating to the coverage of the programs is the requirement of statistical documents for live fish for caging (see also section 4 below), as could be implied by Recommendation 94-04, paragraph 1.

2. Reporting requirements

A summary of the signatures, seals and sample forms received at the Secretariat are presented in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3.3**.

Current requirements do not specify the following, although some Contracting Parties have requested that information be provided.

- Sample signatures of the persons authorized to issue/ validate documents and re-export certificates.
- Date upon which such validating authority became authorized.
- Originals of information submitted. (Currently much information is submitted by fax, email, or in the form of photocopies, even where the accompanying letter states that original documents are being submitted).

The Secretariat would appreciate the clarification of whether or not the above-mentioned information is required.

All the programs require that “each Contracting Party shall provide the Executive Secretary sample forms of its statistical document and re-export certificate”, but very few have submitted such sample forms. Should the Secretariat actively request such samples from all parties submitting validation information, or is this only to be submitted where the ICCAT model is not being used?

3. Procedures for submissions

The Secretariat requests confirmation of the current understanding that submission of information in relation to the validation of documents and sample statistical documents should only be accepted either from the Head Delegate of a CPC, or through the Embassy of a Contracting Party.

No specifications exist for acceptance of information from non-Contracting Parties, although it is understood that such information should be submitted through a government office. Should such government office be the central authority, or can information from regional offices of the government authority be accepted?

4. Difficulties with instructions

Instructions for the completion of Statistical Documents are not very easy to understand, and the Secretariat has on occasion been asked for clarification. For example, where tuna is farmed, should the description of fish relate to the tuna at point of harvest before caging, or tuna taken from the cage? If the former, this would indicate that live fish

destined for caging are to be covered by the programs (see 1, coverage, above). Also, “Document number” is not defined or clarified, and the Secretariat has received questions in relation to completion of this section.

5. Non Contracting Party information

The current regulations provide that the Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties which import the species covered to co-operate with the implementation of the programs and to provide the Commission with data obtained from such implementation.

At present, NCPs are only requested to provide validation information and sample statistical documents, but information is only circulated to CPCs which means that non-CPCs importing fish cannot tell whether the accompanying statistical documents are authentic. The new web site is password protected for CPCs only, maintaining the *status quo*, which also means that non-Contracting Parties are unable to verify whether or not the information they submit has been correctly entered, as the data base extracts do not show the images of the signatures and the seals.

Are NCPs to be requested to report only export data, or also import data and re-export data for the species covered by the programs?

6. Validation data base practicalities

Depending on the answers to some of the above questions, new forms for the submission of authorized validating agents may need to be considered, particularly if signatures are to be a requirement. The current form does not contemplate the submission of signatures, although these have in some cases been included in the submissions received.

Where signatures have been submitted, the Secretariat is including these in the data base for publication on the web site. In some cases, officials have signed in a reduced space, resulting in an overlapping of the signatures. While the Secretariat makes every effort to separate these using image software, in some cases it is not possible to disentangle the signatures in a way which results in a reliable reproduction. If signatures are to be a requirement, this needs to be reflected on the form, and sufficient space allowed for the more flourishing autographs. In some cases, the same problem applies to the currently mandatory seals.

Where faxes or photocopies of information have been submitted, the quality is sometimes very poor, resulting in images of seals (and/or signatures) being no more than a faint smudge. If originals are a requirement, the quality may improve.

On entering the data, it has been found that some information specified on the current forms is sometimes missing. The data are being entered as submitted, and when available on the web site, Contracting Parties may verify their data and supply any additional information for completion of the entries.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3.3 to ANNEX 4.2

Summary of submissions of signatures, seals and sample forms for the ICCAT Statistical Documents (as of April 8, 2005)

	<i>BLUEFIN TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT</i>	<i>BIGEYE TUNA STATISTICAL DOCUMENT</i>	<i>SWORDFISH STATISTICAL DOCUMENT</i>	Sample document received	Original seals/signs received
<i>Contracting Parties</i>	LAST UPDATED	LAST UPDATED	LAST UPDATED		
Brazil	13 January 2005	13 January 2005	13 January 2005	No	No
Canada	NO	16 September 2003	16 September 2003	No	Partial
Cap-Vert	NO	NO	23 September 2004	No	Yes
China (People's Rep.)	29 November 2004	29 November 2004	29 November 2004	No	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire	NO	NO	7 April 2004	No	Yes
Croatia	3 July 2003	NO	NO	No	Yes
Ec-Cyprus	6 June 2003	NO	6 June 2003	Yes	Yes
Ec-Denmark	8 May 2004	NO	NO	Yes	No
Ec-France	24 September 2002	NO	NO	Yes	Partial
Ec-Greece	20 October 2003	20 October 2003	20 October 2003	Yes	No
Ec-Italy	10 February 2005	NO	NO	Yes	No
EC-Malta	19 February 2004	NO	19 February 2004	Yes	Yes
EC-Poland	8 April 1996	NO	NO	Yes	No
EC-Portugal	18 July 2003	18 July 2003	18 July 2003	Yes	No
EC-España	14 May 2003	14 May 2003	14 May 2003	Yes	No
EC-UK	8 December 1994	NO	NO	Yes	Partial
France (St. P&M)	14 August 2002	NO	NO	Yes	Yes
Gabon	NO	19 June 2003	19 June 2003	No	Yes
Guinea Ecuatorial	24 May 2000	NO	NO	Yes	Yes
Guinee (Rep.)	16 July 2003	16 July 2003	16 July 2003	No	Yes
Guatemala	11 August 2004	11 August 2004	11 August 2004	No	No
Honduras	NO	NO	23 July 2003	Yes	No
Iceland	23 April 2003	23 April 2003	23 April 2003	No	Yes
Japan	9 July 2004	9 July 2004	9 July 2004	No	Yes
Korea (Rep.)	1 April 2004	1 April 2004	1 April 2004	No	No
Libya	3 March 2003	NO	NO	No	No
Maroc	29 May 2003	29 May 2003	29 May 2003	No	Yes
Mexico	24 June 2004	24 June 2004	24 June 2004	No	Yes
Namibia	14 July 2003	14 July 2003	14 July 2003	No	Yes
Panama	10 April 2003	10 April 2003	10 April 2003	No	Yes
Philippines	23 June 2003	11 July 2002	23 June 2003	No	Yes
Senegal	12 August 2004	12 August 2004	12 August 2004	No	Yes
South Africa	7 August 2003	7 August 2003	7 August 2003	No	Yes
Tunisie	16 March 2005	NO	NO	No	Yes
Turkey	18 August 2004	NO	NO	No	Partial
Uk-ot	1 August 2002	1 August 2002	1 August 2002	No	Partial
United States	23 October 2003	23 October 2003	23 October 2003	No	No
Uruguay	17 January 2005	17 January 2005	17 January 2005	No	No
Venezuela	8 March 2004	8 March 2004	8 March 2004	No	Yes

Summary of submissions of signatures, seals and sample forms for the ICCAT Statistical Documents (as of April 8, 2005) cont.

<i>Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities</i>					
Chinese Taipei	20 January 2005	20 January 2005	20 January 2005	No	Yes
<i>Non-Contracting Parties</i>					
Argentina	26 February 1996	NO	NO	No	No
Australia	22 March 2005	22 March 2005	22 March 2005	Yes	No
Belize	31 March 2005	31 March 2005	31 March 2005	Yes	Yes
Chile	31 July 2003	31 July 2003	04 March 2005	No	Yes
Denmark-Faroe Is.	27 November 2000	NO	NO	No	No
Ecuador	NO	24 November 2004	24 November 2004	No	Yes
Fiji	19 May 2004	19 May 2004	19 May 2004	No	Yes
Indonesia	26 February 1996	NO	5 April 2004	No	No
Maldives	12 August 2004	12 August 2004	12 August 2004	No	Yes
Mauritius	13 July 2004	13 July 2004	13 July 2004	Will use ICCAT model	Yes
Seychelles	15 September 2004	15 September 2004	15 September 2004	No	Yes
Sierra Leone	22 January 2002	NO	22 January 2002	Yes	Yes
Sri Lanka	NO	NO	27 June 2003	No	Yes
Thailand	19 June 2003	19 June 2003	19 June 2003	No	Yes
United Arab Emirates	26 February 1996	NO	NO	No	No
Vietnam	NO	NO	27 January 2005	Will use ICCAT model	Yes

3.4 Overview of Statistical Document Program Data Reported to the Secretariat (ICCAT Secretariat)

1. Introduction

This document is an update of the “Bi-annual reports for statistical document programs” presented by the Secretariat during the last Commission meeting held in New Orleans in 2004. New information received after the meeting was used to estimate the quantities of bluefin, swordfish and bigeye reported through these programs.

2. Information submitted

According to Resolution [Res. 94-05] and Recommendations [Rec. 97-04], [Rec. 01-21], [Rec. 01-22] and [Rec. 03-19], all Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna and swordfish are required to report bi-annually to the Executive Secretary summaries of the information collected via the respective Statistical Document Programs. These data are the main source of information used to estimate the magnitude of unreported catches. **Table 1** lists all of the bi-annual reports submitted to the Secretariat over the past 12 years.

The reported quantities of bluefin, bigeye and swordfish imported, by flag and year, are summarized in **Tables 2 and 3**. Only data reportedly originating from the Atlantic and Mediterranean were included in these summaries. Data originating from unknown areas are summarized in **Tables 4 and 5**.

For bluefin tuna, the imported quantities that are reported as various product types were converted to live weight using the methodology adopted by the Sixth Meeting of the Joint GFCM-ICCAT ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean (Malta, 2002); these conversion factors used are summarized in **Table 6**. For bigeye and swordfish, no conversion was made from product weight to live weight because the Secretariat lacks the appropriate conversion factors to be used.

3. Problems encountered

One of the main problems encountered is the reporting of non-standard product types, such as "steak" and "block", for which no conversion factors are available. There are also no conversions factors available for swordfish and bigeye products. These problems add imprecision to estimates of unreported catches in terms of live weight.

The area of harvest is often missing in the bi-annual reports. This makes it impossible to attribute catches to a given stock or ocean.

In many cases, the bi-annual reports have been received in printed form only. Submission of electronic files would facilitate the incorporation of information into the database and avoid potential data-entry errors.

For some Contracting Parties, data have not been reported regularly and, in a few cases, data were reported in an unofficial ICCAT language.

Table 1a. Catalogue of biannual reports of ICCAT Statistical Documents (BFTSD, BETSD, and SWOSD) submitted (as of March 31, 2005).

Statistical Document	Party /Entity Fishing Entity	Year	Semester	Import by	First submission		Last revision		Standard format ?	Electronic data ?	on DB ?	Remarks		
					date	Ref	date	ref						
BFTSD (bluefin tuna)	EC	1994	1	EC-España	10/30/1995	1334						heterogeneous formats		
			2	Various	10/30/1995	1334						heterogeneous formats		
		1995	1	Various	10/30/1995	1334							heterogeneous formats	
			2	Various	11/27/2000	1542							heterogeneous formats	
		1999	1	Various	11/27/2000	1542							heterogeneous formats	
			2	Various	9/18/2001	1539							Heterogeneous	
	2000	1	Various											
		2	Various											
	2001	1	EC-España			5/22/2002	1048			X	X	X	s formats	
		2	EC-España			5/22/2002	1048			X	X	X		
	Japan	1993	1	Japan	11/18/1994	1603	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
			2	Japan	11/18/1994	1603	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
		1994	1	Japan	7/18/1995	834	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
			2	Japan	7/18/1995	834	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
		1995	1	Japan	10/2/1995	1227	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
			2	Japan	4/9/1996	671	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
		1996	1	Japan	10/7/1996	1951	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
			2	Japan	4/3/1997	459	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
		1997	1	Japan	10/6/1997	1577				X	X	X		
			2	Japan	4/20/1998	502	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X			
1998		1	Japan	10/19/1998	1424				X	X	X			
		2	Japan	10/17/2001	1204	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X				
1999		1	Japan	11/8/1999	1641				X	X	X			
		2	Japan	6/30/2000	897	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X				
2000		1	Japan	COM/00	Doc.1	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X				
		2	Japan	5/31/2001	662				X	X	X			
2001	1	Japan	10/22/2001	1737	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X					
	2	Japan	4/12/2002	814				X	X	X				
2002	1	Japan	10/9/2002	1905				X	X	X				
	2	Japan	4/2/2003	452	9/25/2003			X	X	X				
2003	1	Japan	10/1/2003	1869				X	X	X				
	2	Japan	3/31/2004	479				X	X	X				
2004	1	Japan	9/30/2004	2194				X	X	X				
Korea	1995	1	Korea, Rep.	06-11-1995	1370	08-11-1995	1390	X		X				
		2	Korea, Rep.	14-11-1996	2154			X		X				
	1996	1	Korea, Rep.	14-11-1996	2154				X		X			
		2	Korea, Rep.	07-05-1997	488			X		X				
	1997	2	Korea, Rep.	26-02-1998	257			X		X				
	2003	1	Korea, Rep.	10/20/2003	2001				X	X	X			
		2	Korea, Rep.	4/1/2004	487				X	X	X			
	2004	1	Korea, Rep.	9/30/2004	2189				X	X	X			
2		Korea, Rep.	3/30/2005	597				X	X	X				
USA	1995	1	USA	11/10/1995	1392				X			Covers only period April-June		
		2	USA	COM/97					X					
	1996	1	USA	COM/97						X				
		2	USA	COM/97						X				
	1997	1	USA	12/10/1997	1859				X					
		2	USA	4/8/1998	474	11/12/1998			X					
	1998	1	USA	11/12/1998					X					
		2	USA	4/5/1999	632				X					
	1999	1	USA	9/7/2001	1493					X	X		From detailed statistical docs	
		2	USA	4/10/2000	478	9/7/2001	1493			X	X		Revision from detailed statistical docs	
	2000	1	USA	9/25/2000	1256	9/25/2001	1600			X	X		Revision from detailed statistical docs	
		2	USA	4/23/2001	699	9/25/2001	1600			X	X		Revision from detailed statistical docs	
	2001	1	USA	9/26/2001	1673	10/24/2002	2056			X	X		Revision from detailed statistical docs	
		2	USA	4/8/2002	712	10/24/2002	2056			X	X		Revision from detailed statistical docs	
	2002	1	USA	10/24/2002	2056	12/9/2003	2398			X	X		Revision from annual summaries	
		2	USA	4/15/2003	520	12/9/2003	2398			X	X			
2003	1	USA	10/9/2003	1911				X		X				
	2	USA	4/21/2004	634				X		X				
2004	1	USA	4/27/2005	694				X		X				
Chinese Taipei	2003	1	Chinese Taipei	9/26/2003	1818				X	X				
	2004	1	Chinese Taipei	10/11/2004	2249				X	X				
Tunisie	2004	1	Tunisie	9/7/2004	1910					X				
Turkey	2004	1	Turkey	5/2/2005	880				X		X			
		2	Turkey	5/2/2005	880				X		X			
BETSD (bigeye tuna)	Japan	2003	1	Japan	10/1/2003	1869			X	X	X			
			2	Japan	3/31/2004	479			X	X	X			
		2004	2	Japan	9/30/2004	2194			X	X	X			
	Chinese Taipei	2003	1	Chinese Taipei	9/26/2003	1818				X	X			
			2	Chinese Taipei	5/20/2004	1041				X	X			
		2004	1	Chinese Taipei	10/11/2004	2249				X	X			
			2	Chinese Taipei	4/14/2005	718				X	X			
	Korea	2003	1	Korea, Rep.	10/20/2003	2001				X	X	X		
2			Korea, Rep.	4/1/2004	487				X	X	X			
2004		1	Korea, Rep.	9/30/2004	2189				X	X	X			
		2	Korea, Rep.	3/30/2005	597				X	X	X			
Thailand	2002	2	?	4/9/2003	486				X	X	X	No import country		
	2003	2	Thailand	4/28/2004	720				X	X	X			
SWOSD (swordfish)	Japan	2003	1	Japan	10/1/2003	1869				X	X	X		
			2	Japan	3/31/2004	479				X	X	X		
		2004	1	Japan	9/30/2004	2194				X	X	X		
	Korea	2003	1	Korea, Rep.	10/20/2003	2001				X	X	X		
			2	Korea, Rep.	4/1/2004	487				X	X	X		
2004	1	Korea, Rep.	9/30/2004	2189					X	X	X			
	2	Korea, Rep.	3/30/2005	597					X	X	X			

NOTE: Morocco and Mexico also informed the Secretariat that no BFT, BET or SWO have been imported by their countries during 2003.

Table 1b. Catalogue of biannual reports of ICCAT Re-Export Certificates (BFTRC, BETRC and SWORC) submitted (as of March 31, 2005).

Statistical Document	Party /Entity Fishing Entity	Year	Semester	Import by	First submission		Last revision		Standard format ?	Electronic data ?	On DB ?	Remarks
					Date	Ref	Date	Ref				
BFTRC (Bluefin)	Japan	1999	1	Japan	11/8/1999	1641			X	X	X	
			2	Japan	6/30/2000	897	10/31/2001	1803	X	X	X	
	2000	1	Japan	COM/00	Doc.1	10/31/2001	1803		X	X	X	
		2	Japan	5/31/2001	662			X	X	X		
	2001	1	Japan	10/22/2001	1737	10/31/2001	1803		X	X	X	
		2	Japan	4/12/2002	814			X	X	X		
	2002	1	Japan	10/9/2002	1905				X	X	X	
		2	Japan	4/2/2003	452	9/25/2003			X	X	X	
	2003	1	Japan	10/1/2003	1869				X	X	X	
		2	Japan	3/31/2004	479				X	X	X	
	2004	1	Japan	9/30/2004	2194				X	X	X	
	Korea	2003	1	Korea, (Rep.)	10/20/2003	2001			X	X	X	
			2	Korea, (Rep.)	4/1/2004	487			X	X	X	
2004		1	Korea, (Rep.)	9/30/2004	2189			X	X	X		
		2	Korea, (Rep.)	3/30/2005	597			X	X	X		
USA	1999	1	USA	9/7/2001	1493				X	X	From detailed statistical docs	
		2	USA	4/10/2000	478	9/7/2001	1493		X	X	Revision from detailed statistical docs	
	2000	1	USA	9/25/2000	1256	9/25/2001	1600		X	X		
		2	USA	4/23/2001	699	9/25/2001	1600		X	X	Revision from detailed statistical docs	
	2001	1	USA	9/26/2001	1673	10/24/2002	2056		X	X	Revision from detailed statistical docs	
		2	USA	4/8/2002	712	10/24/2002	2056		X	X	Revision from detailed statistical docs	
	2002	1	USA	10/24/2002	2056	12/9/2003	2398		X	X	Revision from annual summaries	
		2	USA	4/15/2003	520	12/9/2003	2398		X	X		
	2003	1	USA	10/9/2003	1911				X	X		
		2	USA	4/21/2004	634				X	X		
2004	2	USA	4/27/2004	694				X	X			
Chinese Taipei	2004	2	Chi Taipei	4/14/2005	718			X	X			
BETRC (Bigeye)	Japan	2003	1	Japan	10/1/2003	1869			X	X	X	
			2	Japan	3/31/2004	479			X	X	X	
		2004	1	Japan	9/30/2004	2194			X	X	X	
	Korea, (Rep.)	2003	1	Korea, (Rep.)	10/20/2003	2001			X	X	X	
			2	Korea, (Rep.)	9/30/2004	2189			X	X	X	NO imports reported
		2004	2	Korea, (Rep.)	3/30/2005	597			X	X	X	
Thailand	2002	2	Thailand	4/9/2003	486						NO import country	
	2003	2	Thailand	4/28/2004	720			X		X		
SWORC (Swordfish)	Japan	2003	1	Japan	10/1/2003	1869			X	X	X	
			2	Japan	3/31/2004	479			X	X	X	
		2004	1	Japan	9/30/2004	2194			X	X	X	
	Korea, (Rep.)	2003	1	Korea, (Rep.)	4/1/2004	487			X	X		NO re-exports reported
			2	Korea, (Rep.)	4/1/2004	487			X	X		NO re-exports reported
		2004	1	Korea, (Rep.)	9/30/2004	2189			X	X		NO re-exports reported
2004	2	Korea, (Rep.)	3/30/2005	597			X	X				

NOTE: Morocco and Mexico also informed the Secretariat that no BFT, BET or SWO have been re-exported through their countries during 2003.

Table 2. Bluefin tuna trade (product weight – t). Unclassified areas not included.

Source	Rep-Flag	Import Flag	FlagName	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004		
SD	EC	EC	Maroc									198					
			Tunisie										1201				
	Japan	Japan	Algerie				0										
			Belize	145	399												
			Brazil									15					
			Canada		369	562	573	462	530	505	383	370	422	389	1		
			China, (People's Rep.)					57	33	93	53	121	38	57	27		
			Chinese Taipei		696	502	472	504	307	249	64	601	366	36	370		
			Croatia				35	406	281	344	856	1277	2216	2945	3001		
			EC.Cyprus		0	0						18		11	5	0	
			EC.España	301	8448	9486	4813	5841	4472	8709	6895	7975	8517	7230	5560		
			EC.France		485	868	2964	3691	1953	99	313	432	103	140	72		
			EC.Greece		344	414	433	538	350	286	304	300	397	90	28		
			EC.Ireland						3	3	10	13	9	7	1		
			EC.Italy	112	1046	2061	2221	2109	4315	6856	4027	1004	2567	1164	1028		
			EC.Malta		121	291	221	249	53	84	87	213	9	310	133		
			EC.Portugal	10	432	362	396	178	327	146	90	173	122	5	1		
			EC.United Kingdom			1											
			Faroe Islands								57	70	128	38			
			France + Spain													429	
			Guinea Bissau								66						
			Guinea Ecuatorial						866	333	518	160					
			Guinée (Rep.)		283	430	243	399	428								
			Honduras	104													
			Iceland									28	30	5			
			Israel												2	3	1
			Italy + Spain													19	
			Korea (Rep.)		86	74	32	248	110								
			Libya		37			26	236	262	514	344	216	518	147		
			Maroc	72	443	291	511	871	2088	579	1536	2507	921	1196	147		
			Mexico			3	2	1	1	3	8	2	2	6	1		
			Norway									4					
			Panama	467	1057	1281	841	674									
			Sierra Leone											377	128		
	South Africa													1			
	Tunisie						1289	589	956	693	623	535	358	279	643		
	Turkey					94	140	163	369	417	336	534	512	1405	1770	2602	
	U.S.A.					1062	854	841	995	829	933	941	1021	924	729	49	
	UK, Bermuda								1								
	Korea	Korea	Canada			0										4	
			Chinese Taipei													134	
			Croatia													31	
			EC.España			273	254	251								134	5
			EC.France			17	111	118								36	
			EC.Italy					43								52	
			EC.Malta													164	80
			EC.Portugal													10	
			Guinea Ecuatorial					17									
			Japan							1						88	32
			Korea (Rep.)				65										
			Libya													34	
			Maroc				53	38	196							521	52
			Panama				107		195								
Tunisie						117							24				
Turkey													12	1			
U.S.A.					1	1	0										
Tunisie	Tunisie	EC.France												1490			
Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei	EC.España													0		
		EC.France													0		
		EC.Italy												1			
		EC.Malta													0		
		Maroc													0		
USA	USA	Brazil											0				
		Canada							43	157	119	168	130				
		Croatia								0	2		11				
		EC.Cyprus									9	12	3				
		EC.España								102	183	295	352	333			
		EC.France								2	4	1					
		EC.Greece								3	4	31	15	9			
		EC.Italy								37	36	47	31	40			
		EC.Malta													0		
		EC.Portugal									0						
		Maroc									0						
		Mexico									5	15	9	5	1		
		Tunisie									9	23	7	1			
Turkey											71	5	46				

Table 2 cont. Bluefin tuna trade (product weight – t). Unclassified areas not included.

Source	Rep-Flag	Import_Flag	FlagName	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004			
RC	Japan	Japan	Chinese Taipei											134	5			
			Croatia										2					
			EC.España								185	31	68	186	57			
			EC.France								2131	690	386	324	153	2568		
			EC.France + Libya														440	
			EC.Italy								6	385	1654	3632	3851	1929		
			EC.Malta								150	78	79	18	67			
			France + Spain															407
			Libya											239	317	41		
			Maroc									81	281	396	728	411	211	
			Sierra Leone											11	7			
			Tunisie											187	40	1200	8	
			Turkey															30
				USA	Canada	EC.España										0	0	
	Mexico											0						
		Japan	Canada									1		1	2	1		
			EC.España									6	6	1	1			
			EC.Italy												1			
			Mexico									3	7	1				
	Grand Total				1067	15271	19254	16473	19997	18144	23585	19479	22832	24572	26544	19581		

SD: Statistical Document direct import; RC: Re-Export Certificate re-export product.

Table 3. Bigeye and swordfish trade (product weight in t).

Species	Source	Rep Flag	Import Flag	Flag Name	2003	2004		
BET	SD	Japan	Japan	China (People's Rep.)	7909	3443		
				Chinese Taipei	17818	9285		
				EC. España	10			
				Korea (Rep.)	122	280		
				Philippines	649	1026		
				Korea (Rep.)	Korea (Rep.)	Angola		20
				China, People's Republic of	8			
				Chinese Taipei	263	203		
				Japan	4			
				Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei	Japan	0	1
				BET Total				
SWO	SD	Japan	Japan	China (People's Rep.)	18	12		
				Chinese Taipei	189	331		
				EC. España	57			
				Israel	0			
				Korea, Rep.	63	23		
				New Zealand	0			
				Philippines	26	31		
				South Africa	7			
				Uruguay	4			
				Korea (Rep.)	Korea (Rep.)	Angola		2
				EC. España				9
South Africa				3				
SWO Total					368	407		

Table 4. Bigeye tuna and swordfish unclassified areas (product weight in t).

Species	Source	Rep Flag	Import Flag	Flag Name	2003	2004
BET	RC	Korea (Rep.)	Korea (Rep.)	China (People's Rep.)		3
				Chinese Taipei		1
				Japan	22	
				Korea (Rep.)	162	
				Seychelles	25	
BET Total					210	4
SWO	SD	Japan	Japan	Australia	55	11
SWO Total					55	11

Table 5. Bluefin tuna trade data (round weight in t), unclassified area.

<i>Source</i>	<i>Rep-Flag</i>	<i>Import-Flag</i>	<i>Export-Flag</i>	2003	2004
SD	Korea (Rep.)	Korea (Rep.)	Japan	0	
RC	Korea (Rep.)	Japan	Chinese Taipei		5
			EC.France		32
			Maroc		153
		Korea (Rep.)	Chinese Taipei	80	3
			Croatia		28
			EC.España	144	94
			EC.France	9	38
			EC.Italy	60	111
			EC.Malta	11	10
			Japan	1	10
			Libya	47	15
			Maroc	336	22
			Tunisie		3
			Turkey	1	39
Grand Total				688	564

SD: Statistical Document direct import; RC: Re-Export Certificate re-export product.

Table 6. Conversion factors used for bluefin tuna.

	<i>BM</i>	<i>DR</i>	<i>FL</i>	<i>GG</i>	<i>OT</i>	<i>RD</i>
Wild	10.28	1.25	1.67	1.16	2	1
Farm	1	1.25	1.67	1.16	2	1

BM: Belly meat
 DR: Dressed weight
 FL: Fillets
 GG: Gilled & Gutted
 OT: Other products
 RD: Round weight

3.5 On Implementing ICCAT Statistical Document Programs (Chinese Taipei)

I. Introduction

It has been more than 10 years since the implementation of Statistical Document (SD) Programs in ICCAT. The goals of these programs are not only for collecting catch statistics, but also for monitoring the implementation of quota allocated to individual parties. The SD programs apply to southern bluefin tuna and swordfish at the beginning and further apply to bigeye tuna. The programs did reach achievement in some parts, however; loopholes have been found and need to be improved.

It is appreciated that the EC made efforts to analyze and sum up those loopholes in its report distributed around the table. This report has made it easier for us to review and find out ways for improvement. The measures relevant to SD programs taken by other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) could serve as a reference in terms of collecting catch statistics and monitoring quota management. In fact, we have noticed that the Secretariat started to improve the efficiency of SD programs by introducing modern technology. And we see this as the first step for cooperation among export states and import states. The export states put sample seals of their authorized officials to issue SD on the website, and the import states could simply access those sample seals for verifying the SDs they received. Even though it is not easy to fully implement this kind of modern technology in this regard, however it started the first step.

II. Suggestions for improvement in short term

Considering the necessity of introducing modern technology to improve efficiency of the SDP, we suggest establishing electronic files for recording essential information relevant to the SDs issued. The information could include country code, year code, species code, serial number for the SD issued, and quantity. Those electronic files could be managed by the export states themselves, and open to import states for access and filling in the amount they actually imported. This will help to understand the major portion of actual catch by controlling the first landings and contribute to management measures taken, even though it is still not able to trace the final destination of those catch.

III. Suggestions for improvement in long term

In the long term, it is suggested that a real time system for verifying each consignment could be established on the web. The system could mainly include the following items.

- (1) It is suggested that the ICCAT Secretariat establish and maintain this website.
- (2) The export states will be required to input information contained in each statistical document issued.
- (3) The import states could access the said website to verify the SD they receive to find out possible fake SDs.
- (4) After the consignment is actually imported to the import state, the import state should fill in the actual amount of this consignment imported via the website and transmitted to the export state. The purpose is to double check the precise information through cooperation of import and export states.

IV. Reinforcing the duties of import states

Since import states with non-CPC status may not require SDs for imported consignments or they are not authorized to access the sample seals or signature of authorized officials, loopholes for collecting those consignments may therefore exist. The following measures may help in this regard:

- (1) The Secretariat, through the report of CPCs or communication with other RFMOs for example, needs to find out all the possible import states.
- (2) The Secretariat needs to contact non-CPC states to request their respect of the SD programs in light of conserving fisheries resources.
- (3) ICCAT could open the access of above-mentioned real time verifying system to those non-CPC states committed to respect ICCAT SD programs or those implement SD programs of other RFMOs.
- (4) All the ICCAT CPCs need to be informed with a list of import/export states that are reluctant to respect the ICCAT SD programs. Therefore, the ICCAT CPCs could pay more attention to those states as they import or export fish of concerned.

V. Improvement for re-export in the long-term

As for re-export through importation and thereafter processing, it is difficult and much less efficient to trace back. The major reason is that an original SD issued tends to be repeatedly used for re-export as the fish had been treated into diverse types of product, segmented amounts, and in several batches. The flow path mentioned in paragraph III could be followed for cases of re-export, and the trade flow of each consignment could therefore be transparent.

VI. Expanding SDPs to other fisheries

The current SDPs only apply to captured frozen tunas. The trade amount of cultured tunas or tunas caught by purse seiners has not been reported in an integrated manner through bi-annual reports. Furthermore, it is out of the monitoring of SDPs for catches from fishing states that do not export their fish. It is necessary to consider the expansion of the SDPs to other fisheries and fishing states that don't export their fish.

VII. Further processing for data from bi-annual reports

We think it is important that the Secretariat has been providing amounts of import by individual CPCs. It will be even helpful if the Secretariat could compile those individual data and make it similar to the format of compliance table.

Draft Guidelines, Definitions and Declarations (EC)

Part I – Verification guidelines for the Statistical Documents and Re-export Certificates

In order to ensure the legal security of operators and equal treatment in the application of the programs, the latter should include a set of standards to be followed during prior and post-clearance verifications of Statistical Documents and Re-export Certificates, the key points of which are outlined below.

1.1 Verification prior to endorsement of Statistical Documents and Re-export Certificates

The conditions laid down in the license must tally with the type of certificate applied for.

Verification of catch area using VMS (for all vessels concerned by Recommendations 04-11 and 03-14) or, failing this, of all information regarding vessels' movements.

Verification of types, codes and quantities of products by physical inspection

Verification of transport data

1.2 Post-clearance verification of Statistical Documents and Re-export Certificates

The aim of post-clearance verifications is to have the documents and products checked by the authorities responsible for the territory in cases where there are grounds for doubting the authenticity of a Statistical Document or Re-export Certificate. The results of checks must allow the requesting authority to take a reasoned decision to accept or refuse a landing, import, export or re-export operation.

Pending the results of the requested check, the requesting authority cannot allow the consignment to be sent on.

The results of the check must be notified within a set time limit.

1.3 Grounds for doubt exist in particular in the following situations:

Where the seal used by the authorities to endorse the document shows differences compared with that notified and these differences cannot be cleared up by a check using the data base on the validation authorities kept by the ICCAT Executive Secretary;

Where the operator's signature is lacking;

Where the signature of the authority endorsing the document or the date is lacking;

Where the details relating to the identification of the catch or consignment (examples may include (non-exhaustive list): the catch area, the type of product or of fishing gear, the quantity or the means of transport) are lacking;

Where the consignment, catch or other accompanying documents include details that raise doubts about the accuracy of the particulars declared on the Statistical Documents or Re-export certificates may include (non-exhaustive list): markings on packages that relate to other vessels or another country, discrepancies between particulars relating to transport and catch area);

Where there is other factual information that raises doubts about the accuracy of the particulars declared on the Statistical Documents or Re-export Certificates, examples may include (non-exhaustive list): information referring to another flag of the fishing vessel or its presence in a port or fishing zone the positions of which do not tally with the declarations on these documents).

Part II – Definition of terms "export", "import" and "re-export" and other operations carried out under the programs

Adopt definitions of terms to ensure uniform application of the programs at each phase in movements and tracking of the products concerned (irrespective of their tax or customs status), including consignments not dispatched from the territory of the validation authorities and of processed products.

Port State: the State with jurisdiction over a particular port area or free zone with a view to landing, import, export or re-export, whose authorities act as certification authorities for the landings.

Export: any movement of a product as a catch, without further processing or after processing, from the State (including their fishing vessels) or free zone or, where that State or free zone is part of a customs union, from any Member State of that customs union.

Import: the placing of a product under the supervision of the customs authorities of a port State following its export or re-export.

Re-export: any movement of a product as a catch, without further processing or after processing, from an importing State, free zone or Member State of a customs union.

Transshipment: the unloading of a catch, without further processing or after processing, from a fishing vessel onto another vessel or another means of transport, with the prior authorization of the flag State of the fishing vessel.

The "customs" terms (export, import and re-export) are defined in order to ensure that all trade is covered by the programs, whatever the customs or tax regimes under which they are placed, and the other definitions have the same objectives:

Landing: to include all catches within the scope of the programs in view of their value as an instrument for monitoring fishing activities

Transshipment: to make it easier for the flag State to check products for transshipment, the documents for which it must validate.

Part III – Declarations by operators and endorsements by authorities

III.1 Operators (all)

"I, undersigned, declare that the consignment described above meets the conditions required for the issue of this certificate"

Date and place

Name, position, signature and address

III.2 Authorities (all)

"Declaration certified"

Date and place

Name, position, signature and authority's identification seal

4.3 REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE KEY CONTACTS OF THE WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPENDIUM OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (Madrid, Spain, June 27-28, 2005)

1. Opening of the Meeting

Mr. Carlos Dominguez, as Chair, opened the meeting and gave the floor to Mr. Driss Meski, Executive Secretary, who welcomed all the participants to the Secretariat and wished them a successful meeting. Mr. Meski noted that the task of consolidating the ICCAT management and conservation measures would provide a useful tool for the Commission and would help in the requests for RFMO evaluation, which was becoming increasingly important in various international fora.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3**.

2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed to serve as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3**, was adopted without modification.

4. Review of response from the Commission regarding interpretative issues

The group reviewed the Report of the First Meeting of the Key Contacts, in which several interpretative issues had been brought to the attention of the Commission in 2004. There had not been sufficient time to deal with these issues in depth at the 2004 meeting of the Commission, but it was noted that many of them were no longer relevant following the adoption of new management measures in 2004. It was agreed that the group would try to facilitate the work of the Commission by offering possible solutions to those issues which remained pending, and that these tentative interpretations would be submitted to the Commission for approval.

1. In relation to the treatment of artisanal longline and purse seine marlin fisheries, it had been agreed by the Commission that these fisheries were not included in the restrictions stipulated in the marlin rebuilding plan. The definition of small scale artisanal fisheries was now required, and would be considered under Agenda item 5.2.1.
2. The group recognized that the rules pertaining to the treatment of under-harvest and over-harvests remained complex for some species. From the current regulations in force, the group was of the opinion that under-harvest of southern swordfish could not be carried over. It was suggested that this issue be clarified, and that clearer rules were needed.
3. It was agreed that the wording of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2004-2006* [Rec. 03-06], indicated that the 200 t catch limit for northern albacore for those Contracting Parties without a specific quota was subject to the carry-over provisions of paragraph 6.
4. The group reviewed the implications of operative paragraph 4 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning conservation of western bluefin tuna*. [Rec. 02-07] on the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding program for west Atlantic bluefin tuna* [Rec. 98-07], and believed that no revised calculations were required. It was agreed that the Secretariat would make the necessary changes in the text of the abridged compendium in accordance with the decisions of the group.
5. It was noted that the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning a limit on bluefin tuna minimum size and fishing mortality* [Rec. 74-01] on minimum size limits for bluefin tuna no longer being in force resulted in the minimum size for western bluefin tuna being 30 kg with an 8% tolerance limit for fish under that size.

6. In relation to bigeye tuna, it was noted that under operative paragraph 7 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-year conservation and management program for bigeye tuna* [Rec. 04-01], the catch limit for those CPCs who had caught less than 2100 t in 1999 was not clear. The paragraph was open to interpretation, and the group considered that the treatment of increases in catches by these fisheries was perhaps contemplated by the provisions of *Recommendation by ICCAT on the bigeye tuna conservation measures for fishing vessels larger than 24m length overall (LOA)* [Rec. 98-3], paragraph 7, which states that "...parties recognize that further action may be required, consistent with the need to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries resources."

As regards the other questions which had arisen at the first meeting of the Key Contacts, the following answers were proposed:

- a) The words "Contracting Party" would be replaced by "Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity" (CPCs), unless it was clear from the context that this was not intended.
- b) The word "country" would be replaced by the phrase "parties, entities or fishing entities" unless it was clear from the context that this was not intended.
- c) The Secretariat would highlight instances in the text where binding language was used in a Resolution and non-binding language in a Recommendation, but that any changes in such language would only be made at the request of the Commission.
- d) The terms of reference of the Compliance Committee would be modified to replace the phrase "Bluefin Statistical Document Program" by "Statistical Document Programs". It was further suggested that the terms of reference of the Compliance Committee be reviewed by that Committee to ensure that its mandate reflected current needs.

5. Review of the October 2004 Abridged Compendium

Dr. Victor Restrepo, the Assistant Executive Secretary, gave a brief review of the work carried out in 2004, and indicated the areas on which further work was required.

5.1 Review of structure

5.1.1 General Outline

It was agreed that an additional section within each species Article would be added to take account of possible species specific monitoring and control measures which did not fall within the existing sections.

For clarity, it was decided that the headings "Effort limits" would be changed to "Effort and capacity limits" throughout the compendium.

A brief introduction would be added at the beginning of each species Article to indicate whether a "Management Plan" or "Rebuilding Plan" was currently in force.

5.1.2 Placement of Resolutions vs. Recommendations

The group recognized the importance of separating the Resolutions from the Recommendations, but considered that locating these in a separate Article would reduce the ease of reference. It was agreed that a sub-article containing Resolutions would be added to each Article, with headings as appropriate, which would result in all management measures in relation to each species and topic being compiled into one Article, while maintaining the distinction between binding and non-binding measures.

It was suggested that the Commission examine the texts of Resolutions from time to time to determine their continued relevance.

5.2 Review of contents

5.2.1 Definitions

The group were of the opinion that defining terms out of context may lead to interpretations which were not intended at the time of drafting, and suggested that definitions be determined within the context of each Recommendation as necessary in the future. They recognized a need, however, for the definition of artisanal fisheries within the ICCAT context, and suggested the Commission consider this issue, and that several possible definitions had been put forward, at the Commission's request, by the Secretariat as a basis for the discussions.

The group recognized that the Secretariat had responded to the Commission Chairman's request to work on the definition of terms, but felt that this work could not be advanced by the Key Contacts. The Secretariat's working document would be forwarded to the Commission for discussion, and that the Commission should decide on the necessity of definitions and develop a forum in which such definitions could be drawn up.

5.2.2. Chapters I-V

The Secretariat distributed a list of Recommendations and Resolutions which had become obsolete following the entry into force of the 2004 measures, or which were time-specific and had expired. (Attached as **Appendix 3**) The group reviewed this list and agreed to remove all the operative paragraphs contained in these measures, with the exception of Rec. 01-13. It was agreed that this was still in force, and that this Recommendation limited the scope of Rec. 00-14, and that this limitation currently applied to south Atlantic swordfish, in which fishery under-harvests could not be carried over as no provision had been made in the management recommendation relating to that species.

5.2.3 Appendices

The group reviewed and approved the list of appendices. It was agreed that the Compliance Tables would be included as an appendix to take account of adjusted quotas.

In relation to the summary of adjustment years, it was considered that such a table was helpful, but that these should also appear in Articles relating to individual species, for clarity.

It was agreed that a minor revision of the vessel sighting sheet would be proposed to take account of current measures, and that this would be included in the formats to be put forward for adoption.

The need for standard formats was recognized and it was agreed that the development and adoption of formats was an administrative matter which should be discussed by the Commission. The importance of the possibility of electronic submission of information when adopting reporting formats was stressed. It was agreed that the Secretariat would finalize the formats of the information required for presentation at the 2005 meeting.

The group noted that no formats had been developed for the reporting of transshipments or for the port inspection scheme.

6. Inclusion of 2004 Resolutions and Recommendations

The group examined the operative paragraphs of the measures adopted in 2004 and indicated where they should be placed within the abridged compendium. It was agreed that the Secretariat would incorporate these, in accordance with the decisions of the group, into a revised version of the draft abridged compendium.

7. Recommended work plan and process for completing the revised Compendium

It was agreed that on the basis of the decisions taken at the 2nd meeting of the Key Contacts, the Secretariat would revise the draft abridged compendium and send it to the participants for review before the end of July 2005. Comments would be received and incorporated by mid-August, and a tri-lingual version would be prepared for circulation in September. An introductory preface would be prepared in conjunction with the Chairman of the Working Group.

The paragraphs which the group considered no longer active, but where it was recognized that different views may exist, would be highlighted and brought to the attention of the Working Group, as would solutions put forward on discussion items by the key contacts.

The Secretariat would cross reference the abridged compendium with the current active compendium, to ensure that there had been no inadvertent exclusion of any measures, given that the aim was to present a complete text, which would have binding force.

A meeting of the Working Group would be arranged for November 13, 2005 to discuss any substantive matters which may arise before presentation of the abridged compendium to the Commission for adoption.

The key contact group recognized that several important issues remained to be decided, particularly in relation to the process for adopting the abridged compendium, and in relation to the adoption and incorporation of future measures into the text.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted by correspondence, as agreed.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of response from the Commission regarding interpretative issues
5. Review of the October 2004 Abridged Compendium
 - 5.1 Review of structure
 - 5.1.1 General outline
 - 5.1.2 Placement of Resolutions vs. Recommendations
 - 5.2 Review of contents
 - 5.2.1 Definitions
 - 5.2.2 Chapters I-V
 - 5.2.3 Appendices
6. Inclusion of 2004 Resolutions and Recommendations
7. Recommended work plan and process for completing the revised Compendium
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report
10. Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3

Recommendations and Resolutions not active after June 13, 2005

74-01 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Limit on Bluefin Tuna Minimum Size and Fishing Mortality
Expressly stated in 04-07

79-01 Recommendation by ICCAT on a Bigeye Tuna Size Limit
Expressly stated in 04-01

- 93-10 Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Ratification of the Madrid Protocol
Protocol has entered in to force
- 94-08 Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas
Superseded by 02-22. Key contacts of compendium group were in agreement with Secretariat
- 95-10 Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Implementation of an Alternative Option for the Conservation of Undersized Atlantic Swordfish and the Reduction of Fishing Mortality
Agreed by Key contacts 2004
- 95-14 Format Adopted by the Commission for Annual National Reports to be Submitted to ICCAT
New guidelines adopted by Commission in 2004 to be inserted as 04-17
- 97-02 Recommendation by ICCAT on a Supplemental Management Measure Concerning Age Zero Bluefin Tuna
Expressly stated in 04-07
- 98-16 Resolution by ICCAT for the Development of Rebuilding Plans for Atlantic Bigeye Tuna
Mandate to SCRS to carry out work which has been done
- 99-01 Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Closed Area/Season for the Use of Fish-Aggregation Devices (FADs)
Expressly stated in 04-01
- 00-15 Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Belize, Cambodia, Honduras, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tuna by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area
Sanctions lifted from Cambodia through Rec.04-15. Sanctions on other countries had been lifted previously
- 00-21 Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Compliance Working Group
Group to meet and met in 2001; agreed by Key Contacts 2004
- 01-01 Recommendation by ICCAT on the 2002 Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures
Catch limits for 2002, now out of date; has been replaced by 04-01
- 01-05 Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits
Superseded by 02-05 and 03-06 and 04-04
- 01-13 Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries
Allows for carry over of over-under harvests up to 2004; out of date
The key contacts considered that the provisions of this Recommendation remained in force. They were of the opinion that the carry over years had been included by way of example, but that the principle was still valid, and should be included in the abridged compendium
- 01-14 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bigeye Tuna and Bigeye Tuna Products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Recommendation on lifting of sanctions, was only maintained because of 00-15, which is now inactive
- 02-12 Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing for Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean
Replaced by 04-08
- 02-16 Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Importation of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, Atlantic Swordfish and Atlantic Bigeye Tuna and their Products from Belize
Recommendation on lifting of sanctions, was only maintained because of 00-15, which is now inactive
- 02-18 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Importation of Bigeye Tuna and its Products from Honduras
Recommendation on lifting of sanctions, was only maintained because of 00-15, which is now inactive

- 02-19 Recommendation by ICCAT for Trade Restrictive Measures on Sierra Leone
Sanctions have been lifted by 04-14
- 03-02 Resolution by ICCAT to Authorize a Temporary Catch Limit Adjustment in the Bigeye Tuna Fishery
Applied to year 2003 only
- 03-05 Resolution by ICCAT to Authorize a Temporary Catch Limit Adjustment in the South Atlantic Swordfish Fishery
Applied to year 2003 only
- 03-07 Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limit and Sharing Arrangement for 2004
Expressly stated by 04-04
- 03-08 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Stock Assessment Schedule for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
Stock assessment date has been changed by Recommendation 04-05
- 03-09 Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming
Expressly stated by 04-06
- 03-17 Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Continuance of Trade Restrictive Measures Against Equatorial Guinea
Sanctions have been lifted by 04-13

4.4 REPORT OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPENDIUM OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS (*Seville, Spain, November 13, 2005*)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Carlos Domínguez Díaz, Chairman of the Working Group, opened the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group to Consider the Development of a Compendium of Recommendations and Resolutions. Mr. Domínguez thanked the participants, as listed in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4**, for attending.

2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat served as Rapporteur of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chairman indicated his wish include a discussion on the possible legal status of the Abridged Compendium under Other matters (Item 8). This was agreed by the Working Group and the Agenda, attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4**, was adopted.

4. Review of the structure of the Abridged Compendium

Before examining in detail the structure of the Abridged Compendium, the Chairman reminded the delegates that the Working Group had been created by the Commission with the mandate to provide a coherent presentation of the Recommendations and Resolutions in force, given that many management measures had been adopted during the long history of ICCAT, which in some cases had given rise to difficulties in interpretation or conflict between measures. This work had been started in 2003 and the intention was now to conclude it, while recognizing that such a compendium would evolve with time by its nature.

The Chairman then introduced the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Key Contacts of the Working Group to Consider the Development of a Compendium of Recommendations and Resolutions (see **ANNEX 4.3**), and explained that at that meeting the Key Contacts had prepared, as far as possible, the task of the Working Group highlighting the inconsistencies, and suggesting possible solutions which now the Working Group could examine and decide upon. In doing so, the Key Contacts had borne in mind the decisions taken at the first meeting of the Working Group held in 2003.

In the “Draft Abridged Compendium of Conservation and Management” prepared by the Key Contacts, text added to or deleted from the previous version submitted to the Commission is clearly marked, as well as issues which were thought to deserve the attention of the Commission for their political implications.

The Chairman noted that with regards to the structure of the Compendium, the key contacts group proposed adding a section within each species Article to take account of those control and compliance measures which did not fall into any of the previously existing categories, that each section on effort limits had been expanded to include effort and capacity limits, and that where Management or Rebuilding Plans were in force, this had been noted under the relevant Article.

The key contacts had also suggested how to resolve the issue of the placement of Resolutions while respecting the need to distinguish between binding and non-binding measures, by adding an additional sub-section to each Article to include the text from Resolutions.

The Chairman drew the attention of the Working Group to the resulting draft Abridged Compendium and requested comments.

One delegation expressed concerns that the meetings of the key contacts had been attended by only four delegations, and therefore may not reflect the views of all the other ICCAT Contracting Parties. His second concern was that, in the event of the document having a legal status, it would have to be examined very carefully

by the Commission before adoption, and there was some fear that this could lead to the re-opening of negotiations on measures previously adopted.

The Chairman recognized that many Contracting Parties had been unable to attend the Key Contacts group meetings, despite these being open to all, for logistical or financial reasons. He stressed, however, that the key contact group had been formed only to carry out the background work which was necessary to the task of the Working Group, this latter being the correct forum for discussion of the concerns which any Contracting Party may have.

The Chairman proposed that the draft Abridged Compendium be examined section by section by the Working Group so that all parties would have an opportunity to suggest amendments as necessary.

The floor was opened for comments in relation to the structure of the Abridged Compendium. As there were no comments, it was agreed that the Working Group propose that the Commission continue with the structure of the draft presented.

5. Review of the content of the Abridged Compendium

The Chairman invited comments on the content of the Abridged Compendium. Some minor edits were suggested for coherence and accuracy. These were accepted and are attached in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**. The Working Group concurred that these changes would be incorporated into the text by the Secretariat after the meeting.

6. Review of the Appendices of the Abridged Compendium

It was agreed by the Working Group that as cooperating status was granted on an annual basis, Appendix 1 of the Abridged Compendium should be modified to reflect that the list of Cooperating parties, entities and fishing entities were those currently enjoying such status, and should be modified annually in accordance with decisions adopted by the Commission.

7. Proposals for the procedures for the inclusion of future Recommendations and Resolutions and the future role of the Working Group

Following some discussion about the way to proceed with the incorporation of new measures and whether the Working Group would have a role in the future, it was agreed that the Working Group recommend to the Commission that management measures adopted in the future be drafted in such a way as to indicate the modifications or additions necessary to the text of the relevant article(s) of the Abridged Compendium. It was agreed that the incorporation of the necessary changes would be carried out by the Secretariat, and any doubts in relation to interpretation issues would be submitted to the Commission or its relevant auxiliary body. It was stressed that the correct functioning of the Abridged Compendium would require the cooperation of all Contracting Parties submitting proposed management measures.

8. Other matters

While it was agreed that the issue of the legal status was a question which could only be ultimately determined by the Commission, the Working Group recognized that there were three alternatives: (1) that the Abridged Compendium would be a reference document with no legal status; (2) that the Abridged Compendium would be legally binding and would replace the existing compendium of management recommendations and resolutions and (3) that the Abridged Compendium would be legally binding in parallel with the traditional compendium, this latter taking precedence in the case of any discrepancy between the two, until such time that all parties agreed that the Abridged Compendium should replace the traditional texts.

The Working Group was of the opinion that the Abridged Compendium should be a legally binding text, and that it should enter into force as such as soon as possible, but recognized that a trial period with the traditional compendium may be necessary. If the Commission chose to adopt this course, the Working Group recommended that a time limit be placed on the existence of the parallel structures.

9. Adoption of the Report

It was agreed that the report would be made available to Working Group participants once prepared and presented to the Commission for its approval at its 19th Regular Meeting (November 14 50 20, 2005).

10. Adjournment

The Working Group expressed their thanks to the Chairman for his work and leadership. The Meeting of the Working Group to Consider the Development of a Compendium of Recommendations and Resolutions was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the structure of the Abridged Compendium
5. Review of the content of the Abridged Compendium
6. Review of the Appendices of the Abridged Compendium
7. Proposals for the procedures for the inclusion of future Recommendations and Resolutions and the future role of the Working Group
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report
10. Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4

Amendments to be made to the Draft Abridged Compendium

Article 6 – Bigeye Tuna

6.4 Area and time restrictions

Second paragraph, first line: “The area referred to in paragraph 8 is the following”, should read: “The area referred to in Article 6, Section 4, paragraph 1 is the following”.

Article 9 - Bluefin Tuna

9-A East Atlantic Bluefin. Title should be: “**East Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin**”

9-A.2 Catch limits and quotas

Fourth paragraph, fourth line: “...individual quotas under paragraph 2 and for any Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity...”, should read: “.... individual quotas under Article 9-A, Section 2, paragraph 2 and for any Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity...”.

9-B. West Atlantic Bluefin

9-B.2 Catch limits and quotas

The reference to the 1998 Recommendation should be replaced so that Article 9-B, Section 2, paragraph 5 should read

5. Notwithstanding paragraphs 4e, 4f, 4g and 4h above, for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 (thereafter the allocation formula as stated in Article 9-B Section 2, paragraph 4h shall apply) the TAC shall be allocated as follows:

9.B.3 Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish

The phrase “above measures” in the first line of paragraph 2 should be replaced with the reference “Article 9-B, Section 3, paragraph 1”.

Article 10 - Billfish**10.6 Scientific research and data reporting requirements**

It was noted that paragraph 1 did not strictly reflect the original text which read “*All Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities:*”. However, as it was agreed that non contracting parties, entities or fishing entities, other than those which enjoyed cooperating status were not bound by ICCAT management measures, it was agreed to leave the text as reflected in the Abridged Compendium “CPCs shall advise....”

Article 11-A North Atlantic Swordfish**11-A.2 Catch limits and quotas**

It was agreed that the text shown as strikeout in the draft Abridged Compendium should remain, and the strikeout removed.

Appendices**Appendix 1. List of ICCAT Contracting Parties**

The title Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities which have been granted Cooperating Status should read “Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities which currently enjoy Cooperating Status”.

Appendix 3. Maps of the ICCAT Convention Area and division of ICCAT Stocks

Map 2 should be amended to remove the reference to bigeye tuna, which is not divided by stock.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2005

[Rec. 05-01]

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON YELLOWFIN TUNA

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the concern expressed by the SCRS on the inapplicability of the minimum size for yellowfin due to the characteristics of this fishery,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

The 1972 *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Yellowfin Size Limit* [Rec. 72-01] is repealed.

[05-02]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING CONTROL OF
CHINESE TAIPEI'S ATLANTIC BIGEYE TUNA FISHERY**

RECOGNIZING the authority and responsibility of ICCAT to manage populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas, at the international level;

NOTING the need for all non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities fishing for such species in the Atlantic Ocean or its adjacent seas to cooperate with ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

EXPRESSING CONCERN with regard to the overfished status of bigeye tuna in the Atlantic Ocean;

RECALLING the adoption in 2003 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15];

CALLING ATTENTION to the 2004 decision by the Commission, based on data and associated information submitted by Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities, to identify Chinese Taipei pursuant to the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] because of its excessive catches and laundering activities in bigeye tuna fisheries and that the Commission duly notified Chinese Taipei of the identification and requested that it rectify the situation;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING the information regarding efforts by the Commission to obtain the cooperation of Chinese Taipei since the 2004 meeting, including information that Chinese Taipei has taken insufficient action to rectify the situation and continues to operate in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures by, *inter alia*, the continuation of excessive catch and laundering activities in bigeye fisheries, failing to control effectively the large-scale longline vessels registered to Chinese Taipei and continuous involvement of Chinese Taipei fishing vessels in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT

1. By way of derogation from the provisions of paragraphs 4 a) and 5 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01], the catch limit of Atlantic bigeye tuna for Chinese Taipei in 2006 shall be 4,600 t for the following fishing operations by Chinese Taipei's fishing vessels in the Convention area:

- By-catch in the albacore fishery by 60 fishing vessels up to a maximum annual catch of 1,300 t of bigeye.
- Targeted fishing campaign for bigeye tuna as provided in the paragraph 2 below.

No other fishing for bigeye tuna by Chinese Taipei's fishing vessels is authorized in 2006 in the Convention area. All fishing vessels of Chinese Taipei, other than the 60 vessels engaged in albacore fishing and the targeted fishing campaign for bigeye (in paragraph 2) shall be deleted from the ICCAT record of fishing vessels over 24 meters authorized to operate in the Convention area.

2. To ensure compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures, Chinese Taipei may allow no more than 15 fishing vessels under its registry to conduct a directed fishing campaign for bigeye tuna with a maximum catch of 3,300 t of Atlantic bigeye tuna in the Convention area. The list of these 15 vessels and their individual vessel quota of 220 t shall be notified to the Commission by December 20, 2005. The vessels shall be subject to the following monitoring and enforcement measures.

- No at-sea transshipment is permitted for these 15 vessels and their catch must be transhipped or landed at two designated ports (Cape Town and Las Palmas).
- The vessels shall visit one of these ports every three months, where they will be subject to mandatory port inspection by Chinese Taipei officers and port state officials. The inspection reports shall be transmitted to ICCAT at the latest one week after the inspection.
- Daily catch reporting to Chinese Taipei authorities, by VMS or radio.
- Chinese Taipei authorities will send a quarterly catch report to ICCAT.
- Once the individual vessel quota of 220 t is exhausted, the vessel must return to its home port.
- 100% compliance observer coverage will be ensured in the entire targeted fishing campaign.

In addition, Chinese Taipei shall comply with the conditions set out in the **Attachment** to this recommendation. Chinese Taipei shall report to the Commission the result of the targeted fishing campaign and monitoring and enforcement activities no later than one month before the 2006 Commission meeting.

3. By the 2006 Annual Meeting, Chinese Taipei shall demonstrate that it has complied with the conditions set out in this recommendation and the attachment. The Commission shall then evaluate Chinese Taipei's compliance with such conditions as well as any other applicable ICCAT conservation and management measures and consider any new information in this regard. In the event that this leads to a finding that Chinese Taipei has neither complied with these conditions nor otherwise rectified the situation, the Commission shall decide on the imposition of non-discriminatory trade-restrictive measures against Chinese Taipei pursuant to paragraph 7 of the Resolution 03-15.

***Attachment to the Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of
Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery***

Vessel reductions:

Vessels greater than 24 meters: Chinese Taipei (CT) has already committed to scrapping 120 vessels from its fleet. CT shall increase that number by at least an additional 40, for a total of 160 vessels, to ensure that capacity is commensurate with fishing possibilities for ICCAT species in the Atlantic. This fleet reduction program shall be completed by December 31, 2006, and shall include effective measures to halt fishing activities by the vessels that are to be scrapped during the scrapping period, such as by calling vessels back and confining them to their home ports until scrapping is complete. CT shall promptly provide to ICCAT a report that includes:

- A description of the each vessel being scrapped (e.g., name, identification number, size, age, fishing and documentation history for the past 5 years, disposition of scrapped vessel and equipment).
- Proposed timing of these activities (including detailed description of any intermediate steps, which must include effective steps to remove vessels from the Atlantic bigeye fleet).
- Expected reduction in catch, by ocean area and stock, when the scrapping is completed.

Vessels between 20 and 24 meters: CT shall report to ICCAT by July 1, 2006, on the vessels fishing for tuna and other highly migratory species, by ocean, under its flag and foreign flags owned or controlled by CT businesses, including:

- An analysis of the number of vessels and their capacity.
- Comparison of fishing capacity to harvest possibilities (including by-catches) within each Regional Fisheries Management Organization's (RFMO's) area of jurisdiction.
- A fleet adjustment plan designed to reduce any overcapacity of these vessels, when considered together with its large-scale vessels.

Quarterly reports: Quarterly progress reports shall be submitted to ICCAT on the process of implementation of these programs.

Port inspection and sampling programs:

- CT's limited port sampling program must be promptly expanded to cover a statistically adequate percent (5-10%) of its catch.
- More importantly, CT shall institute a combined port inspection and sampling program to verify compliance by its fleet with quotas and other rules, as well as to sample catches, which includes, *inter alia*, periodic mandatory visits of its fishing vessels to designated ports.
- CT shall prohibit landing by its fleet in any port, including a foreign port, which does not have a CT port inspector.
- CT shall submit to ICCAT the specifics of this program by March 31, 2006 and thereafter submit quarterly reports.

Observer coverage:

- CT shall increase its observer program to cover at least 5% by effort for its Atlantic longline fleet.
- CT shall place observers on all of its transport vessels to monitor transshipment at sea and shall ensure that its fishing vessels only transship to vessels carrying CT observers or, in the case of foreign flagged transport vessels, third party observers.
- CT vessels shall not conduct at-sea transshipments to any fishing vessel unless observers are present on one of the vessels.

These steps shall be taken as soon as possible and reported to ICCAT by November 1, 2006.

VMS: To complement its implementation of VMS on its fishing vessels over 24 meters, CT shall:

- Extend the VMS requirement to all vessels 20 meters or greater in length.
- Place VMS on all of its transport vessels.
- Monitor the vessels with VMS consistent with ICCAT rules.

Efforts to control IUU fishing: CT shall control IUU fishing by vessels of any size that fish for ICCAT species in the Atlantic Ocean, by:

- Thoroughly investigating alleged 2003, 2004 and 2005 laundering activities by its flag vessels, taking appropriate enforcement actions, and submitting a complete report of the investigations and resulting actions to ICCAT by July 1, 2006.
- Identifying foreign flagged vessels owned or controlled by CT businesses and submitting to ICCAT by July 1, 2006, a comprehensive report on each such vessel, including a description of the nature of the economic and beneficial relations between such CT business interests and the vessel.
- Taking effective steps, including meaningful enforcement measures with respect to CT flag vessels and CT business interests that own foreign flag vessels, to eliminate IUU fishing activities through, at a minimum:
 - Cutting beneficial and financial relations with IUU operators.
 - Working with the respective flag countries, to the extent practicable, to improve monitoring and control of vessels and stopping foreign flagged vessels owned by CT business interests from exporting under the name of CT.

Quarterly reports shall be submitted to ICCAT on the progress made in implementing these and other steps to eliminate IUU fishing.

Data:

- CT shall take steps to ensure that its data are reported consistent with ICCAT rules.
- Moreover, CT must evaluate past reports submitted to ICCAT and correct them as necessary, including providing the basis for any corrections.

In undertaking these improvements, CT shall develop and submit to the Commission an implementation schedule, consistent with the above, by July 1, 2006. CT must report on the results of implementation of these items/issues to ICCAT in accordance with the above implementation schedule.

[05-04]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION
ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING [Rec. 04-06]**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

RECALLING the conclusions of the 6th Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Joint Working Group Meeting on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea relative to the effects of the bluefin tuna farming and on the solutions that could be studied to regulate this activity;

CONSIDERING the advice of the 2001 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) on effects of bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean on the collection of data and consequently on stock assessment procedures;

DESIRING to gradually implement effective management measures that permit the development of bluefin tuna farming in a responsible and sustainable manner in relation to the management of bluefin tuna;

NOTING the potential advantages of the use of underwater video monitoring in estimating the number of fish,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose flag vessels fish or transfer quantities of bluefin tuna to cages for farming shall undertake the necessary measures:
 - a) to require that the captains of vessels (including tugs and towing vessels) carrying out transfer operations of bluefin tuna for caging maintain vessel logs and report the quantities transferred and the number of fish as well as the date, place of harvest and name of the vessel and of the company responsible for the caging. This detailed information shall be entered into a register which shall contain details of all the transshipments carried out during the fishing season. This register shall be kept onboard and be accessible at any time for control purposes.
 - b) to require the reporting of the total amount of the transfers of bluefin tuna for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels, and include this information in the Task I data.
 - c) to set up and maintain a list of their flag vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes (name of the vessel, flag, license number, gear type), i.e., fishing boat, transport vessel, vessels with pools, etc.
 - d) these tugs and towing vessels must also be equipped with an operational satellite tracking and monitoring system (VMS).
2. The CPCs under whose jurisdiction the farms for bluefin tuna are located in the Convention area shall adopt the necessary measures to:
 - a) ensure that a caging declaration is presented by the operator in accordance with the ICCAT format in the attached **Annex**, on each fishing or transport vessel that participated in the transfer of tuna to cages for fattening, including the quantities of bluefin tuna destined for farming. This declaration shall include information relative to the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to the cages, the number of fish, the date, the place, the location of the harvest, the name of the vessel, as well as its flag and license number;
 - b) ensure that the tuna farms and the national scientific institutes obtain data as specified in the following paragraph on the size composition of the fish caught as well as the date, time and area of catch and the fishing method used, in order to improve statistics for stock assessment purposes;

To this end, establish a sampling program for the estimation of the numbers-at-size of the bluefin tuna caught which requires notably that size sampling at cages must be done on one sample (= 100 specimens) for every 100 t of live fish, or on a 10% sample of the total number of the caged fish. Size samples will be collected during harvesting¹ at the farm, following the ICCAT methodology for reporting Task II. The sampling should be conducted during any harvesting, covering all cages. Data must be transmitted to ICCAT, by 31 July² for the sampling conducted the previous year.

- c) ensure the reporting of the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cages and of estimates of the growth and mortality while in captivity and of the amounts sold (in t);
- d) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- e) each CPC referred to in this paragraph shall nominate a single authority responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on caging activities and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna.

This single authority shall submit, to the CPCs whose flag vessels have fished the caged tuna, a copy of each caging declaration referred to in paragraph 2a, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

3. CPCs referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate to ensure that quantities caged are consistent with the reported catches (logbook) amount of each fishing vessel.
4. The CPCs that export farmed bluefin tuna products shall ensure that the description of these products includes "Farming" in the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document (BTSD) or the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-exportation Certificate (refer to the 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [Rec. 03-19]).
5. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:
 - the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1c),
 - the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),
 - the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
 - the quantities marketed during the previous year.
6. The CPCs referred to in this recommendation as well as the Contracting Parties that import bluefin tuna shall cooperate, particularly through the exchange of information.
7. The Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties that farm bluefin tuna in the Convention area to cooperate in the implementation of this recommendation.
8. Based on the information referred to in paragraph 4 on the BTSD reports and the Task I data, the Commission shall review the effectiveness of these measures.
9. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs). For the purposes of this recommendation, FFBs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.
- b) Each CPC under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2004 the list of its FFBs that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:
 - name of the FFB, register number,
 - names and addresses of owner (s) and operator (s),
 - location,
 - farming capacity (in t)

¹ For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established.

² For 2006 (transmission of data relative to 2005), this date is advanced to 31 May.

- c) Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of FFBs, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of FFBs at any time such changes occur.
 - d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record of FFBs, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
 - e) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall take the necessary measures to ensure that their FFBs comply with the relevant ICCAT measures.
 - f) To ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to bluefin tuna:
 - i) CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall validate Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents only for the farms on the ICCAT record of FFBs,
 - ii) CPCs shall require farmed bluefin tuna, when imported into their territory, to be accompanied by statistical documents validated for FFBs on the ICCAT record of FFBs and,
 - iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
 - iv) The CPCs under whose jurisdiction FFBs are located shall exclude from the ICCAT record the FFBs that do not respect the sampling requirements mentioned in paragraph 2b).
 - g) Each CPCs shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the imports and sale of bluefin tuna from farms not registered in the ICCAT record of farming facilities authorised to operate as well as those that do not respect the sampling requirements foreseen in paragraph 2b and/or do not participate in the sampling programme referred to in paragraph 2 b).
10. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of vessels that fish for, provide or transport bluefin for farming, i.e. fishing boats, transport vessels, vessels with pools, etc.

For the purpose of this recommendation the vessels not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming.

- b) Each CPCs shall submit, electronically where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 31 August 2006 the list of the vessels that are authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna. This list shall include the following information:
 - name of the vessel, register number
 - previous flag (if any)
 - previous name (if any)
 - previous details of deletion from other registers (if any)
 - international radio call sign (if any)
 - type of vessels, length and gross registered tonnage (GRT)
 - name and address of owner (s) and operator (s)
 - gear used
 - time period authorised for fishing and/or providing or transporting bluefin tuna for farming
- c) Each CPC shall promptly notify, after the establishment of the initial ICCAT record, the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record and any time such changes occur.
- d) The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record and through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirement noted by CPCs.

[05-05]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND RECOMMENDATION [REC. 04-10]
CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH
FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT**

RECALLING that the SCRS concluded that measures to reduce fishing mortality are necessary to improve the status of the North Atlantic shortfin mako shark population;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

In point 7 of the 2004 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10], a new paragraph is added:

“Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report on their implementation of this Recommendation. CPCs that have not yet implemented this recommendation to reduce North Atlantic shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) mortality, shall implement it and report to the Commission.”

[05-06]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME
FOR TRANSHIPMENT BY LARGE-SCALE LONGLINE FISHING VESSELS**

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by ICCAT;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transshipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED to ensure the monitoring of the transshipment activities by large-scale longline vessels in the Convention area, including the control of their landings;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to collect catch data of such large scale long-line tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission establish a program of transshipment which applies initially to large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels (hereafter referred to as the "LSTLVs") and to carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipment from these vessels.

The Commission shall at its 2008 annual meeting, review and, as appropriate, revise this Recommendation.

2. The flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) of LSTLVs shall determine whether or not to authorize their LSTLVs which fish for tuna and tuna-like species to transship at sea. However, the flag CPC may authorize the at-sea transshipment by its flag LSTLVs on the condition that such transshipment is conducted in accordance with the procedures defined in Sections A, B and D below.
3. Transshipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of CPCs are subject to prior authorization from the coastal State concerned.

A. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA

4. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area from LSTLVs. For the purposes of this Recommendation, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species in transshipment operations.
5. Each CPC shall submit, electronically where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary by 1 July 2006 the list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments from its LSTLVs in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:
 - The flag of the vessel
 - Name of vessel, register number
 - 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

6. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary, after the establishment of the initial ICCAT record, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record, at any time such changes occur.
7. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record and take measures to ensure publicity of the record and through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements notified by CPCs for their vessels.
8. Carrier vessels authorized for at-sea transshipment shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with the 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14].

B. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT

CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following:

9. Transshipment operations at sea may only be undertaken in accordance with the procedures detailed below.

Flag State authorization

10. LSTLVs are not authorized to transship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag State.

Notification obligations

11. *Fishing vessel:*

To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 10 above, the master and/or owner of the LSTLV must notify the following information to its flag State authorities at least 24 hours in advance of the intended transshipment:

- the name of the LSTLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
- the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area, and the product to be transhipped,
- the tonnage by product to be transhipped,
- the date and location of transshipment,
- the geographic location of the tuna catches

The LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State, not later than 15 days after the transshipment, the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 1**.

12. *Receiving carrier vessel:*

The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSTLV, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area, within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment.

13. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing takes place.

14. *Regional Observer Program*

Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer, not later than 1 January 2007, in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer program in **Annex 2**. The ICCAT observer shall observe the respect of this Recommendation, and notably that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transshipment declaration.

15. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing transshipping in the ICCAT area without an ICCAT regional observer on board, except in cases of 'force majeure' duly notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

C. IN-PORT TRANSHIPMENTS

16. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Annex 3**.

D. GENERAL PROVISIONS

17. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
- a) In validating the Statistical Document, Flag CPCs of LSTLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSTLV.
 - b) The Flag CPC of LSTLVs shall validate the Statistical Documents for the transshipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Recommendation. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the ICCAT Observer Program.
 - c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Statistical Document Programs caught by LSTLVs in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transshipments declaration.
18. The CPCs shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:
- The quantities by species transshipped during the previous year.
 - The list of the LSTLVs registered in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels which have transshipped during the previous year.
 - A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from their LSTLVs.
19. All tuna and tuna-like species landed or imported into the CPCs either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transshipped, shall be accompanied by the ICCAT transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.
20. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a report on the implementation of this Recommendation to the annual meeting of the Commission which shall review compliance with this Recommendation.

ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area and which transship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transshipment operation in the Convention area.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area from LSTLVs flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer program.

Designation of the observers

3. 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;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

Obligations of the observer

4. 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 flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 5 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not be a crew member of an LSTLV or an employee of an LSTLV company.
5. The observer tasks shall be in particular to:
 - a) monitor the carrier vessel's compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
 - ii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
 - iii) observe and estimate products transshipped;
 - iv) verify and record the name of the LSTLV concerned and its ICCAT number;
 - v) verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
 - vi) certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
 - vii) countersign the transshipment declaration;
 - b) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transshipping activities;
 - c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the captain 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.
6. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSTLVs and of the LSTLVs owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
7. 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.

8. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior 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 9 of this program.

Obligations of the flag States of carrier vessels

9. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains shall include the following, notably:
 - a) Observers shall be allowed 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 5:
 - 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 captains, 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.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag State of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the Flag CPC of the LSTLV, 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

- a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSTLVs wishing to engage in transshipment operations. 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 for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

Annex 3

IN-PORT TRANSHIPMENT BY LSTLVs

1. Transshipment operations in port may only be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Introduction and the procedures detailed below:

Notification obligations

2. Fishing vessel:

- 2.1 Prior to transshipping, the captain of the LSTLV must notify the following information to the Port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance:
 - the name of the LSTLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
 - the name of the carrier vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels, and the product to be transhipped,
 - the tonnage by product to be transhipped,
 - the date and location of transshipment,
 - the geographic location of the tuna catches

2.2 The captain of a LSTLV shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its Flag State of the following;

- The products and quantities involved
- the date and place of the transshipment
- the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipment in the ICCAT area
- the geographic location of the tuna catches.

The captain of the LSTLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 1** not later than 15 days after the transshipment.

Receiving vessel:

3. Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transshipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the Port State authorities of the quantities of catches of tuna and tuna-like species transshipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels to the competent authorities within 24 hours.

Landing State:

4. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.
5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above paragraphs shall take the appropriate measures to verify the accuracy of the information received and shall cooperate with the flag CPC of the LSTLV to ensure that landings are consistent with the reported catches amount of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.
6. Each flag CPC of the LSTLV shall include in its annual report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

[05-09]

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
STATISTICAL REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

WHEREAS the reporting of basic catch and effort statistics is a fundamental obligation of Contracting Parties under Article IX, Rule 2 of the Convention and for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities under the terms of the 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 03-20);

NOTING that, despite the adoption of numerous measures intended to address the matter, lack of compliance with reporting obligations has been a persistent problem for the Commission over the entire history of its work;

FURTHER NOTING that SCRS has frequently identified incomplete, missing, or late data as a contributor to uncertainty in assessments for several stocks, a factor that limits its ability to formulate specific and science-based management advice;

RECOGNIZING the need to establish a clear process and procedures to identify data gaps, particularly those that limit the ability of SCRS to conduct robust stock assessments, and to find appropriate means to address those gaps;

RECALLING that the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Reference Document 01-25) clearly links fishing access with the obligation to provide accurate data on fishing effort and catch;

COGNIZANT of the differing levels of development of ICCAT's membership and recalling the 2003 *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* (Res. 03-21);

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The Secretariat shall prepare, as part of its annual report on statistics and research, a list of specific data elements that are lacking for each stock. Such listing shall indicate the missing data elements pertaining to catch, by-catch, effort, and/or size composition, by fleet, gear, and fishing area to the extent such fishing operations are presumed to have occurred based on secondary sources.
2. In view of the report of the Secretariat, SCRS shall provide:
 - a) an evaluation of the extent to which missing data have adversely affected the most recent assessment or update,
 - b) an appraisal of the effect on new stock assessments if the data remain unavailable or incomplete, and
 - c) the consequences of the data deficiencies with respect to the formulation of management advice.
3. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity (CPC) shall provide an explanation regarding its reporting deficiencies including the reasons underlying the identified data gaps, capacity challenges and plans for corrective action. The Commission, through the Compliance Committee or Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG), as appropriate, shall evaluate the information provided by the Secretariat, SCRS and CPCs under this Recommendation.
4. Based on the information provided under Paragraphs 1-3, the Compliance Committee or PWG shall identify problematic data deficiencies and recommend appropriate actions by the respective CPC to address the problem. In making this determination, the Compliance Committee or PWG shall take into account:
 - a) any explanations and/or plans for corrective action,
 - b) the responsible CPC's record of late, incomplete, and/or missing data submissions,
 - c) the extent to which the responsible CPC has requested and/or received data collection assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization, other CPCs, the Secretariat, including through the data fund established by the 2003 *Resolution by ICCAT on Improvements in Data Collection and Quality Assurance* (Res. 03-21), or others, and
 - d) the effect of the data deficiency(ies) on the Commission's ability to determine the status of the stock(s) and on the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2005**[05-03]****RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO AUTHORIZE CATCH LIMIT
ADJUSTMENTS IN THE BIGEYE TUNA FISHERY**

GIVEN that the 2001 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12] established that any temporary quota adjustment shall be done only under authorization of the Commission;

NOTING that Japan and China agreed to a transfer of fishing capacity of 10 large scale tuna longline vessels from Japan to China;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. The 2,000 t transfer of bigeye tuna catch limit from Japan to China, to be applied each year in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, be authorized.
2. Japan reduce the number of its fishing vessels larger than 24 meters length overall which will fish for bigeye tuna in the Convention area by 10 vessels from the average number of its fishing vessels actually having fished for bigeye tuna in the Convention area for the two years of 1991 and 1992.

[05-07]

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING
THE CHANGE IN THE REGISTRY AND FLAGGING OF VESSELS**

RECALLING that ICCAT has adopted an extensive variety of conservation and management measures aimed at achieving the objective of the Convention of maximum sustainable catches of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area,

CONCERNED that, in spite of the adoption of these measures, large longliners that carry out illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities in the Convention area resort to constant changes in vessel names, registration and flags as new stratagems to undermine the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures,

CONVINCED of the need to adopt new measures that result in halting the use of these practices to evade the ICCAT conservation and management measures,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. As a prior condition for the registration or flagging of vessels, the Contracting and non-Contracting Parties should require the presentation of a Certificate of Deletion from the previous Registry or flag or any other proof of consent to the transfer of the ship, issued by the previous Contracting Party or non-Contracting Party State.
2. Prior to the registry of any fishing vessel, the CPC should investigate the history of compliance of the subject vessel in ICCAT and other regional management organizations, in order to determine if such vessel is on the negative lists and/or is currently registered in the sanctioned CPCs or non-Contracting Parties.

[05-08]

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON CIRCLE HOOKS

RECOGNIZING that ICCAT Parties should already be reporting data on incidentally caught sea turtles to the SCRS;

IN SUPPORT OF the 2004 Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Technical Consultation on Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries and the Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, which were adopted by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in March 2005;

RECALLING that the 2003 *Resolution by ICCAT on Sea Turtles* [Res. 03-11] encourages “technical measures to reduce the incidental catch of turtles” and resolves to “support efforts by FAO to address the conservation and management of sea turtles, through a holistic approach”;

NOTING that recent international scientific studies on circle hooks show a statistically significant decrease in sea turtle by-catch when such hooks are used in pelagic longline fishing, but that studies and trials continue in different geographic areas;

FURTHER NOTING that scientific studies indicate that, with the use of circle hooks, the hooking location can lead to a decrease in post-release mortality of incidentally caught species;

CONSIDERING that the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks calls on nations to take ecosystem considerations into account and that many countries, including Contracting Parties, are moving to incorporate ecosystem considerations into fisheries management; and

ALSO RECALLING that both blue marlin and white marlin are currently under a rebuilding plan and the use of circle hooks has been experimentally shown to significantly reduce their post-release mortality;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:**

1. All Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) are encouraged to undertake research trials of appropriate-size circle hooks in commercial pelagic longline fisheries.
2. CPCs should also encourage research and trials on the use of circle hooks in recreational and artisanal fisheries.
3. CPCs are encouraged to exchange ideas regarding fishing methods and technological gear changes that improve the safe handling and release of incidentally caught species including, but not limited to, the use of de-hookers, line cutters, and scoop nets.
4. When feasible and appropriate, SCRS should present the Commission with an assessment of the impact of circle hooks on the dead discard levels in ICCAT pelagic longline fisheries.

[05-10]

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO STRENGTHEN ICCAT

RECALLING the provisions set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as the associated International Plans of Action;

TAKING INTO account the significant measures that ICCAT has already implemented to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing;

WELCOMING the recent declarations at the FAO Ministerial Meeting on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (March 2005), the St. John's Conference on High Seas Fisheries and the United Nations Fish Agreement (UNFSA) (May 2005), and the 2nd Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Oceans-related Ministerial Meeting (September 2005);

RECALLING the meeting of tuna regional fisheries management organizations in January 2007, to be hosted by Japan, with a view to coordinating the global management of tuna and tuna like species;

ANXIOUS that ICCAT, a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) of long standing, should as a matter of priority, address issues and concerns with a view to its strengthening;

CONSCIOUS that if these issues are to be addressed efficiently, their consideration should be channelled through existing mechanisms within ICCAT, where possible.

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. At the 2006 annual meeting, the Commission should review ICCAT's conservation and management program taking account of the provisions set out in relevant international fisheries instruments. Following the review, the Commission should, at the 2006 annual meeting, develop a workplan to address the strengthening of the organization.
2. To assist the Commission in this task, the Secretariat should compile, for circulation to members by August 1, 2006, a list of the provisions of the relevant international fisheries instruments and, where appropriate, indicate where ICCAT's conservation and management program addresses those provisions.

[05-11]

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON PELAGIC SARGASSUM

RECALLING that the Commission is responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes and that such study includes 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;

RECOGNIZING that pelagic *Sargassum* supports a diverse assemblage of marine organisms, including over 140 species of fish, and that the fishes associated with pelagic *Sargassum* include tuna and tuna-like species at different life stages;

WHEREAS the greatest concentrations of pelagic *Sargassum* (*Sargassum natans* and *S. fluitans*) are found within the North Atlantic Central Gyre in the Sargasso Sea, providing nutrients and habitat for large pelagic fish traversing the otherwise nutrient-poor, energy-poor open ocean;

RECOGNIZING that certain stocks under ICCAT jurisdiction could be adversely impacted by a decline in the abundance of pelagic *Sargassum*, diminishing the Commission's ability to maintain the stocks at maximum sustainable levels;

RECALLING that the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks calls for consideration of habitat and biodiversity in the marine environment, refers to the need to take ecosystem considerations into account, and that many countries, including Contracting Parties, are moving to incorporate ecosystem considerations into fisheries management;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Commission's Sub-Committee on the Environment, meeting October 6, 2005, recommended expanding its area of research to ecosystem matters;

CONFIRMING that the objective of including ecosystem considerations in fisheries management, including protection of fish habitat, is to contribute to long-term food security and to human development and to assure the effective conservation and sustainable use of the ecosystem and its resources;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, where appropriate, undertake to provide to the SCRS information and data on activities that impact pelagic *Sargassum* in the Convention area on the high seas, directly or indirectly, with particular emphasis in the Sargasso Sea.
2. The SCRS should examine available and accessible information and data on the status of pelagic *Sargassum* and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

1. Opening of the meeting

The 2005 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, by the Committee Chairman, Mr. Jim Jones (Canada).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The delegate of the United States asked the Chairman to include the mail voting process in item 8. With this inclusion, the Agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**).

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

4. 2005 Administrative Report

The 2005 Administrative Report was presented by the Chairman, who outlined its contents, i.e., the Commission and Secretariat administrative matters in 2005: Contracting Parties to the Convention, entry into force of the Madrid Protocol, adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions in 2005, ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and Working Groups, meetings at which ICCAT was represented, tagging lottery, Commission's Chairman's letters to various Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (relative to compliance with the conservation measures, compliance with budgetary obligations, and the submission of a payment plan for past due contributions), list of publications and Secretariat documents, the organization and management of Secretariat staff, change in the auditing firm, proposals for amendment and updating of the *Staff Regulations and Rules*, and other matters.

After outlining the items of the Report, the Chairman also presented Addendums 1, 2 and 3 to the Report, regarding payment plans by Senegal, Ghana, Panama and the Republic of Guinea, respectively, which had been distributed and pointed out that they would be reviewed under item 6 of this Report.

Mr. Jones commented that this Report was more substantial than in previous years because it explained in detail each one of the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2005, including a description of the internal organization and management following the restructuring carried out, as well as the responsibilities and functions of all the personnel (Appendix 1 to the Administrative Report), a summary of the meetings at which ICCAT was represented (Appendix 2), and the *Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status at ICCAT Meetings* with proposed changes (Appendix 3).

The Chairman expressed gratitude to the Spanish Authorities for the generous offer of the new Secretariat headquarters in Madrid, and asked the delegate of the European Community to thank them on behalf of the Commission.

The Chairman pointed out other important matters in the Report, such as the funds received for data improvement activities from the United States and the data improvement project initiated by Japan in December 2004, the signing of the contract with Deloitte & Touch in 2005 to audit the accounts of the Commission, the proposed amendment of Articles 6.1 and 6.2 of the *Staff Regulations and Rules* to change these once the procedures are finalized to join the United Nation Joint Staff Pension Fund, and the deletion of a paragraph in Article 6.2 that no longer applies.

The Committee adopted the 2005 Administrative Report and endorsed the recommendations contained therein.

The delegate of the European Community appreciated the presentation of the Report, as well as the Secretariat's continuous efforts and proposed that, as has been done recently in other regional fishery bodies, a review of the functioning of the Secretariat be carried out in order to improve the services provided and the level of response to the Commission's exigencies.

The Chairman asked the delegate to specify the type of review he was proposing to be carried out, and identified two possibilities, one of efficiency to make the most of the resources of the Commission and extract the maximum performance, and another, through a global perspective over the long-term, identifying ICCAT requests and needs, so that once these are known, the Secretariat is informed of them and work can then proceed.

The delegate of the United States proposed that this review be carried out from a global perspective on the scope and future of the organization.

The delegate of Senegal recommended a strategy review regarding the perspective of the Commission's mandate.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that the Secretariat had always carried out its work within the framework of the attributions assigned to it in the text of the Convention, and that all the staff were assigned tasks with clear descriptions of their jobs and indicated he was always willing to improve his management.

The delegate of Morocco pointed out that there already was a dynamic of organization in the Commission and that this should continue to obtain good results.

During the following sessions, the delegate of the European Community explained in detail that his proposal consisted of contracting a consultancy expert who would assess and review the functions of the Secretariat, as well as the resources it has available, to help improve the future activities of the Commission. He explained that the requests of the Commission had changed and as a result there has been an increase in work and in responsibilities. Because of this, he requested an analysis that would revise the structure of the Organization.

The delegate of the United States reiterated that the first thing to do was to restructure the Organization and afterwards revise the Secretariat.

The delegate of Canada proposed that first an analysis of the activities of the Commission be carried out in order to strengthen them and afterwards the functions entrusted to the Secretariat should be revised, to check that they are paired. She suggested postponing the European Community's proposal so as to follow this procedure. She also requested a study of the budgetary repercussion that the contracting of a management consultant would have.

The delegate of the European Community pointed out that his proposal was with a view towards the future and that it could be postponed since there was no consensus.

The Chairman indicated that during 2006 he would work with the Executive Secretary to prepare a proposal that would be presented at the next meeting of the Commission.

5. 2005 Financial Report

The Chairman presented the Financial Report that had been distributed in advance.

Mr. Jones indicated that a copy of the Auditor's Report had been transmitted to all the Contracting Parties in May 2005. He then cited each one of the Statements of this Report: Status of the Contracting Party contributions; breakdown by chapters of the budgetary and extra-budgetary expenses; budgetary and extra-budgetary income received; and composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund. He noted out that as of October 31, 2005, the balance in the Fund, estimated to the end of fiscal year 2005, was a negative €9,811.81 and pointed out that this negative Fund was due to the continuous problem of the delays in the payment of the contributions. Such was the problem that as of the close of the fiscal periods in recent years the Commission had only received an average of 75% of the contributions of that period (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**).

The delegate of the European Community pointed out the importance of complying with the budgetary obligations for the smooth functioning of the Commission. He also indicated that financial support for SCRS

work and the increase in the Secretariat's activities would not be possible if the Contracting Parties do not comply with these obligations.

The delegate of Equatorial Guinea informed that his country had already proceeded to the cancellation of its pending contribution.

At the second session, the Chairman presented an update of the Financial Report including the changes that had occurred from October 31 to November 17, 2005.

6. Review of plans for the payment of arrears

The Chairman summarized the decision presented at the Commission Meeting held in New Orleans in 2004 concerning the application of Article X.8 of the ICCAT Convention to those Contracting Parties with accumulated arrears equal to or exceeding that due from it for the two preceding years, following the review of the payment plans of each of these Parties. He explained that the procedure followed to request the payment plans had been to send three letters: one in March, another in May and a final one in October 2005. He added that in Addendums 1, 2 and 3 of the Administrative Report the payment plans for Senegal, Ghana, Panama and the Republic of Guinea were presented. He further informed that the remainder of the Contracting Parties (Cape Verde, Gabon, Honduras and Sao Tome and Principe) had not notified any payment plan, although Sao Tome had made a payment in 2005, canceling part of its debt.

The delegate of the European Community asked the Contracting Parties concerned to include the installment periods and the amounts to be paid in their payment plans. He also pointed out that the Parties not only had to cancel the past due amounts but their total debt.

During the second session, the Chairman invited the Parties that had presented payment plans of their arrears to explain them, according to the Addendums distributed.

The delegate of Ghana explained that its payment plan consisted of canceling approximately US\$400,000 per year, starting in 2005, being up to date on payments in 2007. He also informed that in 2005 Ghana had already complied with the payment plans presented.

The delegate of Panama explained that they would cancel €24,090.13, with only the payments of the last two years remaining to be paid.

The Delegate of the Republic of Guinea explained that in three years they would liquidate their debt by paying about €20,000 in 2005, another €20,000 in 2006, and about €40,000 in 2007.

The delegate of Sao Tome and Principe explained that during 2005 they had started to transfer funds to ICCAT and that in 2006 they would continue this process and would submit a payment plan for the cancellation of their debt.

The delegate of the European Community asked that the payment plans distributed by the Secretariat as Addendums 1, 2 and 3 to the Administrative Report be accompanied by the firm commitments from each Party concerned, in order to consider the application of Article X.8 of the Convention.

At the third session, the official letters received by the Secretariat regarding payments of arrears were distributed as Addendum 4 to the Administrative Report.

The delegate of the European Community considered these notifications sufficient for their acceptance as payment plans and asked the delegate of Sao Tome and Principe to send its payment plan in 2006 so that it be reviewed at the next meeting of the Commission.

The Executive Secretary, in response to a question on the possibility that the notifications had not reached their destinations, listed the means by which the Secretariat sent correspondence of this type, such as electronic mail, registered mail, and faxes to Embassies, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and to Directors of Fisheries.

The delegate of Ghana confirmed that the means used by the Secretariat had been very useful in order to take the necessary actions for the cancellation of its pending debt.

The Chairman accepted this consideration and indicated that for Cape Verde, Gabon and Honduras, he was going to recommend that the Commission apply Article X.8 of the ICCAT Convention.

7. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2006-2007

The budget proposal and the Contracting Party contributions for fiscal years 2006 and 2006 were presented in the document entitled “Explanatory Note on the ICCAT Budget for 2006-2007”. The Chairman explained that the proposal contained two options (A and B) and that the latter included the SCRS recommendations.

The Secretariat presented budgetary Option A and explained in detail the chapters that had increases as compared to the budget approved for 2005. It was pointed out that Chapters 1 and 8A (Salaries) included the benefits of the Publications Coordinator and the future hiring of a Compliance Officer, whose salaries were not included in the 2005 budget. With regard to Chapter 6, Operating Expenses, it was pointed out that this Chapter would see a marked increase in 2006 and 2007, due to the new operating costs of the new headquarters (electricity, security, etc.), as would Chapter 9, Contingencies, in which it is expected to include the costs for the renovations and the adaptation of a meeting room for the Commission meetings.

The SCRS Chairman cited the recommendations of the Scientific Committee that had financial repercussions: the financing of the Bluefin Research Program, the annual financing of the Billfish Program, the hiring of a By-Catch Coordinator, the updating of GAO software, the invitation of experts as peer reviewers, the preparation of the Field Manual, and financing for the recovery of historical data.

The delegate of the European Community pointed out that since Contracting Parties requested more financial support for SCRS work, it was necessary to support these costs. In order to do so, the Parties should comply by paying their contributions. He indicated that his delegation could assume an increase of approximately 6% with respect to 2005.

The delegate of Morocco accepted the proposal in Option A.

The delegate of Brazil thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document on the “Group Classifications under the Madrid Protocol” that explained the new scheme to calculate the contributions in accordance with the Madrid Protocol. He pointed out that depending on the data referring to some variables, such as the Gross Domestic Product and the catch and canning, the Parties were included in the different Groups of the budget, for which no forecast of the contributions could be made.

The Chairman explained that the inclusion in the different Groups depended on variables, and requested the Commission to set the criteria to follow in order to carry out the calculations. The explanation of the Group Classifications under the Madrid Protocol is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**.

The delegate of Equatorial Guinea suggested using the proposed payment plans to attenuate the increase in the budget.

The delegate of Brazil proposed a revision of the proposed budget and indicated that Brazil could not agree to even an increase of 6%.

Since no consensus was reached, the Committee decided to refer the adoption of the budget to the Plenary Sessions.

The 2006-2007 budget, the basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions for 2006 and 2007, the individual Contracting Party contributions for 2006 and 2007, tables showing the contributions by group for 2006 and 2007, and the catch and canning figures of the Contracting Parties are attached as **Tables 1 to 7** to this Report.

8. Other matters

Due to time constraints, discussion of the mail voting procedure was postponed to next year’s meeting (see **ANNEX 11.3**).

9. Election of Chair

Mr. J. Jones (Canada) will continue his mandate for the next two years.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The STACFAD Report was adopted by correspondence.

Table 1. 2006-2007 Commission Budget (Euros) - OPTION A

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>Increase Revised</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>Increase Revised</i>	<i>2007</i>
1. Salaries	981,663.78	0.00%	981,663.78	0.00%	981,663.78
2. Travel	43,102.69	0.00%	43,102.69	0.00%	43,102.69
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	115,884.75	0.00%	115,884.75	0.00%	115,884.75
4. Publications	52,470.04	0.00%	52,470.04	0.00%	52,470.04
5. Office Equipment	8,047.55	0.00%	8,047.55	0.00%	8,047.55
6. Operating expenses	112,665.73	0.00%	112,665.73	0.00%	112,665.73
7. Miscellaneous	6,438.05	0.00%	6,438.05	0.00%	6,438.05
8. Coordination of research					
a) Salaries	555,762.73	0.00%	555,762.73	0.00%	555,762.73
b) Travel to improve statistics	36,471.51	0.00%	36,471.51	0.00%	36,471.51
c) Statistics-Biology	46,032.00	0.00%	46,032.00	0.00%	46,032.00
d) Computer-related items	25,750.00	0.00%	25,750.00	0.00%	25,750.00
e) Database maintenance	16,899.86	0.00%	16,899.86	0.00%	16,899.86
f) Phone line-Internet domain	10,300.00	0.00%	10,300.00	0.00%	10,300.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	77,256.50	0.00%	77,256.50	0.00%	77,256.50
h) ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	14,588.60	0.00%	14,588.60	0.00%	14,588.60
i) ICCAT Billfish Research Program	11,273.01	0.00%	11,273.01	0.00%	11,273.01
j) Miscellaneous	6,116.14	0.00%	6,116.14	0.00%	6,116.14
<i>Sub-total Chapter</i>	<i>800,450.35</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>800,450.35</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>800,450.35</i>
9. Contingencies	20,600.00	0.00%	20,600.00	0.00%	20,600.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	30,900.00	0.00%	30,900.00	0.00%	30,900.00
TOTAL BUDGET	2,172,222.94	0.00%	2,172,222.94	0.00%	2,172,222.94

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2006-2007 - OPTION A

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2003	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Algérie	C	2,049	1,766	3,878	2,800	6,678	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	725	625	336		336	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	9,868	8,507	197		197	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	3,364	2,900			0	X	-	-	X	2	Belize
Brazil	B	2,700	2,328	40,155	25,399	65,554	X	-	X	X	3	Brazil
Canada	A	27,097	23,359	2,438		2,438	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cap-Vert	D	1,766	1,522	2,848	35	2,883	X	-	-	-	1	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep.	C	1,100	948	8,027	0	8,027	X	X	-	X	3	China, People's Rep.
Communauté Européenne	A	24,218	20,878	198,755	130,000	328,755	X	X	X	X	4	Communauté Européenne
Côte d'Ivoire	D	886	764	241		241	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia	C	6,398	5,516	977	472	1,449	-	X	-	-	1	Croatia
France (St. P. & M.)	A	29,222	25,191	37		37	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	4,155	3,582	748		748	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	354	305	67,949	44,093	112,042	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep.	D	1,963	1,692		0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Guatemala, Rep.
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	5,915	5,099			0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinée, Rep.	D	424	366			0	-	-	-	-	0	Guinée, Rep.
Honduras	D	980	845			0	X	-	-	-	1	Honduras
Iceland	A	36,329	31,318	0	0	0	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	33,819	29,154	25,626		25,626	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep.	C	11,059	9,534	97		97	X	X	-	X	3	Korea, Rep.
Libya	C	3,640	3,138	670		670	X	X	-	-	2	Libya
Maroc	C	1,463	1,261	12,286	1,173	13,459	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mexico	B	5,945	5,125	14,848	357	15,205	X	X	-	X	3	Mexico
Namibia	C	2,307	1,989	6,526		6,526	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep.	D	750	647			0	-	-	-	-	0	Nicaragua, Rep.
Norway	A	48,880	42,138	1,282		1,282	-	X	-	-	1	Norway
Panama	C	3,400	2,931	1,427		1,427	X	X	-	-	2	Panama
Philippines, Rep.	D	1,005	866	970		970	X	-	-	-	1	Philippines, Rep.
Russia	C	3,026	2,609	2,283		2,283	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	361	311	52		52	X	-	-	-	1	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	641	553	2,273	9,083	11,356	X	-	-	-	1	Senegal
South Africa	B	3,551	3,061	8,237		8,237	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Trinidad & Tobago	B	7,607	6,558	5,155		5,155	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	B	2,561	2,208	6,674	2,045	8,719	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	3,418	2,947	8,956	3,713	12,669	-	X	-	X	2	Turkey
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	30,355	26,168	238		238	X	X	X	X	4	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	36,924	31,831	24,978	27,618	52,596	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	3,274	2,822	1,761		1,761	-	-	-	X	1	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	1,142	984			0	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	2,994	2,581	16,667	2,184	18,851	X	-	-	X	2	Venezuela

^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\$ 2,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceed 5,000 t.

Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 2,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceed 5,000 t.

Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 2,000, 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 per capita with values adjusted to 1991 using a multiplier of 1.16 (Source: U.S. Federal Reserve Board's "Broad Index")

^c 2002 catches (t).

^d 2002 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. Contracting Party contributions 2006 (Euros) - OPTION A

Exchange rate: 1 € = 1.170 US\$ (11/2005)

Contracting Party	Group ^a	Catch + canning ^a	Panels ^a	% Catch + canning ^b	% Member + Panels ^c	Membership fee ^d	Panel membership ^e	Variable fees for member ^f	Variables fees catch- canning ^g	Total fees ^h	Contracting Party
Algérie	C	6,678	2	4.01%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	8,253.52	17,686.98	Algérie
Angola	D	336	2	7.50%	15.79%	855.00	1,710.00	2,003.19	1,902.18	6,470.37	Angola
Barbados	C	197	0	0.12%	2.22%	855.00	0.00	2,289.49	243.48	3,387.96	Barbados
Belize	C	0	2	0.00%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	0.00	9,433.46	Belize
Brazil	B	65,554	3	48.78%	16.67%	855.00	2,565.00	24,202.60	141,669.23	169,291.83	Brazil
Canada	A	2,438	3	0.59%	12.50%	855.00	2,565.00	53,618.12	5,089.24	62,127.36	Canada
Cap-Vert	D	2,883	1	64.32%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	16,321.38	19,366.84	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep.	C	8,027	3	4.81%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	9,920.79	22,498.73	China, People's Rep.
Communauté Européenne	A	328,755	4	79.99%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	686,264.76	757,562.41	Communauté Européenne
Côte d'Ivoire	D	241	2	5.38%	15.79%	855.00	1,710.00	2,003.19	1,364.36	5,932.55	Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia	C	1,449	1	0.87%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	1,790.86	8,079.83	Croatia
France (St. P. & M.)	A	37	3	0.01%	12.50%	855.00	2,565.00	53,618.12	77.24	57,115.36	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	748	2	0.45%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	924.47	10,357.93	Gabon
Ghana	C	112,042	1	67.20%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	138,475.75	144,764.73	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep.	D	0	1	0.00%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	0.00	3,045.46	Guatemala, Rep.
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	0	2	0.00%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	0.00	9,433.46	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinée, Rep.	D	0	0	0.00%	5.26%	855.00	0.00	667.73	0.00	1,522.73	Guinée, Rep.
Honduras	D	0	1	0.00%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	0.00	3,045.46	Honduras
Iceland	A	0	1	0.00%	6.25%	855.00	855.00	26,809.06	0.00	28,519.06	Iceland
Japan	A	25,626	4	6.24%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	53,493.39	124,791.04	Japan
Korea, Rep.	C	97	3	0.06%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	119.88	12,697.83	Korea, Rep.
Libya	C	670	2	0.40%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	828.07	10,261.53	Libya
Maroc	C	13,459	3	8.07%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	16,634.34	29,212.29	Maroc
Mexico	B	15,205	3	11.31%	16.67%	855.00	2,565.00	24,202.60	32,859.64	60,482.24	Mexico
Namibia	C	6,526	3	3.91%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	8,065.66	20,643.61	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep.	D	0	0	0.00%	5.26%	855.00	0.00	667.73	0.00	1,522.73	Nicaragua, Rep.
Norway	A	1,282	1	0.31%	6.25%	855.00	855.00	26,809.06	2,676.13	31,195.19	Norway
Panama	C	1,427	2	0.86%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	1,763.67	11,197.13	Panama
Philippines, Rep.	D	970	1	21.64%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	5,491.41	8,536.87	Philippines, Rep.
Russia	C	2,283	1	1.37%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	2,821.62	9,110.59	Russia
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	52	1	1.16%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	294.38	3,339.84	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	11,356	1	6.81%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	14,035.19	20,324.16	Senegal
South Africa	B	8,237	3	6.13%	16.67%	855.00	2,565.00	24,202.60	17,801.04	45,423.64	South Africa
Trinidad & Tobago	B	5,155	2	3.84%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	11,140.51	31,857.46	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	B	8,719	2	6.49%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	18,842.69	39,559.65	Tunisie
Turkey	B	12,669	2	9.43%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	27,379.07	48,096.02	Turkey
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	238	4	0.06%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	496.82	71,794.47	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	52,596	4	12.80%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	109,792.34	181,089.99	United States
Uruguay	C	1,761	1	1.06%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	2,176.47	8,465.44	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	0	0	0.00%	5.26%	855.00	0.00	667.73	0.00	1,522.73	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	18,851	2	14.03%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	40,739.03	61,455.98	Venezuela

^a Table 1.^b Percentage of catch and canning within the Group in which the member is a part.^c Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the Group in which the member is a part.^d US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership.^e US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership in 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. Contributions by Group 2006. Fees expressed in Euros - OPTION A

<i>Groups</i>	<i>Parties^a</i>	<i>Panels^b</i>	<i>Catch + Canning^c</i>	<i>% of each Party^d</i>	<i>% of the Budget^e</i>	<i>Fees^f</i>	<i>Panels fees^g</i>	<i>Other fees^h</i>	<i>Total feesⁱ</i>
A	8	24	410,972.00	---	60.50%	6,840.00	20,520.00	1,286,834.88	1,314,194.88
B	7	17	134,390.00	3.00%	21.00%	5,985.00	14,535.00	435,646.82	456,166.82
C	16	29	166,720.00	1.00%	16.00%	13,680.00	24,795.00	309,080.67	347,555.67
D	10	9	4,482.00	0.25%	2.50%	8,550.00	7,695.00	38,060.57	54,305.57
TOTAL	41	79	716,564.00		100.00%	35,055.00	67,545.00	2,069,622.94	2,172,222.94

^a Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 1).

^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 fees per Group.

Table 5. Contracting Party Contributions 2007 (Euros) - OPTION A

Exchange rate: 1 € = 1.170 US\$ (11/2005)

<i>Contracting Party</i>	<i>Group^a</i>	<i>Catch + canning^a</i>	<i>Panels^a</i>	<i>% Catch + canning^b</i>	<i>% Member + Panels^c</i>	<i>Membership fee^d</i>	<i>Panel membership^e</i>	<i>Variable fees for member^f</i>	<i>Variables fees catch-canning^g</i>	<i>Total fees^h</i>	<i>Contracting Party</i>
Algérie	C	6,678	2	4.01%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	8,253.52	17,686.98	Algérie
Angola	D	336	2	7.50%	15.79%	855.00	1,710.00	2,003.19	1,902.18	6,470.37	Angola
Barbados	C	197	0	0.12%	2.22%	855.00	0.00	2,289.49	243.48	3,387.96	Barbados
Belize	C	0	2	0.00%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	0.00	9,433.46	Belize
Brazil	B	65,554	3	48.78%	16.67%	855.00	2,565.00	24,202.60	141,669.23	169,291.83	Brazil
Canada	A	2,438	3	0.59%	12.50%	855.00	2,565.00	53,618.12	5,089.24	62,127.36	Canada
Cap-Vert	D	2,883	1	64.32%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	16,321.38	19,366.84	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep.	C	8,027	3	4.81%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	9,920.79	22,498.73	China, People's Rep.
Communauté Européenne	A	328,755	4	79.99%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	686,264.76	757,562.41	Communauté Européenne
Côte d'Ivoire	D	241	2	5.38%	15.79%	855.00	1,710.00	2,003.19	1,364.36	5,932.55	Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia	C	1,449	1	0.87%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	1,790.86	8,079.83	Croatia
France (St. P. & M.)	A	37	3	0.01%	12.50%	855.00	2,565.00	53,618.12	77.24	57,115.36	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	748	2	0.45%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	924.47	10,357.93	Gabon
Ghana	C	112,042	1	67.20%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	138,475.75	144,764.73	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep.	D	0	1	0.00%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	0.00	3,045.46	Guatemala, Rep.
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	0	2	0.00%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	0.00	9,433.46	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinée, Rep.	D	0	0	0.00%	5.26%	855.00	0.00	667.73	0.00	1,522.73	Guinée, Rep.
Honduras	D	0	1	0.00%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	0.00	3,045.46	Honduras
Iceland	A	0	1	0.00%	6.25%	855.00	855.00	26,809.06	0.00	28,519.06	Iceland
Japan	A	25,626	4	6.24%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	53,493.39	124,791.04	Japan
Korea, Rep.	C	97	3	0.06%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	119.88	12,697.83	Korea, Rep.
Libya	C	670	2	0.40%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	828.07	10,261.53	Libya
Maroc	C	13,459	3	8.07%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	16,634.34	29,212.29	Maroc
Mexico	B	15,205	3	11.31%	16.67%	855.00	2,565.00	24,202.60	32,859.64	60,482.24	Mexico
Namibia	C	6,526	3	3.91%	8.89%	855.00	2,565.00	9,157.95	8,065.66	20,643.61	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep.	D	0	0	0.00%	5.26%	855.00	0.00	667.73	0.00	1,522.73	Nicaragua, Rep.
Norway	A	1,282	1	0.31%	6.25%	855.00	855.00	26,809.06	2,676.13	31,195.19	Norway
Panama	C	1,427	2	0.86%	6.67%	855.00	1,710.00	6,868.46	1,763.67	11,197.13	Panama
Philippines, Rep.	D	970	1	21.64%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	5,491.41	8,536.87	Philippines, Rep.
Russia	C	2,283	1	1.37%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	2,821.62	9,110.59	Russia
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	52	1	1.16%	10.53%	855.00	855.00	1,335.46	294.38	3,339.84	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	11,356	1	6.81%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	14,035.19	20,324.16	Senegal
South Africa	B	8,237	3	6.13%	16.67%	855.00	2,565.00	24,202.60	17,801.04	45,423.64	South Africa
Trinidad & Tobago	B	5,155	2	3.84%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	11,140.51	31,857.46	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	B	8,719	2	6.49%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	18,842.69	39,559.65	Tunisie
Turkey	B	12,669	2	9.43%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	27,379.07	48,096.02	Turkey
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	238	4	0.06%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	496.82	71,794.47	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	52,596	4	12.80%	15.63%	855.00	3,420.00	67,022.65	109,792.34	181,089.99	United States
Uruguay	C	1,761	1	1.06%	4.44%	855.00	855.00	4,578.97	2,176.47	8,465.44	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	0	0	0.00%	5.26%	855.00	0.00	667.73	0.00	1,522.73	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	18,851	2	14.03%	12.50%	855.00	1,710.00	18,151.95	40,739.03	61,455.98	Venezuela

^a Table 1.^b Percentage of catch and canning within the Group in which the member is a part.^c Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the Group in which the member is a part.^d US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership.^e US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership in 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 6. Contributions by Group 2007. Fees expressed in Euros - OPTION A

<i>Groups</i>	<i>Parties^a</i>	<i>Panels^b</i>	<i>Catch + Canning^c</i>	<i>% of each Party^d</i>	<i>% of the Budget^e</i>	<i>Fees^f</i>	<i>Panels fees^g</i>	<i>Other fees^h</i>	<i>Total feesⁱ</i>
A	8	24	410,972.00	---	60.50%	6,840.00	20,520.00	1,286,834.88	1,314,194.88
B	7	17	134,390.00	3.00%	21.00%	5,985.00	14,535.00	435,646.82	456,166.82
C	16	29	166,720.00	1.00%	16.00%	13,680.00	24,795.00	309,080.67	347,555.67
D	10	9	4,482.00	0.25%	2.50%	8,550.00	7,695.00	38,060.57	54,305.57
TOTAL	41	79	716,564.00		100.00%	35,055.00	67,545.00	2,069,622.94	2,172,222.94

^a Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 1).

^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 fees per Group.

Table 7. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties

<i>Parties</i>	2002			2003			2004			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>Catch</i> *	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Algérie	3,878	2,800	6,678	3,949	2,900	6,849			0	Algérie
Angola	336 t		336	48 t		48			0	Angola
Barbados	197 t		197	240 t		240			0	Barbados
Belize			0			0			0	Belize
Brasil	40,155	25,399	65,554	43,094	27,210	70,304		26,659	26,659	Brasil
Canada	2,438 t		2,438	2,246 t		2,246			0	Canada
Cap-Vert	2,848	35	2,883	3,240	33	3,273	1,220 p+	48	1,268	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep	8,027	0	8,027	10,048	0	10,048			0	China, People's Rep.
Communauté Européenne	198,755	130,000 co	328,755	218,000		218,000			0	Communauté Européenne
Côte d'Ivoire	241 t		241	276 t		276			0	Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia	977 t	472 co	1,449	1,139 t		1,139			0	Croatia
France - St. P. & M.	37 t		37	4 t		4			0	France - St. P. & M.
Gabon	748 t		748	234 t		234			0	Gabon
Ghana	67,949 t	44,093 co+	112,042	65,153 t		65,153			0	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep.			0			0			0	Guatemala
Guinea Ecuatorial			0			0			0	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinée, Rep.			0			0			0	Guinée, Rep.
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Iceland
Japan	25,626 t		25,626	29,188 t		29,188			0	Japan
Korea, Rep	97 t		97			0			0	Korea, Rep.
Libya	670 t		670	666 t		666			0	Libya
Maroc	12,286	1,173	13,459	10,104	1,173	11,277	10,947	1,123 p	12,070	Maroc
Mexico	14,848	357	15,205	15,991 p		15,991			0	Mexico
Namibia	6,526 t		6,526	3,698 t		3,698			0	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Norway	1,282 t		1,282			0			0	Norway
Panama	1,427 t		1,427			0			0	Panama
Philippines, Rep.	970		970	1,066		1,066	2,227		2,227	Philippines, Rep.
Russia	2,283		2,283	652		652			0	Russia
São Tomé e Príncipe	52 t		52			0			0	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	2,273	9,083	11,356	2,271	9,459	11,730			0	Senegal
South Africa	8,237		8,237	4,543		4,543	5,773		5,773	South Africa
Trinidad & Tobago	5,155		5,155	3,417		3,417			0	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	6,674	2,045	8,719	3,581	3,365	6,946			0	Tunisie
Turkey	8,956	3,713	12,669	9,650	6,061	15,711	1,075	8,998	10,073	Turkey
United Kingdom (O.T.)	238 t		238	214 t		214			0	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	24,978	27,618	52,596	21,135	27,065	48,200			0	United States
Uruguay	1,761 t		1,761	43 t		43			0	Uruguay
Vanuatu			0			0			0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	16,667	2,184	18,851	12,402	1,818	14,220			0	Venezuela
TOTAL	467,592	248,972	716,564	466,292	79,084	545,376	21,242	36,828	58,070	TOTAL

p = Preliminary data.

p+ = Only partial data (quick estimates or selected gears, species, regions only).

co = Transfer of the information on data provided in 2003.

co+ = Carry over from 1999 canning estimate.

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication.

* Data updated to August 31, 2005.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. 2005 Administrative Report
5. 2005 Financial Report
6. Review of plans for the payment of arrears
7. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2006-2007
8. Other matters
9. Election of Chair
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7

Percentage of Budget Received, 2002-2005

<i>Budget</i>	<i>Contracting Party contributions</i>	<i>Contributions paid to the Budget</i>	<i>%</i>
2002	€1,615,001.56	€1,085,701.82	67.23%
2003	€1,679,601.62	€1,257,541.66	74.87%
2004	€1,937,860.99	€1,511,084.47	77.98%
2005	€2,172,222.94	€1,605,408.10	73.91%

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7

Group Classifications under the Madrid Protocol

This document was prepared by the Secretariat in response to requests from several Delegations for an explanation of how Contracting Parties contributions are calculated under the Madrid Protocol.

Regulation 4 of the Financial Regulations contains the Madrid Protocol for the provision of funds.

Group classifications are as follows:

- A: Developed market economies (according to UNCTAD).
- B: Parties with per capita GDP >\$2,000 **and** combined catch and canning >5,000 t (GDP is adjusted to 1991 dollar values using a weighted index published by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board).
- C: Parties with either GDP >\$2,000 **or** catch and canning >5,000 t.
- D: Other Parties.

After all Parties have been classified according to the above criteria, each Group is assigned a percentage of the total budget:

- D: 0.25% per member.
- C: 1% per member.
- B: 3% per member.
- A: Remainder

The next step, after a percentage of the overall budget has been assigned to each group, is to calculate the contribution of each member within a Group. This is done as explained in Regulation 4.1.b.ii, according to membership in Panels and according to the member's amounts of catch and canning.

In conclusion, a number of different variables affect the relative contributions of the Contracting Parties to the budget. These include:

- Each Party's catch, canning, Panel membership, degree of economic development, and GDP.
- The number of Parties that are classified into each of the four Groups.

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1-4

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1

1. Opening of the meeting

Panel 1 was chaired by Dr. Djobo Anvra Jeanson, Counselor to the Minister of Animal Production and Fishing Resources of Côte d'Ivoire.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Japan supported the adoption of the Agenda (**attached as Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**) and recalled that they distributed a draft proposal for a recommendation to authorize catch limits adjustment in the bigeye tuna fishery that will be reviewed under "Other matters".

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Estelle Loeuille (France-Saint-Pierre & Miquelon) was appointed Rapporteur for Panel 1.

4. Review of Panel membership

This year Panel 1 welcomes two new members: Belize and Equatorial Guinea, bringing its total membership to 30 Contracting Parties. Thus, Panel 1 is comprised of the following: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon) Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, and Venezuela.

After an exchange of views on the payment of membership fees to Panel 1, the Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, recalled that the contribution of each Contracting Party is calculated for a total amount that is assessed taking Panel memberships into account. Thus, the total contributions include catches, canning and Panel membership.

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

Dr. Joao Gil Pereira, Chairman of the SCRS, explained that this year's report does not mention an assessment on the stocks of tropical tunas but only includes an updating of data on yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tuna. Dr. Pereira indicated that the report uses a new reporting format.

As regards yellowfin tuna, Dr. Pereira emphasized the importance of natural mortality. Since 2001, the catches in the Atlantic have continued to decrease, in harmony with the reduction of purse seine effort. Dr. Pereira indicated that the size limit should be coherent for all the species in a multi-species fishery. Thus, the minimum size limit should be eliminated for yellowfin tuna, as has already been done for bigeye tuna.

The SCRS report noted that for bigeye tuna there has been a general declining trend of catches for all gears. The decrease in longline catches is attributed mainly to the drop of Japanese catches and the estimated catches from IUU fishing.

As regards skipjack, this species has not been assessed since 1999. The increasing use of FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices) has altered the composition of the schools and their movement.

With regard to tropical tunas, the European Community pointed out the important problem of the lack of data on the longline fisheries. The European Community regretted that certain countries do not provide their data and urged them to remedy this situation.

5.1 Protection of juvenile tropical tunas

The SCRS reviewed the potential impact of the time-area closure established by Recommendation 04-01 on the reduction in mortality of juvenile tropical tunas and expressed its concern regarding the fact that Recommendation 04-01 does not take into account the SCRS assessment on the moratorium. The Committee requests the Commission to consider the scientific advice before making any decisions that might have an impact on the stocks. Some delegations pointed out that it is essential that Contracting Parties apply the measures concerning the submission of data. In its report, the Committee presented a study on the moratorium area. It is expected that the change in the time-area closure will result in a significant increase of juvenile catches, since the catches are mainly carried out during the first quarter of the year. The Committee's general response was prepared during a workshop that took place in July 2005. For more details, the Contracting Parties are invited to refer to the conclusions of this workshop.

The United States stressed that the current closure is not very effective, as it has been noted that catches of juvenile bigeye tunas represent 50% of total catches. As regards the impact of the seasonal closure, a more detailed study needs to be carried out. The United States proposed the drafting of a resolution. They consider that the SCRS study is still insufficient.

The European Community was surprised by the references in the Report (particularly section 16.1 regarding the responses to the Commission on the effectiveness of the time-area closure). The European Community hopes that the SCRS provides more precise proposals as concerns the solutions to be adopted. The EC requested the SCRS to go further in their analysis. For example, they can rely on what has already been done in other regional fishery bodies.

The Chairman of the Panel noted the need to adopt other measures to reduce the mortality of juveniles.

The European Community suggested a recommendation aimed at eliminating the minimum size of yellowfin tuna.

The Delegate of Ghana noted that this problem is already the basis of studies in his country, as there is some concern as regards the manner of applying all these measures by the vessels. Thus, a calendar should be proposed for the implementation of these recommendations.

Dr. Pereira responded to the United States that no new assessment is foreseen for next year for yellowfin tuna and he is waiting for instructions from the Commission.

5.2 Other matters

No other matters were discussed under this item.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

The Chairman indicated that the two recommendations received from the United States and the European Community will be successively reviewed.

The United States specified that their proposal for a draft recommendation for an area/season closure to protect juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas is based on the SCRS report. Noting that the new time-area closure seems be less effective than the previous one for the protection of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna. The United States hoped that the SCRS continues its work and provides supplemental information on time-area closures aimed at decreasing the catches of juveniles of these species in an acceptable proportion. The SCRS could expand its analysis to other species, in particular, skipjack tuna.

The European Community again requested the SCRS to propose alternative measures to decrease the mortality of tropical tunas. Numerous problems still exist: it is essential that Chinese Taipei and other Contracting Parties

submit their data. As regards the European proposal for a yellowfin size limit, the European Community recalls that purse seiners do not differentiate between sizes. Thus, it is inconceivable to have regulations that the fisheries cannot implement. The European Community is currently carrying out trials on its fleets aimed at eliminating incidental catches of marine turtles and to avoid catching small bigeye tuna. As soon as the results are known they will be presented to the Commission. Primarily, this would imply adopting comprehensible measures regarding the gears and the fisheries. Therefore, work should continue in workshops, taking the European trials into account.

The Chairman called the Panel's attention to the recurring problem regarding the collection and transmission of data by some Contracting Parties.

At this stage of the discussions, Belize indicated that they hoped to have a maximum of 2,000 t of bigeye tuna.

The United States believed that the EC proposal to remove the yellowfin minimum size should be based on scientific aspects. They do not oppose to the elimination of the yellowfin minimum size, but they expressed concern regarding this matter and requested the SCRS to conduct a supplemental study, since the stock of this species is not in a good state.

Canada supported the position of the United States that consists of requesting the SCRS to continue with its work concerning the U.S. and EC proposals.

Ghana supported the EC proposal. They pointed out that the east Atlantic fishery does not have selective gears for bigeye and yellowfin tuna sizes.

The European Community understood the strategic reasons for which the United States hoped to maintain a minimum size limit. However, in practice, the implementation of this measure has never been carried out. The report regarding this matter is very clear. It would be reasonable to eliminate the size limit. The European Community invited the United States to reconsider its proposal and proposed to work together to find a suitable text for the identification of time-area closures for the targeted species. The Chairman invited the parties to come together in order to agree on these texts.

During the discussions, the United States asked that Panel 1 had closely examined the SCRS Report of the Working Group Regarding Measures Aimed at Reducing the Mortality of Juvenile Tropical Tunas and had taken due note of its advice and recommendations. Panel 1 requested the SCRS to continue with the work and to give particular attention to finding alternative measures to decrease the mortality of the fish and in particular juveniles, taking into account the multi-species nature of the fishery. As a result of this agreement, the United States withdrew its proposal. The European Community agreed with this approach that results in advancing in a more logical manner regarding this issue.

With regard to catch limits, the United States requested China to be more precise as they wish to know if catches are adjusted to the quotas for bigeye tuna.

China clarified that they are counting on limiting longliners to 113, whereas in the past, the total number of their vessels fishing tunas exceeded 500, including mainly small sized vessels. China recalled that following a state of over-fishing for three years, the situation has been rectified and that currently there is very precise monitoring of the catches by vessels.

Libya pointed out that its fleet was privatized and restarted fishing. Thus, it hopes to have a quota for bigeye tuna.

Sao Tomé and Príncipe envisages the chartering of vessels and would like to have a quota.

The European Community informed the parties which have requested a quota that, according to Recommendation 04-01, CPCs can fish up to 2,100 t of bigeye tuna and that there is no quota. The wishes of these parties can therefore be satisfied. Moreover, the European Community thanked the Chinese authorities for their explanations and their clarifications.

The Chairman concluded this item by inviting the SCRS to continue this work.

7. Research

Dr. Pereira reviewed the work plan included in the report and, in particular, Appendix 13 of the SCRS report that suggests continuing with the general review on fisheries as well as holding a working group next year to review different measures for the three tropical species.

8. Other matters

Regarding the document presented by Japan and China for the resolution to authorize catch limits adjustment in the bigeye tuna fishery, the Japanese delegate indicated that this proposal is the result of very complicated bilateral discussions between the two countries. Japan asked the Chinese government to avoid increasing fishing activity, in particular for bigeye tuna, a species that is already over-exploited. After numerous negotiations, China has accepted to limit the number of its large longliners to 113 and has committed to prohibit the construction of new vessels. As for Japan, they have accepted to transfer their fishing capacity of 10 longliners to China. The Japanese fleet decreased from 240 to 230 vessels. Japan is also ready to transfer 2,000 t of its bigeye tuna catch limit to China. Japan expressed its gratitude to for its collaboration and hoped that in the future it would continue its efforts not to increase its fishing capacity.

The United States expressed concern regarding the transfer, which presents several problems, since over-fishing already exists in China. The Japanese proposal foresees a transfer of 2,000 t of bigeye tuna and vessel capacity. The United States was concerned that the transfer would add to this over-fishing carried out in China. The presence of observers is necessary. This proposal must be discussed in greater depth, in particular regarding control measures.

The Chairman asked the Contracting Parties to come together in order to achieve an agreement.

In the third meeting of Panel 1, China responded to the concerns of the United States specifying that the 10 vessels transferred have a fishing license and that China is ready to respect the catch limits fixed by the Commission and to concentrate their efforts in eliminating overfishing of their fleet. In 2004, the level of Chinese vessels was fixed at 45.

Canada asked China for some clarification regarding large longliners that fish bigeye tuna. Canada inquired about the way China guarantees its monitoring measures when catches are about 200 t per vessel for 45 vessels, which amounts to 9,000 t.

China clarified that while 45 vessels are registered, only 30 vessels fish in the area and that monitoring measures already exist to guarantee their catch limit is not exceeded.

The United States noted that China has over 30 vessels and given China's catch limit, the U.S. delegate asked how this number corresponds to the quotas.

China pointed out that the monitoring of its bigeye tuna vessels is assured. They also stated that in an agreement between Japan and China, the transfer of capacity of 10 vessels would not be applied to their Atlantic fleet.

The United States thanked China for the clarifications, but like Canada, expressed continued concern and considered that retroactive transfers of quota to address over-harvests are not the best solution. Real guarantees are necessary so as not to exceed catch limits.

Canada expressed present satisfaction for China's explanations and commitments to limit at 35 the number of vessels fishing in the Atlantic.

The European Community expressed its recognition to the Contracting Parties that have voiced their concerns. The EC noted China's transparency in responding to the questions of the Commission. The EC believes that a recommendation would be more appropriate than a resolution. However, if the majority of Contracting Parties are in agreement, it would not object to the proposal.

Japan requested that, if possible, the resolution be adopted as is.

In conclusion, the Chairman declared the resolution adopted.

9. Election of the Chairman

The European Community proposed Côte d'Ivoire, represented by Dr. Djobo to chair Panel 1.

Japan and Senegal supported the proposal of the European Community.

After having appreciated the honorable gesture made towards Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Djobo accepted the chairmanship.

10. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The Report of Panel 1 was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of Panel 2, Mr. François Gauthiez (EC-France). No opening statements were made.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change (see **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Kelly Denit (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel membership

At the start of the meeting, Panel 2 comprised 18 Contracting Parties: Algeria, Canada, China, Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), and the United States.

The International Confederation of Sport Fly Fishing (CIPS) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), who attended the Panel as observers, presented statements, which are attached as **Appendices 2 and 3 to ANNEX 8**.

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

Dr. Joao Gil Pereira, SCRS Chairman, presented the relevant portions of the SCRS Report, including responses to the Commission's requests.

Following the report, the Chairman of Panel 2 opened the floor. Norway intervened and discussed the need to protect the eastern bluefin tuna stock. The statement by Norway is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**.

The United States pointed out that as part of the agreement on eastern Atlantic total allowable catch (TAC) from 2002, the all eastern bluefin harvesters would submit a plan [Rec. 02-09] to reduce the take of juvenile bluefin tuna. They expressed concern over the lack of specific information in the plan that was submitted by the EC, particularly with regard to the catch in the purse seine industry that is not being transferred to bluefin fattening farms, and others that failed to submit any plans.

6. Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies

The Chair of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group, Mr. Julien Turenne (EC-France), reported on the meeting held in Fukuoka, Japan in April of this year 2005. The report of this meeting is attached as **ANNEX 4.1**. Following the Chair's report, the floor was opened for discussion.

Many Parties expressed their positive reaction to the meeting in Fukuoka. They further stressed the importance of the SCRS response to the Working Group recommendations. The SCRS Chair reiterated the work they are doing to respond to the Working Group and the fact that the SCRS will need more time to address some of the recommendations. He also mentioned the utility of operational models to help answer some of the outstanding questions.

The EC, Canada and the United States all expressed support for an additional meeting of the Working Group in 2006. The EC offered to host the meeting. The United States may present a proposal to the Working Group and, if so, will coordinate with the EC and others regarding its contents.

7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

The United States introduced a measure tasking SCRS to further explore the use of operational models as a means to provide better management advice to the Commission, especially as it relates to the mixing of the stocks and taking into account recent studies on the movement of bluefin. The EC pointed out the recommendations from the meeting report of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies. The United States agreed to withdraw its proposal with the stipulation that its view is reflected in the meeting report. Parties agreed that the meeting report from Fukuoka already recommends that the SCRS undertake numerous evaluations of alternative management strategies and these could be completed in the context of the next assessment in 2006 and into the future.

Turkey introduced a measure to conduct research on the growth rate of caged bluefin tuna. However, there were several interventions regarding the proposal and after discussion Turkey agreed to withdraw the proposal. They did note that they would still conduct the experiment and present the information to SCRS next year.

The EC presented its proposal for amending the current recommendation on bluefin tuna farming, requiring sampling of caged bluefin in order to maintain the operation on the ICCAT Farming list. In addition, the recommendation requires tug or towing vessels used in caging operations to have VMS. Croatia expressed concern about the methods for sampling size distribution of farmed fish (*i.e.*, fish farmed for more than one year) and asked for further guidance on how to collect such statistics, given that with the available sampling protocol accurate data in the year of the catch may only be obtained for fattened fish, while the data from farming may only be obtained by dead fish. Turkey, the United States and Japan presented language to be added to the recommendation. Japan further noted that they will be paying particular attention to farmed bluefin product entering their market so Parties should ensure that all the necessary documentation is in proper order before shipping it. After some minor amendments, the EC proposal was accepted by the Panel (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 05-04]**).

Norway introduced its proposal for extending dates of the time/area closure in the Mediterranean. Iceland, Mexico and the United States all expressed support for the measure. However, several Mediterranean countries expressed concern. Japan articulated disappointment that no consensus could be reached given the concern over the status of the eastern bluefin stock. Canada further noted the need to protect juvenile bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, but noted the SCRS expressed concern about the effect of the displaced fishing effort if the closure was extended in duration. The EC noted that the issue of time/area closures, such as proposed here, is but one of the range of issues, including trade, needed to be addressed by ICCAT in its management of bluefin tuna. It considered that this issue should be addressed therefore in the context of the bluefin tuna management plan to be discussed next year. Therefore, the Parties agreed to take up the matter next year after the bluefin tuna assessment.

During the course of the discussions, statements were presented to the Panel by France, on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon (attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8**), and a joint statement by Medisamak and the International Federation of Sport Fishing at Sea (FIPS), (observers at the Panel) (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8**).

8. Research

The SCRS work plan for the bluefin tuna assessment was noted. There was no further discussion.

9. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

10. Election of Chair

Mr. Julien Turenne (on behalf of EC-France) was elected as the next Chair of Panel 2. The Parties thanked Mr. Gauthiez (EC-France) for his hard work and dedication to the Panel.

11. Adoption of the report

The Report of Panel 2 was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting of Panel 3 was opened by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan), who chaired the meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

No changes proposed, hence the Agenda was adopted without modification (see **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Naozumi Miyabe (Japan) was appointed Rapporteur for Panel 3.

4. Review of Panel membership

At the request of the Chairman, the Executive Secretary that after the withdrawal of Uruguay, Panel 3 currently comprises seven Contracting Parties: Brazil, European Community, Japan, Namibia, South Africa, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), and the United States of America. All the members were present.

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

5.1 Southern bluefin tuna

Dr. Joao Pereira, the SCRS Chairman, briefly reminded the Panel that southern bluefin tuna was under the management of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), and that the report on this species for this year was prepared by that organization.

5.2 South Atlantic albacore

The SCRS Chairman reported that the last assessment of the southern albacore stock was conducted in 2003 and no assessment was conducted in 2005. Therefore, the SCRS report on the stock status of this species was similar to that in previous reports. The Committee, however, did look at the most recent trends in the fisheries as well as other relevant studies on this stock this year. The 2004 catch (22,500 t) of South Atlantic albacore indicated a decrease of 5,500 t from the previous amount in 2003, the lowest since 1984. This appeared to be caused by the reduction of fleet size for both Chinese Taipei and Brazil.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

6.1 Southern bluefin tuna

Since this stock is managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), there was no discussion on this matter.

6.2 South Atlantic albacore

The Chairman of the Panel 3 noted that a multi-year management program is in effect for this stock. There was no discussion on the measures at this time.

7. Research

The SCRS Chairman noted that the Committee proposed to hold a data preparatory meeting in 2006, as the next assessment was scheduled for 2007. He also reiterated and stressed the needs of data submission required for that process by all the participating fisheries.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. Election of Chair

South Africa was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Panel.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Report of Panel 3 was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4

1. Opening of the meeting

The Meeting of Panel 4 was opened by the Chairperson, Dr. Rebecca Lent (United States) who extended a welcome to the members of the Panel and the observers.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Dr. Delphine Leguerrier Sauboua Suraud (EC-France) was appointed Rapporteur of Panel 4.

4. Review of Panel membership

With the admission of Belize, Panel 4 is currently comprised of the following 24 Contracting Parties. Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Morocco, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

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

Dr. Joao Pereira, Chairman of SCRS, summarized the pertinent sections of the SCRS Report that are of concern to Panel 4.

5.1 Atlantic swordfish

The catches indicated in the last report are considered provisional.

The Committee noted its concern that, in some cases, the regulatory measure [transposed from Rec. 02-02, amended by Rec. 04-02, imposing a TAC on the North Atlantic stock] had included swordfish discards in the North stock and this could have, to some degree, affected the behavior of the fleet fishing the South Atlantic swordfish stock.

A workshop on stock structure of the stock will be carried out in early 2006.

The United States pointed out the good condition of the North stock and the improvement of the South stock, as well as the need to adapt the schedule such that the SCRS concentrates on the most urgent matters (mainly the bluefin tuna stock assessment in 2006). The SCRS confirmed the observations made by the delegate from the United States as concerns the development in the catch trends and transmitted to the Commission the decision of adjusting the schedule of stock assessments. It was also pointed out that postponing these assessments would lead to a very heavy schedule in 2007. The European Community, Morocco and Canada preferred to maintain the schedule established for the next assessments.

The Chairman of Panel 4 recalled that the Commission Chairman had requested the Panels to discuss the matter of the SCRS work load and that these comments will thus be transmitted to the Plenary.

5.2 Mediterranean swordfish

The report is identical to the previous one.

5.3 Billfishes (*blue marlin and white marlin*)

The objective of the preparatory meeting that took place in May 2005 was to update information collected on blue marlin and white marlin. The Committee emphasized the importance of obtaining data in the framework of the next assessment (2006) and to continue improving the historical estimates.

In 2005, the CPUE analysis methods for marlins did not improve sufficiently. The scope of the 2006 assessment will be limited. According to the Committee, it is unlikely that the next assessments will differ much from earlier ones.

5.4 Sharks

The SCRS should provide some responses to the Commission's questions. Furthermore, the review by the SCRS of the 5% rate of retention of fin-body weight of sharks led the SCRS to observe that the criteria are very different according to the fleets. The ratio of 1 to 5% is based on taking into account only the primary fins and not the adjacent fins. For example, based on the sampling of catches carried out on the European Community longline fleets, the SCRS observed that, if the adjacent fins are also considered, a ratio of 14% is obtained with respect to the body weight after their preparation. Consequently, the SCRS thus recommended that the conversion coefficients between the fin weight and body weight be developed according to the species and/or according to the fleets.

The Chairman of the SCRS emphasized that up to now there is still no basis to recommend catch limits for these stocks, due to the problem of the information related to the current catch levels. The modification of the fishing gears, the restriction of the fishing zones, the establishment of minimum size limits are measures that could prove beneficial to decrease fishing mortality on shortfin mako, such as the SCRS recommended.

5.5 Other species

The Chairman of the SCRS pointed out that its comments are identical to those expressed in previous years, i.e. the majority of the countries do not report their catches of small tunas. This results in a lack of information on the catches and on the biological aspects of these species.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the allocation of Fishing Possibilities

6.1 Draft Recommendation on the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

The United States proposed a draft recommendation on decreasing fishing mortality of shark by-catches and research that should be carried out on this matter. This proposal is presented in the context of the decision of the United Nations to deal with stocks whose management is not yet regulated by FAO, from the current lack of knowledge on some shark stocks, and on the advice provided by the SCRS in its management recommendations for these species, in particular, shortfin mako.

Canada and Brazil supported this proposal, aimed at improving the management of by-catches. The European Community recalled that Recommendation 04-10 adopted by the Commission in 2004 already covers the first point of the U.S. proposal, which refers to research, and that the second point should be clarified. The European Community and South Africa requested some clarification on the scope of this proposed text, to which the United States responded that the fisheries involved were those that fish sharks as by-catch as well as those that target these species. When asked, the SCRS Chairman confirmed that the report specifically cited shortfin mako among the species that could benefit from a reduction in fleet capacity and effective effort.

The European Community informed on on-going research within the framework of a process of revision of the Community regulations. Consequently, the Community will present the results at the next ICCAT meeting, in order to amend Recommendation 04-10, if necessary. For the moment, according to the European Community, this Recommendation is only in its first year of implementation, and it is too early to supersede it by a new one, in which some terms could contradict those already adopted.

Belize pointed out that some countries had already implemented the provisions in this sense, but that they had not yet necessarily provided the results. A summary to be included in the annual report could be requested. Japan indicated that the current text mentions a decrease in shark mortality, a point that is not included in Recommendation 04-10, but that point 2 was difficult to apply as is, since it is not very precise.

The Panel 4 Chair thus closed the discussion and proposed an in-depth review of Recommendation 04-10 at the 2006 ICCAT meeting. It will consist in preparing a summary on what the CPCs have done during the intersessional period to comply with the requirements of Recommendation 04-10. The Chair insisted on the responsibility of the CPCs concerning this matter during the intersessional period, and the United States recalled that the SCRS had recommended a decrease in fishing mortality on these species.

6.2 Allocation of fishing possibilities

The Delegate of France (on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon) presented a statement (attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8**). He noted he did not intend to start a discussion at this time, which will take place next year, but to set a date for the future.

As a new Panel member, Belize informed its intention to participate in the North Atlantic swordfish fishery (for which it will request a quota of 200 t) and in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery (for which it will request a 200 t quota). Furthermore, the Belizean fleets would target small tunas but not billfishes. Finally, Belize will participate in the ICCAT plan to rebuild the stocks of blue marlin and white marlin [Recs. 00-13, 01-10, 02-13 and 04-09].

7. Research

The SCRS Chairman requested financial support to strengthen the Billfish Research Program. This request should be submitted to STACFAD.

As concerns by-catches and sharks, the SCRS Chairman requested the creation of a By-Catch Coordinator position at the Secretariat. In response to the European Community, the Chairman clarified that, given the work load this involved (maintaining the database and coordinating information) this position will be full time one.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. Election of Chair

Canada proposed Japan for the chairmanship of Panel 4. The United States and the European Community supported this candidacy and the European Community pointed out Japan's extensive experience in the fishing of the four species that are managed by this Panel.

Japan accepted the nomination.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Report of Panel 4 was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**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)
 - 5.1 Protection of juvenile tropical tunas
 - 5.2 Other issues
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. Election of Chair
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 2

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. Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies
7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
8. Research
9. Other matters
10. Election of Chair
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 3

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. Election of Chair
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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)
 - 5.1 Blue marlin and white marlin
 - 5.2 Other species
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. Election of Chair
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Statement by the Observer of the International
Confederation of Sport Fly Fishers (CIPS) to Panel 2**

Following the intervention by our organization, the French Federation of Sea Fishers (*Fédération Française des Pêcheurs en Mer*), in representation of the Ministry of Youth and Sports for sport and amateur fishing in France, we would like to inform the ICCAT Plenary of the almost total disappearance of large spawners over 100 kg along the French Mediterranean coasts (see attached tables and figures).

A full report regarding this subject (SCRS/2005/100) was submitted to the SCRS at its meeting which was held October 3-7, 2005 in Madrid.

Supplemental information concerning this situation has been requested from the Italian Federation of Sport Fishing (*Federazione Italiana Pesca Sportiva, FIPS-AS*) and the Spanish Federation of Fishing (*Federación Española de Pesca, FEPYC*).

In presentation of the SCRS Report (Madrid 2005) one is aware of the important role of large spawners in the management of the stock. Recent scientific articles have shown that older females produce larvae and recruits which have a greater capacity for survival and growth than the young adults and that they play a key role in the adaptability, persistence and productivity of the stocks.

Furthermore, the modification of the date concerning the time/area closure in the Mediterranean area aimed at protecting the concentration of spawners during the spawning period was pointed out at this meeting.

We request the ICCAT Plenary to be aware of this problem, and with scientific advice, take the necessary measures to assess this disappearance of the large spawners which is detrimental to the good management of the stocks.

We also request the following:

1. That the regulatory minimum weights for bluefin tuna, without any tolerance, be harmonized in the Mediterranean and east Atlantic.
2. Full compliance with quotas allocated by ICCAT.
3. Fight against all illegal fishing at the national and international level it is imperative to eradicate this type of IUU fishing without delay.
4. That Recommendation Rec. 04-12, adopted by ICCAT at its 14th Special Meeting, concerning sport and non-commercial fishing activities in the Mediterranean, be applied to the entire Atlantic Ocean.

Table 1. Weights of bluefin tuna (over 100 kg) caught in the Mediterranean from 1992 to 2005.

<i>Years</i>	<i>Weight (in kg)</i>
1992	14,929
1993	21,975
1994	15,884
1995	16,913
1996	44,277
1997	34,161
1998	22,444
1999	2,921
2000	13,985
2001	47,790
2002	21,705
2003	9,808
2004	2,067
2005	405
Total	269,264

Table 2. Number of catches of bluefin tuna (over 100 kg) in the Mediterranean from 1992 to 2005.

<i>Years</i>	<i>No. of catches</i>
1992	104
1993	131
1994	94
1995	110
1996	290
1997	273
1998	162
1999	17
2000	98
2001	299
2002	153
2003	98
2004	27
2005	3
Total	1,859

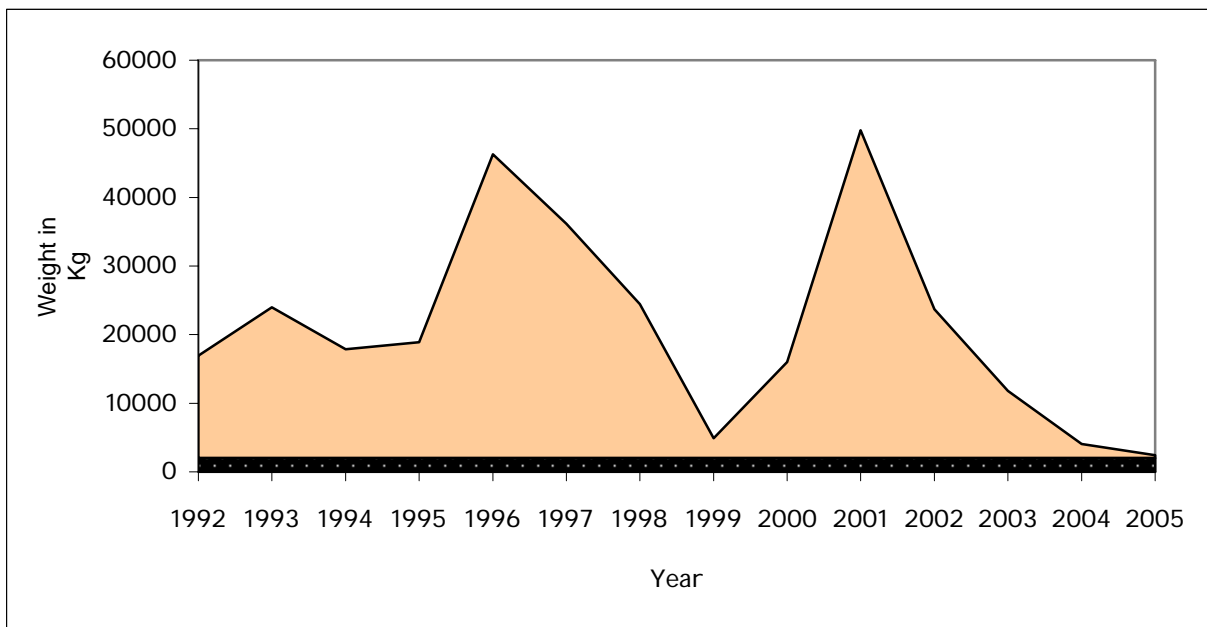


Figure 1. Diagram representing the weights of bluefin tuna (over 100 kg) caught in the Mediterranean from 1992 to 2005.

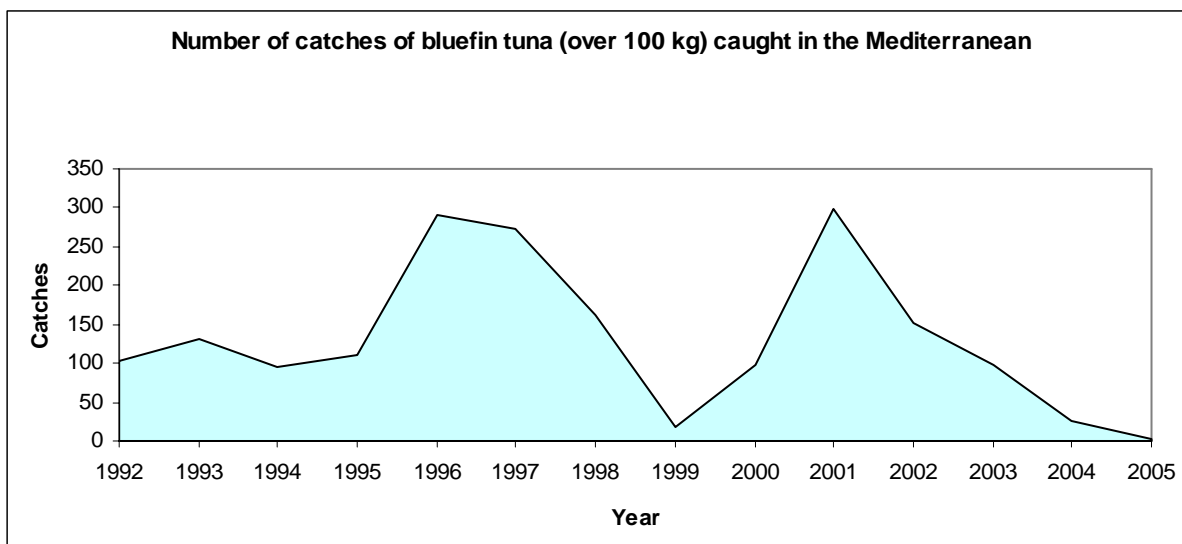


Figure 2. Diagram representing the number of catches of bluefin tuna (over 100 kg) caught in the Mediterranean from 1992 to 2005.

Statistics on *Thunnus thynnus* collected by FFPM samplers on all the French Mediterranean coasts of the Languedoc Roussillon and Provence Côte d’Azur (from Collioure to Marseille) regions.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the Observer of the World Wildlife Federation (WWF) to Panel 2

WWF is documenting and denouncing since 2001 how the uncontrolled expansion of tuna farming in the Mediterranean is exacerbating the mismanagement of the East Atlantic stock of bluefin tuna. The “Cartagena Call for Action for Sustainable Tuna Farming in the Mediterranean”, promoted by WWF in 2002, was supported by more than 100 scientists and NGOs from the region. Two monographic reports on tuna farming were issued by WWF in 2002 and 2004¹, which demonstrated that catches on the stock are far above the ICCAT quota and that the fishery is exclusively driven by market forces in a context of ever growing tuna farming -and fleet-overcapacity. This picture was confirmed in September 2004 by the report issued by the tuna-farming consulting company ATRT².

Confronted with the alarming decrease of captures due to the rampant overexploitation of the stock, OPP 51 organized in July 2005 the 1st Tuna Trap International Seminar, with the support of WWF and A.M.P.T., to analyze the situation and propose measures to defend the livelihoods of more than 500 direct workers in the five Spanish tuna traps (*almadrabas*) and around 800 in Morocco. As a result, the Seminar’s participants proposed that ICCAT and the Contracting Parties implement urgent measures that would reverse the declining trend of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

The information referred to the spring-summer fishing season in 2005 is dramatically alarming, pointing to the widespread violation of management rules, including huge over-the-quota catches, reflagging of vessels without notification to ICCAT, IUU farms and use of spotting airplanes in June, all these particularly affecting Southern Mediterranean waters. These evidences led WWF to address a letter of concern to ICCAT Secretariat already in early June. Again, more than 22,000 t of tuna would have been caged this year, which would mean total annual catches far above the quota.

Facing this extremely grave situation, which is undermining the very conservation and management credibility of ICCAT, WWF, OPP 51 and A.M.P.T., calls on national delegations to undertake a deep and far-reaching move in the ICCAT meeting this year by promoting the adoption of the following four measures:

¹ http://www.panda.org/news_facts/publications

² http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/marine/news/news.cfm?uNewsID=15352

1. The current overcapacity of tuna farms around the Mediterranean (41,212 t, to be compared to a total quota of 32,000 t) results in a real race for the last tuna from the start of the fishing season to the start of the seasonal closure of the purse seine fishery, the 15th July. All evidences point to the widespread violation of ICCAT management rules during this period, including the ban on aerial spotting in June.

In this context, only clear effort management measures, easy to apply and control, can lead to a real reduction of fishing effort, consistent with the actual harvesting possibilities offered by the stock. Consequently, WWF, OPP 51 and A.M.P.T. propose to extend the seasonal closure of purse seine fishing 15 more days, to last from July 1 to August 15. Given the unsustainable situation, this measure should be implemented already during the 2006 fishing season.

2. In parallel, a specific quota for tuna caging (as a maximum limit) should be immediately allocated to ICCAT parties' fishing fleets, out of their overall catch quota on the East Atlantic bluefin tuna stock. Such a limitation of fish-for-farming rights is essential to put and immediate end to current farm overcapacity and the resulting race for the last tuna, as well as to safeguard the short-term profitability of the tuna sector itself.

Based on the levels of tuna farming production during 2000-2002, before the start of the current overcapacity crisis, and the needs of other tuna harvesters, like tuna traps, longliners and hook-and-line ones, the total annual farming quota shouldn't be in excess of 12,000 t.

3. The current quota system is little more than a political tool to share fishing opportunities among Contracting Parties; it should urgently be transformed into an operational management tool. To this end, taking into account the enormous difficulties to obtain reliable statistics, the strong concentration of catches in a very short main fishing season and the high economic profitability of the fishery, a compulsory observer programme should be put in place covering 100% of purse seiners, ideally during the whole fishing period (and, at least, during the main fishing season, from the start of the activity in spring to the start of the purse seining closure in July; see point 1).
4. The current size limit of 10 kg is not biologically consistent. It should be based on scientific studies on size at maturity and set at 30 kg.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Norway to Panel 2

Norway became a full member of ICCAT in March 2004. We had a central role in science and fishing of Atlantic bluefin tuna up until around 1970, providing detailed catch statistics starting in 1950. During the latest decades very few adult Atlantic bluefin tuna has been migrating and feeding in the highly productive northern ecosystems such as the Norwegian Sea. I refer you to document PA2-079 for further details. This situation is indicative of the unhealthy state of the bluefin tuna population and it represents a long-term sign of considerable growth over-fishing, signalling that the bluefin tuna population is not managed in a sustainable way.

In order to remedy this situation Norway suggests that ICCAT adopt ecosystem based research and management principles. Atlantic bluefin tuna and other important fish species managed by ICCAT should not be treated as individual and isolated species, rather be linked and understood within their respective natural ecosystems and ecological niche. This means for instance that if major prey species for Atlantic bluefin tuna are over exploited, it may lead to lack of proper, highly energetic food for tuna populations and reduce their growth and possibly threaten the survival of these populations. Thus, ecosystem considerations are important to implement in the future management and conservation of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

The ecosystem approach has been generally recognized as the guiding principle of modern fishing management, as expressed in the Reykjavik Declaration from the 2001 FAO Conference on Responsible Fisheries, as well as in the Johannesburg Implementation Plan from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The ecosystem approach has been strongly recommended by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) for adoption by regional fisheries management organisation such as the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). The newly established South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) is another organisation adopting the principles of ecosystem-based management. In the Barents Sea Norway and Russia

manage the capelin stock according to the interrelationship and stock sizes of predator species such as marine mammals, cod and herring in an ecosystem based framework.

ICCAT also needs reliable fishery independent data collection for increased biological and ecological understanding as well as for assessment purposes. International coordinated egg surveys targeted around the main spawning grounds will both increase our vital understanding of the dynamics of the stocks as well as provide us with a possible fishery independent assessment tool in the future. International coordinated egg surveys have been successfully used for stock assessment purposes on Atlantic mackerel for many years, showing the feasibility and success of applying such fishery independent research data on other highly migratory pelagic fish species in the North Atlantic.

An international reference fleet within ICCAT should be recognised as a possible alternative and complementary data collection platform to increase the quality of essential catch data such as length, weight and age distribution. Such measures could easily be implemented. Technological creep (gradual changes in the fleet effort due to technological improvements for finding the fish and catching the fish) is an increasing challenge when applying the principles behind Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) for assessment purposes. Therefore, using a representative and standardized international reference fleet should improve the quality of the data from the fishing fleet.

Finally, Norway recommends that the minimum landing size for bluefin tuna should be increased to 30 kg in order to reflect the size at maturity.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8

Statement by France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) to Panel 2

France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) reiterates the statement presented in the last Commission meetings. It is recalled that France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) supported the Recommendations concerning the conservation of the West Atlantic bluefin tuna stock, with the condition that, during the 2006 ICCAT meeting, the management measures on this stock would be reexamined [Rec. 02-07] and [Rec. 04-05], and that the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* adopted in 2001 [Ref. 01-25], be duly taken into account. In this sense, France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) recalls the question formulated in 2002 and reiterated in 2003 for a significant re-evaluation of its quota. Once again, France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) will present this request at the 2006 ICCAT Commission meeting.

In fact, in 1998, France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) was allocated a fixed quota of 4 tons per year of West Atlantic bluefin tuna, for which the overages or underages could be added to or deducted from two years following the year of the catch.

If after 2003, the reports of underages have allowed to increase the possibilities of annual catches, the initial quota is insufficient for our archipelago whose population of 7,000 is dependent on fishing.

Thus, following the stock assessment scheduled for 2006 by ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 04-05], France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon), will request a significant increase in the catch quota of West Atlantic bluefin tuna than that currently assigned to them, with the aim of responding to the needs of the population of Saint Pierre & Miquelon.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8

Joint Statement by the Observers of Medisamak and FIPS* to Panel 2

During Medisamak's 3rd meeting of the Bluefin Tuna Working Group, which took place on October 18 and 19, 2005, to prepare for the ICCAT meeting in Seville, the Medisamak member organizations of the tuna sector and Turkey, as well as the *Fédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive en mer* (FIPS), developed the following proposals aimed at contributing to the improvement of bluefin tuna conservation measures.

* The *Fédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive* (FIPS) is part of the *Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive* (CIPS).

1. It is essential to harmonize the regulatory minimum weights for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean and in the East Atlantic, without any tolerance, in order to assure a better management of the bluefin tuna stocks, better protection of juveniles, and to avoid the difficulties linked to the controls on land. Harmonizing the minimum weights will result in avoiding, in part, the development of illegal fishing.
2. It is urgent that the professional structures be strengthened in the countries where they are still fragile or even inexistent, and to create permanent working groups of consultation in the different States in order to improve communication between the professionals and the institutions concerning bluefin tuna, which involves an important number of fishing companies, communities and families that are dependent on it.
3. Medisamak and FIPS request the support of the competent authorities to carry out programs and projects of common interest at the national or international level, in particular: studies, seminars, collaboration of the professionals with the scientific sector or any other initiative that might be pertinent for the improvement of the conservation of the fishing resources in the Mediterranean, which is the main objective of Medisamak.
4. Medisamak and FIPS earnestly request the competent authorities to adopt, without further delay, a regulation for non-commercial fishing practices and to ensure its implementation and compliance. They request the prohibition on commercializing products from sport fishing/non-commercial fishing in the Atlantic as well as the Mediterranean, to avoid discrimination and to fight more effectively against pillage.
5. It is absolutely essential and urgent to fight against all forms of illegal fishing, at the national and international level, by all possible means. Medisamak and FIPS earnestly request the organisms concerned (ICCAT, GFCM, EU, European Control Agency, etc.) do everything possible to implement these as soon as possible, to eradicate IUU fishing. The professionals of the tuna sector who work in the respect of the regulations should not be penalized, as they are easily controllable and suffer the consequences of the pillage of the resources by the IUU vessels.
6. Medisamak and FIPS deplore the lack of response of the national authorities following the notification of the activity by illegal vessels reported by the professionals during recent fishing campaigns, as well as the lack of control of the activities of these vessels. Both organizations denounce the lack of political willingness as concerns this issue.
7. Taking into account the impact of IUU fishing on the state of the resources and the interest of the professionals in assuring a sustainable management of the bluefin tuna stocks, and the lack, up to now, of the necessary legal framework to improve the situation, Medisamak and FIPS request that no additional constraints be imposed on the professional fishers whilst the authorities concerned do not adopt a proactive attitude in fighting against illegal fishing, and present concrete results.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8

Statement by France (Saint Pierre & Miquelon) To Panel 4

In 2003, France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) was allocated a fixed quota of 35 tons of North Atlantic swordfish per year, for which the overages or underages could be added to or deducted from two years following the year of the catch.

If, after 2003, the reports of underages have allowed an increase in the possibilities of annual catches, the initial quota is insufficient for our archipelago whose population of 7,000 is dependent on fishing.

Thus, following the stock assessment scheduled for 2006 by ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 03-03], France (on behalf of Saint Pierre & Miquelon), will request a significant increase of the catch quota of West Atlantic bluefin tuna than that currently assigned to them, with the aim of responding to the needs of the population of Saint Pierre & Miquelon.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

1. Opening of the meeting

The Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee met during the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Seville, Spain, November 14 to 19, 2005). The meeting was opened by the Committee Chair, Mr. Friedrich Wieland (European Community) who took the opportunity to welcome Belize and Senegal as new Contracting Parties to the Committee's proceedings.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

No changes were made to the draft Agenda as circulated. The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mr. Robert Thomas (European Community) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. National rules for the application of ICCAT measures

Delegates' attention was drawn to the document distributed by the Secretariat containing a compilation of Contracting Parties' annual reports. There was no discussion on this point.

5. Status of the compliance of Contracting Parties concerning statistics

The Chair reminded delegates of the Secretariat's Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research.

In response to an information note submitted by Japan concerning imports of processed tuna, China noted its intention to implement the statistical document programs in a comprehensive manner in 2006.

The European Community thanked the Secretariat for its report. It noted that many Contracting Parties had not supplied statistics and encouraged them to do so for management and conservation purposes. It underlined the importance of monitoring the market for fishery products. Closing markets to products arising from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing would be an effective means of preventing this practice. Importing countries, as well as flag States, had an important role to play in this regard.

Japan was encouraged by China's plan to fully implement the statistical document programs. Echoing the European Community's concerns, Japan highlighted the poor level of response on the part of Contracting Parties to the submission of Task I and Task II data and stressed the importance of such data for scientific purposes. Japan encouraged Contracting Parties to submit the necessary information.

At the invitation of the Chair, the United States presented a proposal for a recommendation on compliance with statistical reporting obligations that it believed would assist the Committee in analyzing issues of non-compliance by Contracting Parties.

Japan recalled the assistance offered to developing countries via the trust fund it had established.

The Committee adopted the proposed recommendation subject to a number of modifications to the text (**see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 05-09]**).

The United States then introduced a proposal concerning the development of an ICCAT observer program. After some discussion, the Committee decided that the issue should be discussed in the framework of discussions on transshipment under point 8.1 of the Agenda and the proposal was withdrawn eventually.

6. Status of the compliance of the Contracting Parties concerning ICCAT conservation and management measures

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its report on information received in 2005 in relation to compliance with and observance of ICCAT conservation and management measures, which would serve as a reference for the Committee's deliberations of Agenda items 6.2 to 6.8.

6.1 Review of the Compliance Tables

The Committee then turned its attention to the review of the Compliance Tables on a species-by-species basis.

North Atlantic albacore

The European Community noted that it intended to carry forward its under-harvest in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2004-2006* [Rec. 03-06].

Canada requested clarification regarding the presentation of the adjusted quota figures for those Contracting Parties having initial catch limits/quotas of 200 tons, stressing the need for such information to be presented in a consistent manner.

South Atlantic albacore

There were no comments on this table.

North Atlantic swordfish

The European Community noted that it intended to carry forward its under-harvest of 42.5 tons.

South Atlantic swordfish

The European Community requested clarification regarding the carry forward of under-harvests for this stock as it did not believe this practice to be permitted by the relevant recommendation. It also requested explanations from those Contracting Parties that had recorded over-harvests.

In response, Brazil recalled that it, as well as Uruguay and South Africa, had objected to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the South Atlantic Swordfish Fishery* [Rec. 97-08]. Therefore, Brazil considered that the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance with Management Measures which Define Quotas and or Catch Limits* [Rec. 00-14] which permitted the carry forward of under-harvests applied in this situation.

Japan remarked that, in its case, the carry forward of under-harvests was clearly specified in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits* [Rec. 02-03].

Uruguay recalled the earlier remarks made by Brazil and noted that its increased catches resulted from lower catches in 2002.

Korea noted that it had taken 70 tons as by-catch. Korea did not have a national allocation for this stock. Korean fishermen had been informed accordingly. In 2005, 17 tons had been taken to the end of September. Korea intended to ask for an allocation at the appropriate moment.

East Atlantic bluefin tuna

Japan drew the Committee's attention to an information document concerning bluefin tuna catches caged in farming facilities, which suggested excessive catches by certain Contracting Parties. Japan explained the methodology used in its analysis of bluefin tuna imports from Turkey. This suggested a Turkish catch in excess

of 3,000 tons in 2003. Japan expressed concern at the increase in the number of Turkish vessels targeting the stock.

Turkey responded that one of the main reasons it had decided to accede to ICCAT was to improve the means by which Turkish catches could be regulated. Turkey questioned the accuracy of the growth rate used by Japan in its analysis. Turkey outlined the catch reporting requirements it imposed on its fishermen. Consequently, there was no direct relationship between the number of vessels and the amount harvested.

The European Community remarked that it was premature to assess the amount of bluefin tuna caged for farming in 2005 as Japan had done in its document.

Libya recalled that it had submitted its Annual Reports to the Secretariat in respect of 2002 and 2003. Libya's 2004 Annual Report had not been submitted until shortly before the meeting and certain corrections might be required. Libya held the view that it was in compliance with ICCAT requirements and was ready to provide all relevant information to the Secretariat.

The Chair emphasized that pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT on Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* [Rec. 98-14], the submission of Annual Reports in itself was not sufficient. Contracting Parties remained under an obligation to submit correct data and to provide explanations about their under and/or over-harvests. Consequently, the figures for Libya and Turkey might need to be revisited at the Committee's meeting in 2006.

West Atlantic bluefin tuna

There were no comments on this table.

Atlantic bigeye tuna

Canada recalled the decision taken in 2004 not to carry forward under-harvests of this stock and requested clarification of the figures presented in respect of the European Community.

The United States proposed that Parties carrying forward under-harvests should provide appropriate explanations of their calculations in a footnote to the compliance table.

The European Community explained that its 2005 adjusted catch limit reflected its 2003 under-harvest that it had carried forward to 2005. At the same time, the Community recalled that in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01] Contracting Parties would only be permitted in future to carry forward 30% of their under-harvest. The European Community requested explanations from those Contracting Parties that had recorded over-harvests.

Japan highlighted possible amendments to be made to the 2003 and 2004 catch figures reported by Chinese Taipei to take into account its alleged laundering activities and over-harvest. Japan moved that approval of the compliance table for Atlantic bigeye tuna be deferred to the Plenary pending the outcome of parallel discussions in the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) on this issue. Japan also drew attention to the continuing high level of catches reported by Netherlands Antilles although its reference-year figure was zero.

Japan presented information showing an important increase in bigeye tuna imports of filleted bigeye from China (attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**).

Billfishes

Brazil recalled its prohibition on the commercialization of blue marlin and white marlin and noted that the figures reported included live discards, and hence asked for the tables to be corrected to replace the negative balances with blanks, as reported.

In response to a request from the United States for clarification concerning Mexican catches of blue marlin, Mexico drew attention to the footnote to the table and repeated that the figures reported represented by-catches.

Size limits for species with size regulations for 2004

The European Community expressed regret that very few Contracting Parties had submitted data on minimum sizes and encouraged such Parties to do so. The delegate noted that it was difficult for the Committee to assess the implementation of measures in the absence of this information.

The United States noted the zero per cent figure reported by the European Community in respect of Mediterranean bluefin tuna and looked forward to discussions on this issue in the appropriate panel.

Uruguay stated that it had submitted information detailing that it targeted only adult fish. As a result, catches below minimum sizes were practically zero.

Adoption of the Compliance Tables

The Committee adopted the Compliance Tables with the exception of the one for Atlantic bigeye tuna and forwarded them to the Plenary for final approval (attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**).

6.2 List of vessels over 24 m authorized to operate in the Convention area

The Secretariat informed the Committee that it was currently restructuring the database for the register of vessels over 24 meters and that the correct functioning of this base would require the reporting of data to be in strict accordance with a standard format. It was envisaged that in the future the base may be linked to other vessel lists required by ICCAT measures but the possibility of such linking was again dependent on the submission of information in the correct format. While the relational database would take some time to complete, Contracting Parties were advised that they might need to prepare their own database structure to be able to submit the information in conformity with ICCAT requirements, as currently information submitted often did not include all the information required by the relevant Recommendation [Rec. 02-22] and the variety of structures in which it was received made it difficult, or in some cases impossible, to incorporate the information in the database.

6.3 List of vessels fishing for northern albacore

There were no comments on this item.

6.4 Limitation of bigeye vessels

The European Community noted that not all Contracting Parties had complied with the requirement to report bigeye vessels to ICCAT as specified in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01].

Brazil responded that this requirement did not apply to Parties having a catch limit less than 2,100 tons.

Ghana repeated certain information from its Annual Report concerning purse seine and baitboat vessel numbers. Ghana noted that these vessels also took skipjack and yellowfin.

6.5 Status of closed season/area in the Gulf of Guinea

The European Community stated that its Member States had complied with the closure requirements and that information relevant to this issue had been included in its Annual Report.

6.6 Bluefin tuna farming

The Chair recalled the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 04-06] adopted by the Commission in 2004.

Japan observed that only the European Community and Turkey had submitted information to the Secretariat regarding sampling programs. It urged other Parties to do likewise during the course of the meeting. Buyers in Japan had been informed by the Japanese authorities of ICCAT's reporting requirements for bluefin tuna farming. Japan requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of those establishments where sampling had taken place and moved that non-sampled farms be deleted from the list of authorized establishments.

Morocco noted that it had authorized three farming projects. However, as none of the farms was as yet operational, no sampling had been carried out.

Turkey remarked that the harvesting campaign had just begun and that the relevant data would be submitted to the Secretariat in due course.

Croatia informed the Committee that it had introduced sampling at the beginning of 2005. As the harvesting season was now underway, the relevant data would be submitted to the Secretariat in due time.

The European Community agreed with Japan as to the serious nature of the issue and noted the European Community's intention to table a proposal to reinforce the measures in place. The European Community did not consider there was sufficient legal basis to simply delete farms from the list and suggested that the issue be addressed by the relevant Panel.

The suggestion was accepted by the Committee.

6.7 Vessel chartering

The European Community noted the apparent absence of flag State consent for some of the charters listed in the document prepared by the Secretariat.

Canada informed the Committee that additional information concerning the chartering by France on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon of a Canadian registered vessel would be provided.

Brazil noted that all chartered vessels had flag State consent. Rules had been put in place so that no chartered vessel could enter Brazilian ports unless it had the written consent of its flag State.

Japan highlighted the charter arrangements between Korea and Turkey. It believed these arrangements were contrary to the spirit of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21].

Korea noted the financial advantage of chartering compared to the cost of moving vessels from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean. Korea recalled that it had sought to transfer some of its quota to another Party in 2004 but that this had not been approved by the Commission.

6.8 Other

No issues were discussed under this Agenda item.

7. Issues of non-compliance by Contracting Parties

Japan introduced a proposal on additional measures for compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

After some discussion, the Committee agreed that the issues raised were better suited to further discussion within the framework of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs.

Belize

Japan welcomed Belize as a Contracting Party to the Commission and encouraged Belize to desist from practices that could encourage IUU fishing. The Committee concurred that no action was warranted.

Equatorial Guinea

The Chair recalled that the Commission had decided to lift the trade measures against Equatorial Guinea at the 2004 Commission meeting.

Equatorial Guinea regretted the lack of progress regarding its request for technical assistance from the Secretariat. The Chair encouraged Equatorial Guinea to take advantage of the Committee meeting to liaise with the Secretariat regarding future cooperation. The Committee noted that no action was warranted.

Panama

In reply to a comment from Panama concerning the appropriate recipient for ICCAT correspondence, the Executive Secretary reminded delegates of the Secretariat's normal procedures for the transmission of letters and called on them to keep the Secretariat informed of changes.

The Committee noted that no action was warranted.

Senegal

The Committee noted that no action was warranted.

Honduras

In view of information submitted by Brazil concerning a vessel sighting, the Committee agreed to address a letter to Honduras (attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**) requesting information on its vessel monitoring and control procedures.

Vanuatu

Japan drew the Committee's attention to the absence of Task I data for Vanuatu.

Vanuatu assured the Committee of its compliance with ICCAT measures and undertook to submit relevant information to the Secretariat.

Turkey

Japan repeated its concern at the apparent over harvest by Turkish vessels of bluefin tuna (attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**).

Turkey responded that its reported catches complied with applicable ICCAT measures (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**).

The European Community reminded the Committee that the "Others" quota was not the sole preserve of Turkey and was shared with two Member States of the European Community.

The Chair encouraged the parties concerned to continue their cooperation and noted that it might be necessary to revert to the issue at the Committee's meeting in 2006.

Libya

Canada observed that on the basis of information contained in Libya's 2003 Annual Report there had been an 872 tons over-harvest of bluefin tuna, which should be adjusted in the quota for 2005.

The Chair reminded Libya of its obligation to comply with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* [Rec. 98-14] and noted doubts expressed about Libyan figures, indicating that the Committee would need to deal with the issue at next year's meeting, if the data were not clarified.

8. Matters pending from 2004 Meeting**8.1 Transshipments**

The European Community underlined the importance and urgency for the Commission of establishing effective procedures for transshipments by large-scale longline fishing vessels. The development of an independent ICCAT observer program was highlighted as a key element. The revised proposal addressed the concerns of the longline fleet and demonstrated the flexibility of the European Community to reach agreement with other Contracting Parties on this issue.

Many delegations sought clarifications from the European Community concerning aspects of the proposal and suggested amendments to the text.

Japan presented the results of the experimental observer program for at-sea transshipment (attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**).

After further discussion, the Committee reached consensus on the proposed recommendation establishing a program for transshipment of large-scale longline fishing vessels and recommended that it be adopted by the Plenary (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 05-06]**).

8.2 Treatment of under/over harvests

The European Community announced its intention to withdraw its proposal for a recommendation under this Agenda item in view of the other priority issues to be discussed.

Canada suggested that, in line with the suggestion of the European Community to defer this issue and its recommendation to the 2006 Commission meeting, and given that the SCRS will be providing advice on many of ICCAT managed stocks at this meeting, the SCRS be asked to provide scientific advice on the possible conservation impacts of carrying forward under-harvests on a stock by stock basis. The Committee agreed to proceed in this manner. The deferred proposal is attached as **ANNEX 11.8**.

8.3 Definition of large-scale fishing vessels

The Chair recalled the decision taken at the 2004 Commission meeting to defer consideration of this issue pending additional information from Contracting Parties as to the number of their vessels between 15 and 24 meters in length.

The Committee then discussed a revised proposal from the United States that highlighted the resolutions and recommendations which could be affected by a change in the definition of large-scale fishing vessels.

However, the Committee was unable to reach a consensus on the proposal and it was again decided to defer further discussion to the 2006 Commission meeting (see **ANNEX 11.9**).

8.4 Change in registry and flagging of vessels larger than 15 m

The Committee discussed a proposal from Equatorial Guinea for a recommendation concerning the change in the registry and flagging of vessels over 15 meters in length.

The Chair cautioned Delegates that the matter under discussion was beyond the competence of the Committee.

After further debate and amendments to the text, it was decided to recommend the adoption of the proposal as a resolution (see **ANNEX 6 [Res. 05-07]**).

8.5 Vessel chartering in relation to [Rec. 02-22]

Brazil reminded the Committee of discussions on this issue at the 2004 Commission meeting and Brazil's statement to that year's Compliance Committee. It hoped the Committee would be able to reach an understanding on this issue so as to avoid potential interruptions to trade flows.

The Chair outlined his interpretation of the interrelation between the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 24 Meters Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-22]. He noted that as Recommendation 02-21 contained special rules concerning chartering it took precedence over the general rules contained in Recommendation 02-22. Furthermore, paragraph 9 of Recommendation 02-21 did not require chartered vessels to be selected from the list established under Recommendation 02-22.

The Chair explained that problems could arise because paragraph 1 of Recommendation 02-22 implied that vessels not on the list were deemed to be unauthorized. In addition, paragraph 3 of Recommendation 02-21 permitted Contracting Parties to also charter vessels from so-called "responsible non-Contracting Parties". However, as the chartering country grants an authorization for each vessel to fish pursuant to paragraph 9 of

Recommendation 02-21, it followed that the chartering country was authorized to put the chartered vessel on the list, thereby fulfilling the requirements of Recommendation 02-22. Therefore, the Chair concluded that it was unnecessary to amend either Recommendation.

Brazil and Japan concurred with the interpretation but the latter questioned whether the chartering of vessels from countries that had been identified by ICCAT or were subject to trade measures [Res. 03-15] should be excluded. The Chair replied that it could be assumed that no responsible Contracting Party would charter a vessel that appeared on a list of IUU vessels. However, he did not discount the need to amend the Recommendation at a future date.

Brazil requested the Secretariat to include information in respect of vessels under chartering arrangements, in the ICCAT Record of Vessels, and to indicate that these vessels were operating under chartering arrangements.

9. Other matters

The Committee took note of a proposal from Equatorial Guinea for a recommendation concerning cooperation in the fight and persecution of IUU vessels in the ICCAT area. However, there was no consensus to adopt the proposal.

Brazil requested the Secretariat to improve the clarity of information contained in the positive list of vessels in respect of vessels under chartering arrangements.

10. Election of Chair

Upon a motion from Canada, seconded by the United States, the Committee re-elected Mr. Friedrich Wieland (European Community) as Chair.

11. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the 2005 Report of the Compliance Committee by correspondence. The 2005 meeting of the Compliance Committee adjourned on November 19, 2005.

The Report of the Compliance Committee was adopted by correspondence.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. National rules for the application of ICCAT measures
5. Status of the compliance of Contracting Parties concerning statistics
6. Status of the compliance of Contracting Parties concerning ICCAT conservation and management measures
 - 6.1 Review of the Compliance Tables
 - 6.2 List of vessels over 24 m authorized to operate in the Convention Area
 - 6.3 List of vessels fishing for northern albacore
 - 6.4 Limitation of bigeye vessels
 - 6.5 Status of closed season/area in the Gulf of Guinea
 - 6.6 Bluefin tuna farming
 - 6.7 Vessel chartering
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7. Issues of non-compliance by Contracting Parties
8. Matters pending from the 2004 Meeting
 - 8.1 Transshipments
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 - 8.3 Definition of large-scale fishing vessels
 - 8.4 Draft recommendation on licensing and flagging of vessels larger than 15 m
 - 8.5 Vessel chartering in relation to [Rec. 02-22]
9. Other matters
10. Election of Chair
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

Information by Japan on the Import of Processed Tuna

With regard to the trend of Japan’s bigeye tuna import from China, the import of filleted bigeye has been increasing rapidly although the amount is still small. **Figure 1** shows a remarkable increase after the laundering activities were detected in July and September 2004. There are rumors that some IUU catches were imported into Japan through processing factories in China. It is essential for China to comply with [Rec. 01-21] as an importing country and introduce the Statistical Document Program into its import system for effective management.

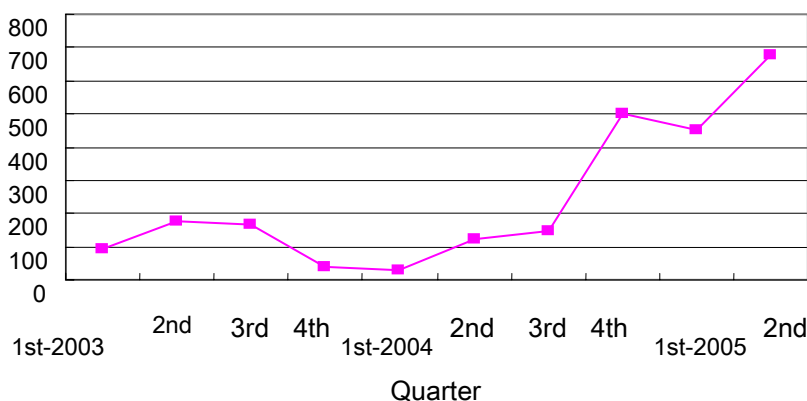


Figure 1. Import of filleted bigeye tuna from China (product weight: t) (Source: Ministry of Finance).

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**Compliance Tables
Compliance with catch limits and quotas in 2004**

The *Recommendation by ICCAT on Application of Three Compliance Recommendations* [Rec. 98-14] requires Contracting Parties to provide information on statistics and compliance with ICCAT Recommendations for the preparation of the “Compliance Annex” at least one month in advance of the Commission meeting.

In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at its 18th Regular Meeting, held in 2003, the draft Compliance Tables were circulated by the Secretariat three weeks in advance of the Commission meeting on 21 October 2005 through ICCAT Circular 1657/05. This draft was compiled on the basis of the Reporting Tables received before that date.

To take account of developments since the adoption of this Recommendation, the Secretariat has developed an alternative reporting format to that adopted in 1998. However, as this format is currently not binding, some Contracting Parties continue to use the 1998 forms, which do not segregate billfish catches by gear, nor do they allow for the calculation of adjusted quotas.

The figures entered on the Compliance Tables are as reported by the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs), and are shown in **bold**. Where no compliance report was received the Secretariat has used Task I data. By the final deadline set by the Commission for the receipt of changes (18:00 hours on November 14, 2005), reporting tables had been received from the following CPCs: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, European Community, Guatemala, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Namibia, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, USA and Chinese Taipei.

The Secretariat seeks confirmation from the Commission, through the Compliance Committee, of the following issues which have been raised by Contracting Parties during the year and required for the compilation of the Compliance Tables:

Southern swordfish:

There is no provision for the carry over of under-harvests and quotas may not be adjusted upward, but over-harvest will be deducted from the quota. Such adjustment may be annual or biennial. However, several Contracting Parties have carried over their under-harvest, and these figures have been included in the table for consideration by the Committee.

Bigeye tuna:

Those CPCs with catches less than 2,100 t (i.e. between 0 and 2099 t) of bigeye tuna in 1999 are not subject to either catch or capacity limits, unless specified in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Rec. 04-01.

North Atlantic Albacore Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch limits / quotas						Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
BARBADOS	200	200	200	200	200	200	0.0	2.0	5.2	5.0		200.0	198.0	194.8	195.0						
BRAZIL	200	200	200	200	200	200	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	196.3	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0				400.0	400.0
CANADA	200	200	200	200	200	200	121.7	51.0	112.7	55.7	27.1	78.3	149.0	87.3	144.3	172.9					
CHINA	200	200	200	200	200	200	104.7	56.5	195.8	155.2	32.1	95.3	143.5	4.2	44.8	167.9					
EC		28712	28712	28712	28712	28712	25741.0	18786.4	16295	17296.0	16912.6	9925.6	12417.5	21341.6	24216.9		28712.0	38637.6	41129.5	50053.5	
FRANCE (St. P. et M.)	200	200	200	200	200	200	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0	7.0	200	200.0	396.2	400.0	293.0	200	400	400.0	300.0	300.0
JAPAN	952*	761*	617*	756*	608*	*	724	1074	698	781	1169.0										
MAROC					200	200				81.0	120.0				119.0	80.0					
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO		200	200	200	200	200	1.6	11.0	9.0	12.0	12.2	189.0	191.0	188.0	187.8						
UKOT	200	200	200	200	200	200	2.0	2.0	2	0.1	1.0	198.0	198.0	198.0	199.9	199.0					
USA		607	607	607	607	607	415.0	453.1	487.8	446.3	645.9	153.9	119.2	160.7	121.8				765.20	728.8	
VENEZUELA		200	200	270	270	270	1374.0	349.0	161.5	423.5	457.0	-149.0	38.5	-153.5	-340.5				116.5	-70.5	
CHINESE TAIPEI		4453	4453	4453	4453	4453	5299.0	4399.0	4305.0	4539.0	4278.0	54	148	116.0	175.0						
Recommendation number	98-8	00-6	01-05	02-05	03-06	03-06											00-6	01-05	02-05	03-06	03-06

* JAPAN to endeavor to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch (3% in 2000; 5.6% in 2001; 4.5% in 2002, 4.1% in 2003).

CHINESE TAIPEI: adjusted 2003 quota from 2001 and 2002 balances. Catches in 2003 do not include 18 t taken by re-registered vessels.

South Atlantic Albacore Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch limits / quotas						Reference years Avg. (92-96)	Current catches					Informative balance					Adjusted catch limit (over-harvest)				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
BRAZIL	Tac share 27500							3365.2	6680.0	3228.1	2647.5	286.1	NOT APPLICABLE					87.8				
NAMIBIA	Tac share 27500							2418.1	3419.0	2962	3152.3	3413.0	NOT APPLICABLE									
SOUTH AFRICA	Tac share 27500							3668.0	7236.0	6507.0	3468.7	4502.0	NOT APPLICABLE									
CHINESE TAIPEI	Tac share 27500							17221.0	16650.0	17222.0	17147.0	13288.0	NOT APPLICABLE									
CHINA	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0	89.0	26.2	29.9	26.4	112.2	-89.0	73.8	70.1	73.6	-12.2					
EC	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1740.6	791.0	866.9	1286.6	854.4	512.4	1123.7	1047.8	638.1	2108.1	1402.3					
JAPAN	392*	298*	336.5*	498.6*	244*	*		438	315	210	309	468.0										
KOREA	9.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		18.3	1.4	0.0	5.0	37.0	-8.8	98.6	100.0	95.0	63.0					
PHILIPPINES	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1									
UKOT	44.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	40	58.0	49.0	2.0			-14.0	51.0	98.0							
URUGUAY	43.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	39.8	90.0	135.0	111	108.0	120.0	-46.2	-10.0	-35.0	-11.0	-20.0	80				
USA	5.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		0.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.6	98.0	98.0	98.0	99.4						
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>99-6</i>	<i>00-7</i>	<i>01-06</i>	<i>02-06</i>	<i>03-07</i>	<i>04-04</i>																

CHINESE TAIPEI 2003 catch does not include 204 t taken by re-registered vessels.

EC has applied Ref. 00-14 and adjusted the 2003 quota by adding the 2001 balance. Rec. 02-07 paragraph 11 does not allow carry over of under-harvest.

* JAPAN endeavor to limit its total South albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch in South of 5 degrees North (4.5% in 2000, 4.2% in 2001, 2.5% in 2002 and 2.5% in 2003).

USA endeavor to limit its total south albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total longline swordfish catch in South of 5 degrees North.

North Atlantic Swordfish Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch limits / quotas						Reference years	Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota / catch limit				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1996 (SCRS-97)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
BARBADOS	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	0	13.0	19.0	10.4	10.0	-13.0	-19.0	-42.4	-27.4		-13.0	-32.0	-17.4	-2.4		
BRAZIL	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	50.0		117.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	-117.3			50.0	50.0	-117.3				100.0	100.0
CANADA	1018.0	1018.0	1018.0	1338.0	1348.0	1348.0	739	967.8	1078.9	959.3	1284.9	1248.1	31.4	-29.5	59.7	178.7	245.0	1049.4	1018.6	1463.6	1493.1	1593.0
CHINA	100.0	100.0	100.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	0	22.0	101.7	90.2	36.8	55.8	0.0	-1.7	9.8	38.2	19.2					
EC	5073.0	5073.0	5073.0	6665.0	6718.0	6718.0	7255	5483.0	4810.4	4802.2	5763.2	6798.8	-147.5	80.6	123.3	982.4	42.5	4891.1	4925.5	6745.6	6841.3	7700.4
FRANCE (St. P. et M.)			24.0	35.0	35.0	35.0				10.1	2.8	35.6			13.9	32.2	13.3		24.0	35.0	48.9	67.2
JAPAN	636	636	636	835	842	842	1451	791	500	266	530	640	-155	342	479	523	548.0					
KOREA	14	14	14	0	0	0	19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.1	66.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.1	80.2			
MAROC	205.5	205.5	205.5	335.0	335.0	335.0	505	114.0	523.9	223.0	329.0	335.0	337.0	18.7	1.2	7.2	7.2	542.6	224.2	336.2	342.2	342.2
MEXICO	0.0	0.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0		37.0	27.0	34.0	32.0	44.0	-37.0	-27.0	76.0	78.0	66.0					
PHILIPPINES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			1.0	4.0	0.0	0.0		-1.0	-4.0	0.0	-5.0					
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	64.2	64.2	64.2	125.0	125.0	125.0	157.7	41.0	75.0	92.0	77.7	82.7	-28.1	-38.9	-66.7	-19.5	22.9	36.1	25.3	58.3	105.6	147.9
UKOT	24.0	24.0	24.0	35.0	35.0	35.0		3.0	2.0	26.0	0.5	0.5	42.8	64.8	63.0	97.5	132.0	66.8	88.8	98.0	132.5	
USA	2951.0	2951.0	2951.0	3877.0	3907.0	3907.0	4148	2683.8	2318.7	2323.8	2423.9	2596.6	158.9	1195.3	2337.6	3050.6	4361.0	3682.0	4473.2	5670.6	8721.5	13083.0
VENEZUELA	62.9	62.9	62.9	85.0	85.0	85.0	85	30.3	21.0	33.8	44.7	46.1	137.6	179.5	29.1	40.3	79.2	200.5	242.4	85.0	125.3	
CHINESE TAIPEI	213.3	213.3	213.3	310.0	310.0	310.0		347.0	281.0	286.0	223.0	30.0	-133.7	-67.7	-206.4	2.4	22.0		79.6	225.4	52.0	
Recommendation number	99-2	99-2	99-2	02-02	02-02	02-02												99-2	99-2	02-02	02-02	02-02
DISCARDS																						
CANADA								49.9	26.4	32.7	78.6											
USA								428.3	408	347.9	275.6											

CANADA: Included 25 t transfer from USA in 2002-2006.

CANADA: 2004 catch figure includes 44.8 t dead discards.

JAPAN: All catches in 2000 and 2001 were discarded. Balance for 2001 includes 206 t allowance from USA quota. Balance for 2002 includes 109 t for 2003 includes 218 t and for 2004 includes 346 t allowance from Japanese South swordfish (Rec. 00-03). Catches for 2003 and 2004 are preliminary.

MEXICO: Requested 200 t quota over the last 6 years. SWO is taken as by-catch.

CHINESE TAIPEI has adjusted biennially, and has applied the 125% penalty. 2003 catch does not include 13 t from re-registered vessels.

SENEGAL reported 108 t of swordfish in East tropical area, which cannot be assigned to North or South.

South Atlantic Swordfish Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch limits / quotas						Reference years		Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota / catch limit				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1995	1996	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
BRAZIL	2339	4720	4720	4086	4193	4193	1975.0	1892.0	3409.1	4081.8	2909.9	2919.9	2913.5	-1069.9	638.2	1810.1	1166.1	1279.5					
CHINA		480	480	315	315	315			344.0	200.3	423	192.2	277.8	-344.0	279.7		122.8	37.2					
CÔTE d'IVOIRE	23			100	100	100	19.0	26.0	20.0	18.9	19.0	43.0	54.0	2.5			57.0	46.0					
EC	6233	6233	6233	5950	5850	5850	11670.0	10011.0	6342.0	6181.0	6120.7	4885.3	5828.8	2.0	52.0	114.3	1116.7	21.8	6233.0	6235.0	6002.0		6966.7
GABON												8.6											
GHANA	122			0	0	0	103.0	104.0	116.5	531.0	372	576.0	343.0	5.0			-576.0	-343.0					
JAPAN	3764.6	3764.6	3764.6	1500	1500	1500	3619	2197	727	726	1127	972	523.0	3037.6	3038.6	2419.6	3247.6	3631.0	3764.6	3546.6	4219.6		4154
KOREA	86			0	0	0	164.0	7.0	9.7		1.5	24.0	61.0	75.8			-24.0	-70.0					
NAMIBIA		2000	2000	890	1009	1070			468.7	751.0	503.7	191.5	231.5	-468.7	1249.0		817.5	839.5					
PHILIPPINES				0	0	0				6.0	0.79	52.4	5.0				-52.4	-5.0					
SOUTH AFRICA	3	1500	1500	890	1009	1070	4.0	1.0	328.0	547.0	649.0	292.0	277.0	-325.0	953.0	851.0	598.0	793.0					
UKOT		100	100	25	25	25				20.0	3.9												
URUGUAY	695	800	1000	850	850	850	499.0	644.0	713.0	789.0	768.0	850.0	1105.0	-18.5			0.0	-255.0					595.0
USA	384	384	384	100	100	100		384.0	124.7	92.8	20.5	15.0	15.0	259.3	291.2	363.5	85.0	85.0					359.6
																							444.6
																							529.6
CHINESE TAIPEI	2875	1170	1170	925	825	780			1303.0	1167.0	1073.0	1089.0	745.0	1571.5	2.6	96.6	-64.0	16.0					1025.0
																							761
<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>97-07</i>	<i>00-04</i>	<i>01-02</i>	<i>02-03</i>	<i>02-03</i>	<i>02-03</i>																	<i>02-03</i>
																							<i>02-03</i>
																							<i>02-03</i>

BRAZIL, URUGUAY and S. AFRICA objected to Recommendation 97-08.

All 2001 and 2002 catch limits are automatic in accordance with Recommendations 00-04 and 01-02.

JAPAN: Catches in 2003 were revised in line with fishing year. 2003 and 2004 underages are controlled to 3000 t, and carried over.

Data for 2003 and 2004 are preliminary. Adjusted quota in 2002 excludes 109*2, in 2003 excludes 218 t, 2004 excludes 346 t to count as Japanese N. SWO catch (Rec. 00-3), and 100 t in 2003 transferred to Chinese Taipei.

SOUTH AFRICA: Swordfish catches for 2000-2003 have been adjusted according to the revised figures submitted to the SCRS meeting in 2005. Revision of longline catch figures was necessary as they were reported in dressed weight.

USA: 1996 catch figure (384 t) is based on fishing year and was agreed at the intersessional meeting of Panel 4 in 1997 (Brazil).

CHINESE TAIPEI catches do not include 61 t catch by re-registered vessels. 2003 quota includes 100 t transfer from JAPAN, and underages from 2001 and 2002. Japanese quota has been adjusted accordingly.

The Commission agreed that quotas for 2003 would not be adjusted unless specified in Recommendation 02-03.

SENEGAL reported 108 t of swordfish in East tropical area, which cannot be assigned to North or South.

East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch limits / quotas						Ref. yrs. max (93-94) (SCRS 97)	Current catches					Balance				Adjusted quota / catch limit						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
ALGERIE				1500	1550	1600	304	2152.0	2407.0	1710.0	1586.0	1541.0				-86.0	-77.0				1464.0	1523.0	
CHINA	76	76	76	74	74	74		77.0	68.1	39.1	19.3	41.0	-1.0	7.9		54.7	33.0			75.0		128.7	
CROATIA	876	876	876	900	935	945		930.0	903.0	977.0	1139.0	827.0	383.0	356.0		16.0	124.0	1259.0		1155.0	951.0		
EC	18590	18590	18590	18582	18450	18331		19475.0	17912.3	18129.0	16607.3	17284.3	1696.0	649.7	2157.0	2624.4	1165.7	18562.0		19231.7			
ICELAND				30	40	50		17.0		1.1	0.0	0.0				30.0	30.0			Underage to be allocated to E.C.			
JAPAN	2949	2949	2949	2949	2930	2890		3522	2344	2641	2829	2958	-741.5	605	(172)	120	92	2949	2813	2949	3050	2982	
KOREA	619	619						5.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	700.0	1810.4	2428.9		2428.9	1728.9	2429.4		2428.9	2428.9	1728.9	
LIBYA	1199	1570		1286	1300	1400		1549.3	1940.5														
MAROC	3028	3028	3028	3030	3078	3127		2923.0	3008.0	2986.0	2557.0	2780.0				473.0	771.0					3551.0	
TUNISIE	2144	2144	2543	2503	2543	2583		2184.0	2493.0	2528.0	792.0	2639.0	369.3	20.3		1711.0	1615.0	2513.3			4254.0	4197.0	
Others quota				1146	1100	1100																	
TURKEY							1155	1070.0	2100.0	2300.0	3300.0	1075.0											
EC-MALTA										240.0	255.2	264.2											
EC-CYPRUS										650.0	78.9	104.7											
CHINESE TAIPEI	658	658	658	827	382			313.0	633.0	666.0	445.0	51.0	810.0	835.0	827.0	382.0	331.0	1468.0	1493.0	827.0	382.0	331.0	
<i>Rec. no.</i>	<i>98-05</i>	<i>00-09</i>		<i>02-08</i>	<i>02-08</i>	<i>02-08</i>												<i>01-13</i>		<i>02-08</i>	<i>02-08</i>	<i>02-08</i>	

ALGERIA reported a autonomous quota of 4,000 t for 2000 and 2001.

For 2002, no catch limits/quotas were in force. Shaded cells indicate autonomous catch limits.

It was agreed that no carry over of under harvest from 2002 to 2003 would be permitted. EC and CROATIA adjusted 2003 quota using 2001 balances, from which CROATIA deducted its 2002 over-harvest.

EC adjusted quota for 2004 includes 30 t unused quota from ICELAND. EC-Cyprus and EC-Malta are counted under "Othes" quota, not EC quota.

LIBYA and MOROCCO lodged an objection to Recommendation 98-05; catch limit for 2000 is autonomous.

Recommendation 00-09 provides that MOROCCO and LIBYA established a catch limit of 3,028 t and 1,570 t, respectively, for 2001.

CHINESE TAIPEI 2003 catch limit was adjusted using 2002 figures, as the quota share for Chinese Taipei will not be activated until the under harvest is fished.

West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch limits						Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005					
BRAZIL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.22	0.0	0.0	0.0										
CANADA	573.0	573.0	573.0	620.2	620.2	620.2	549.1	523.7	603.6	556.6	536.9	20.4	21.7	-8.9	25.8	109.0	553.0	594.7	580.0	645.9	731.8					
FRANCE (St. P. et M.)	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.4	0.0	2.6	0.9	9.8	7	11	12.4	15.51	9.71	11	15	16.4	19.51	13.71					
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	143.0																			
JAPAN	453	453	453	478.25	478.25	478.25	322	676	363	376	460	6.5	-217	90	-24	18	460	453	352	478.3	473					
MEXICO			25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	28.7	10.0	12.0	22.0	9.0	-28.7	-10.0	13.0	3.0	16.0			25.0	28.0						
UKOT	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.3		6.0	9.0	12.0	15.8		10.0	13.0	16.0	19.8						
USA	1387.0	1387.0	1387.0	1489.6	1489.6	1489.6	1185.0	1589.0	1846.8	1472.9	899.25	438	248.3	-211.5	-195	395.5	1825	1635.275	1283.7444	1294.8	1881.4					
WEST BFT DISCARDS	<i>Initial catch limits</i>						<i>Current catches</i>					<i>Balance</i>					<i>Adjustments to be made to total quota, not discard allowance</i>									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004										
CANADA	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	46.0	13.2	36.9	0.9	0.4	-40.4	-7.6	-31.3	4.8	5.2										
JAPAN	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6										
USA	67.7	67.7	67.7	67.7	67.7	67.7	30.0	41.4	56.4	57.6	71.8	37.7	26.3	11.3	10.1	-4.1										
<i>Recommendation number</i>	98-7	98-7	98-7	02-07	02-07	02-07											98-13	98-13	02-07	02-07	02-07					

MEXICO: Requested 120 t quota over the last six years. Bluefin tuna are caught as by-catch. Reported an autonomous catch limit of 25 t for 2002 , but according to Recommendation 98-07 catch limit was 0 t.

USA 2005 adjusted quota includes the predicted overage in bluefin tuna dead discards for 2004.

Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch limits / quotas						Reference years		Current catches					Balance					Adjusted catch limit				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Average (91-92)	1999 (SCRS/00)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
BARBADOS							0.0	0.0	18.0	6.0	10.5	10.5											
BRAZIL							570.0	2024.0	2372.2	2622.3	2581.5	2455.1	1378.7										
CANADA							46.5	263.0	327.0	241.0	279.3	181.6	143.1	not applicable									
CAP VERT							128.0		2.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0										
CHINA	7300	4000	5000	5000	5400				6563.5	7210.0	5839.5	7889.7	6555.3	90.0	-739.5	-1369.7	-2925.3		5100.0	6250.0	3630.3	2474.7	
CÔTE d'IVOIRE									458.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0										
EC	26672	26672	26672	26672	25000		26672.0	21970.0	17989.0	16504.0	17406.8	17362.6	13929.5	10168.0	9265.2	19477.4	22007.7		36840.0	35937.2	44475.4		
FRANCE (St. P. et M.)											20.7	0.0	28.2										
GABON									150.0	121.0													
GHANA	3478	3478	3478	3478	4000		3478.0	11460.0	5586.0	2358.0	2034.0	4816.0	6944.0	1120.0	2564.0	2140.0	-1326.0		4598.0	6596.0	5618.0	2674.0	
GUATEMALA													831.0										
JAPAN	32539	32539	32539	32539	27000		32539	23690	23812	19030	18977	18909	15202.0	13509.0	12462.0	11130.0	17337.0		31439.0	30039.0	32539.0	27000.0	
KOREA							834.0	124.0	43.4	1.3	87.3	143.0	557.0										
LIBYA							254.0		400.0	30.9	593.0	593.0											
MAROC									770.0	857.4	913.0	889.0	919.0										
MEXICO							0.0	6.0	6.0	2.0	7.0	3.0	5.0	not applicable									
NAMIBIA							0.0	423.0	589.0	639.8	273.6	214.9	203.9										
PANAMA						3500	8724.5		995.3	89.0	63.0												
PHILIPPINES							0.0	943.0	974.8	377.0	732.0	855.2	1854.0										
RUSSIA									91.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0										
SENEGAL							5.0	0.0	1131.0	1308.0	565.0	407.0	548.0										
SOUTH AFRICA							57.5		248.5	238.9	340.5	112.5	270.0	not applicable									
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO							131.5		5.2	11.0	30.0	6.5	4.8										
UKOT							6.5		8.3	10.0	5.0	0.2	1.0										
URUGUAY							38.0	59.0	25.0	51.0	67.0	59.0	1.0										
USA							893.5	1261.0	589.2	1363.0	595.6	345.0	413.7										
VENEZUELA							373.2	128.0	226.2	660.9	629.1	515.6	1060.0										
CHINESE TAIPEI	16500	16500	16500	16500	16500	16500	12698.0	16837.0	16795.0	16429.0	16503.0	[21563.0]	[17717.0]	-295.0	71.0	-3.0	-3816.0	-1217.0		17747.0	16500.0	14900.0	
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES							0.0		2359.0	2803.0	1879.0	3202.7											
Recommendation number		00-1	01-00	02-01	03-01	04-01														01-00	02-01	03-01	04-01

CHINA lodged an objection to Rec. 00-01 which set a limit of 4000 t. 2002 catch limit includes 1,100 t from Japan (bilateral agreement) and 1,250 t for 2003. The Japanese catch limit has been adjusted accordingly.

CHINA has proposed a five year pay-back plan.

JAPAN: Data for 2003 and 2004 are preliminary. Adjusted quota in 2002 excludes 1,100 t transferred to China, and in 2003 excludes 1,250 t transferred to China and Chinese Taipei, respectively.

SOUTH AFRICA: Bigeye catches for 2000-2003 have been adjusted according to the revised figures submitted to the SCRS meeting in 2005. Revision of longline catch figures was necessary as they were reported in dressed weight.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2003 adjusted quota includes 1,250 t from Japan. Japanese quota has been adjusted accordingly. 2003 catch does not include 1,822 t taken by re-registered vessels.

CHINESE TAIPEI: Current catches for 2003 and 2004 are provisional and are subject to review in 2006.

Blue Marlin Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch (landings) limits					Reference years		Current landings								Balance*				Adjusted landings limit		
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1996	1999	2001		2002		2003		2004		2001	2002	2003	2004	2003	2004	2005
						(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS				
BARBADOS	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3		18.6															
BRAZIL	253.8	253.8	253.8	253.8	253.8	308.0	507.5	779.9	779.9	386.9	386.9	577.4	577.4	194.8	194.8							
CHINA	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	62.0	201.0	91.6	91.6	87.8	87.8	88.5	88.5	58.4	58.4	8.9	12.7	12.0	42.1			
CÔTE d'IVOIRE						0.0	0.0	196.0	0.0	77.9	0.0	109.0	0.0	115.0	0.0							
EC	100.0	103.0	103.0	103.0	103.0	206.0	200.0	18.1	7.6	34.5		80.9		40.2		92.4						
GHANA								1295.0	0.0	998.5	0.0	1212.0	0.0	470.0	0.0							
JAPAN	839.5	839.5	839.5	839.5	839.5	1679.0	915.0	192.0	192.0	422.0	422.0	453.0	453.0	528.0	528.0	1799.0	2216.5	2603.0	2914.0	3057	3443	3755
KOREA	0.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	144.0		0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	72.0	72.0	72.0			
MEXICO	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	13.0	35.0	37.0	37.0	50.0	50.0	70.0	70.0	90.0	90.0	-19.5	-32.5	-52.5	-72.5			
PHILIPPINES	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5		71.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	6.1	0	0	35.5	35.5	29.36				
SOUTH AFRICA	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	3.0	3.0	4.0	4	0.4	0.4	-0.61	-3	-4	-0.4			
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	9.0	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	20.5	18.0	17.0	14.0	16.0	9.0	3.6	3.4	10.9	10.1	-5.0	1.3	6.9				
UKOT								2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0							
VENEZUELA	15.0	30.4	30.4	30.4	30.4	60.7	30.0	71.5	14.8	75.6	25.6	84.3	29.7	26.0	26.0	0.2	4.8	0.7	3.6			
CHINESE TAIPEI	243.0	330.0	330.0	330.0	330.0	660.0	486.0	240.0	240.0	272.0	272.0	298.0	298.0	315.0	315.0	3.0	58.0	35.0	15.0			
Recommendation number		00-13	01-10	02-13	02-13	02-13														00-14	00-14	00-14

USA	Total no. fish WHM + BUM	250	250	250	250	250	250			193		279		136		149		57	-29	114	101	
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BRAZIL: Catches include discards difficult to estimate.

JAPAN Applied Recommendation 00-14 to years 2000 and 2001.

MEXICO: Landings are only retained dead by-catch. All live marlin are released.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Figures are provisional.

SOUTH AFRICA: Catches of white marlin and blue marlin have exceeded reference catches of 1996 and 1999 as South Africa started to develop a longline fishery in 1998.

CHINESE TAIPEI has adjusted the 2003 quota to include 2001 underage. Catches do not include 20 t of BUM taken by re-registered vessels.

White Marlin Compliance Table for 2005.

	Initial catch (landings) limits					Reference years		Current landings								Balance*				Adjusted landings limit		
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	1996	1999	2001		2002		2003		2004		2001	2002	2003	2004	2003	2004	2005
						(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS			
BARBADOS	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3		25.3															
BRAZIL	51.8	51.8	51.8	51.8	51.8	70.0	157.0	171.4	171.5	406.9	341.9	265.6	265.6	80.5	80.5							
CANADA	1.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	8.0	5.0	3.2	3.2	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.4	-1.5	0.5	1.3	1.2			
CHINA	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.0	30.0	19.8	19.8	22.8	22.8	4.7	4.7	6.5	6.5	-9.9	-12.9	5.2	3.4			
CÔTE d'IVOIRE						0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0	1.8	0.0	3.0	0.0	1.0	0.0							
EC	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	104.1	141.0	2.4	2.4	5.8	5.8	33.8		20.6		40.7						
GHANA								20.9	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0							
JAPAN	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	112.0	43.0	50.0	50.0	28.0	28.0	31.0	31.0	29.0	29.0	-9.0	9.0	5.9	14.0	37.0	43.0	51.0
KOREA	0.0	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	59.0		0.0	0.0			2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.5	17.5	19.5			
MEXICO	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6		11.0	44.0	44.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	28.0	28.0	-40.4	-11.4	-11.4				
PHILIPPINES	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0		12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	4.0	4.0				
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE								0.0					14.6									
SOUTH AFRICA	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2.0	0.0	0.0			
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			2.3	2.3	5.0	5.0	8.8	8.8	5.9	5.9	-2.3	-5.0	-8.8				
UKOT	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0							
VENEZUELA	14.2	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	151.6	42.9	72.4	65.9	109.9	93.3	109.9	93.3	23.0	23.0	-51.7	-43.3	-43.3				
CHINESE TAIPEI	153.5	186.8	186.8	186.8	186.8	566.0	465.0	152.0	152.0	165.0	165.0	104.0	104.0	172.0	172.0	1.5	21.8	84.3	14.8			
USA	Total no. fish WHM + BUM	250	250	250	250	250			193		279		136		149		57	-29	114	101		

BRAZIL: catches include discards difficult to estimate.

JAPAN applied Recommendation 00-14 to years 2000 and 2001.

MEXICO: landings are only retained dead by-catch. All live marlin are released.

SOUTH AFRICA: Catches of white marlin and blue marlin have exceeded reference catches of 1996 and 1999 as South Africa started to develop a longline fishery in 1998.

CHINESE TAIPEI has adjusted the 2003 quota to include 2001 underage. Catches do not include 11 t of WHM t taken by re-registered vessels.

Compliance with size limits in 2004

Species	2004 catches						Percentage of fish under minimum size						
	BET	YFT	SWO		BFT		BET	YFT	SWO		BFT		
	Area	ATL	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E+ MED	AT.W	ATL	ATL	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E	Medi	AT.W
							Rec. number	79-1	72-1	90-2 (95-10)	02-08	02-08	91-1
							Min weight (kg)	3.2	3.2	25 kg or	6.4	4.8	30
							Min size (cm)	--	--	125 cm OR (119 cm)	--	--	115
							Tolerance (% of total)	15%	15%	15% (0%)	10%	0%	8%
							Tolerance type	number	number	number	number	weight	weight
							(weight/number)						
Algerie													
Angola													
Barbados													
Belize													
Brazil	1378.7	6985		2914			0%			11.10%			
									1% <125				
Canada	143.5	303.5	1248.1			536.9	0%	0%	0% cm				0%
Cap-Vert		1896											
China	6555.3	1305.2	55.8	277.8	41		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Côte d'Ivoire		565											
Croatia													
E.C.	19329.5	45297	6798.8	5828	17284		13.00%	10.00%	15.00%	1.00%	1.00%	0.00%	
France (St.P & M)			35.6			9.8							
Gabon													
Ghana		15137											
Guinea Ecuatorial													
Guinee (Rep.)													
Guatemala	831												
Honduras													
Iceland													
Japan	15202	5457	640	523	2929	386	<15%	<15%	<15%	<15%	<10%		<8%
Korea (Rep.)	557	984	0	61	700	0	0%	0%		0%			0%
Libya													
Maroc		95											
Mexico	5	1208	44			16	0%						0%
Namibia		85											
Nicaragua													
Norway													
Panama													
Philippines		367											
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0							
Sao Tomé													
Senegal		681											
South Africa	270	402		277			0%	0%		2.88%			
Trinidad & Tobago	4.8	224	87.7				0	0					
Tunisie													0%
Turkey													
UKOT													
									3.4 %	2.1 %			12.8%
USA	413.7	6500	2596.6	15	0	899.25			<119 cm	<119 cm			
Uruguay		204											
Vanuatu													
Venezuela		5774											
Chinese Taipei	16399	5825	30	745	51	0							

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**Commission Chairman's Letter to Honduras****Subject: Requesting Information in Relation to MCS Measures Taken by Honduras**

I have the honor to inform you that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) examined, at its 19th Regular Meeting, held November 14-20, 2005, information submitted by Brazil on the termination of a chartering arrangement between Brazil and Honduras in relation to the vessel "Auster", due to practices of mis-recording and mis-reporting of catches and to threatening behavior of the vessel's crew against the observer placed on board the vessel.

The information from Brazil was sent to the Honduran authorities on August 24, 2005 (copy attached).

The Commission expressed concern about possible practices of willful mis-recording and mis-reporting of catches and of preventing the observer from carrying out his duties as shown by the information received to date. Consequently, Honduras is hereby requested to submit to the Commission any available information on the case at issue, on compliance and enforcement measures taken in respect of the vessel in question and on the set of monitoring, control and surveillance measures currently in place to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management by vessels flying the flag of Honduras.

The Commission will review the situation of Honduras at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20-26 2006 in Croatia, and it would be appreciated if information regarding the above mentioned matters were submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

In closing, I should like to draw your attention to the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in Relation to their Vessels fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-12], which obliges Contracting Parties, *inter alia* to ensure they do not authorize their vessels to fish in the ICCAT Convention area unless they are able to effectively exercise their responsibilities in respect of such vessels, including monitoring and controlling their fishing activities.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter and to assure you of my highest consideration.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**Information by Japan on Bluefin Tuna Catches Caged in Farming Facilities**

The increasing demand for live bluefin tuna resulted in the rapid expansion of bluefin tuna farming. In Turkey, the amount of bluefin tuna caged for farming has also been increasing rapidly. The following information suggests excessive catches by certain members. We hope that it will be of some use in the works of the Compliance Committee this year.

– 2003

Turkey reported its bluefin tuna catch in 2003 was 3,300 t in their annual report submitted to the annual meeting last year. It would be safe to assume that the Japan's imports of bluefin tuna products during the second half of 2003 and the first half of 2004 were originally caught in 2003. The data of the statistical documents accompanied with bluefin tunas imported from Turkey during the said two periods suggests the total Turkish catch as 3,302 t (**Table 1**) in 2003. This amount was calculated on assumption that total weight of fish in a cage increases by 20% during farming even after deducting weight of fish dead during farming. The Turkey's bluefin tuna catch limit for 2003 was less than 1,146 t ("others" category) that also includes at least two other nations' catches. This amount does not include tunas killed due to storms, although the actual dead amount is unknown.

Table 1. Original weight of Turkish farmed bluefin before farming (round weight: t).

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2003</i>	<i>1st half 2004</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	771	2,531	3,302
Total	771	2,531	3,302

– 2004

Farmed bluefin products originally caught by foreign flag vessels are exported to Japan as Re-exported products from Turkey. The Re-export certificates issued by the Turkish authority and the Statistical Documents issued by countries of origin are accompanied with such products. Data collected from the Statistical Documents shows composition of Turkish farmed bluefin by countries of origin.

Japan's imports of bluefin tuna including farmed products during the second half of 2004 and the first half of 2005 were assumed to be caught originally in 2004. According to the results of calculation of data from the Statistical Documents submitted to Japan during the above two periods and by applying the same growth rate of 20%, **Table 2** shows the amounts of fish by each origin. Those amounts do not include 700-950 t tuna killed reportedly in storms.

The estimated amount of bluefin tuna caught by Turkey in 2004 was 2,550 t, although its catch quota was less than 1,100 t ("others" category).

Table 2. Original weight of Turkish bluefin before farming (round weight: t).

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2004</i>	<i>1st half 2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	1,853	699	2,552
Korea, Rep. (charter)	87	906	993
Libya	16	607	623
Tunisia	--	302	302
Total	--	--	4,470

– 2005

According to information from industry sources, the amount of bluefin tuna caged into Turkish farming facilities this year was 3,050 t as of August 1 (**Table 3**). Since there is no information about Turkey's tuna imports and catches, an amount of catch by Turkish vessels are not identified so far.

Table 3. Amount of bluefin tuna caged for farming, based on industry information (as of August 1, 2005), in t.

<i>Country / Year</i>	<i>2005</i>
Spain	4,150
Croatia	3,390
Turkey	3,050
Italy	2,850
Malta	2,800
Tunisia	2,700
Cyprus	1,900
Greece	600
Total	21,440

Includes amount of fish caged in previous year.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

Additional information to Table 2 of Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9 concerning the original weight of Turkish bluefin tuna before farming.

Table 1. Original trade data (see conversion factors below) (t)

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2004</i>	<i>1st half 2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	2,223	838	3,061
Korea (charter)	104	1,087	1,191
Libya	19	727	746
Tunisia		363	363
Total			5,361

Table 4. Growth rate 20% (t)

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2004</i>	<i>1st half 2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	1,853	699	2,552
Korea (charter)	87	906	993
Libya	16	607	623
Tunisia		302	302
Total			4,470

Table 2. Growth rate 33% (t)

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2004</i>	<i>1st half 2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	1,672	630	2,302
Korea (charter)	78	871	949
Libya	14	547	561
Tunisia		273	273
Total			4,085

Table 5. Growth rate 50% (t)

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2004</i>	<i>1st half 2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	1,482	559	2,041
Korea (charter)	69	724	793
Libya	13	485	498
Tunisia		242	242
Total			3,574

Table 3. Growth rate 75% (t)

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2004</i>	<i>1st half 2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	1,271	479	1,750
Korea (charter)	60	621	681
Libya	11	415	426
Tunisia		207	207
Total			3,064

Table 6. Growth rate 100% (t)

<i>Origin</i>	<i>2nd half 2004</i>	<i>1st half 2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey	1,112	419	1,531
Korea (charter)	52	543	595
Libya	14	364	378
Tunisia		181	181
Total			2,685

Note: Conversion factors
 GG→RD: 1.16
 DR→RD: 1.19
 FL→RD: 1.59
 OT→RD: 1.59

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**Information by Turkey on Bluefin Tuna Catches, Import, Export and Farming in Turkey**

In the information provided by Japan on bluefin tuna cages in farming facilities (see **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**), it is mentioned that certain members perform over-fishing and also that bluefin tuna aquaculture activities are increasing in capacity. Some figures for other countries have been provided although only the situation in Turkey has been analyzed in detail in the document. For this reason, Turkey felt the need for the following explanations to be submitted to the Commission.

1. The ICCAT Convention was endorsed by the Turkish Parliament on July 23, 2003 and Turkey applied to become a member of ICCAT as of this date. Before that date, the Turkish Administration did not have any legal tools in order to ban bluefin tuna catches for Turkish fishermen at a certain amount. This was also an important reason why Turkey became a member of ICCAT.
 2. The figures used in the reference paper were found to be exaggerated and the information through Japanese industry was preferred to the information and data provided by the official bodies of related institutions and the Turkish Government officials for unknown reasons, such as;
 - a) In Japan's information the growth rate of bluefin tuna was assumed as 20% in six months while for a different feeding time period and a different size of bluefin tuna it is completely different. In this respect "The Summary of National Survey Report Forms for GFCM/ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Farming" prepared by the Working Group reporter might set a sample. Some countries which have never been blamed for excessive catch and farming claim that bluefin tuna grow more than 100% in six months when they are small. Taking into account that the mean size of the bluefin tuna caught in Turkish catch grounds is 60-70 kg.; the 6-8 month growth rate of bluefin tuna is considered 50% and the annual growth rate is considered 75%, which is more realistic than the assumed figure in Japan's information.
 - b) In Japan's information it states that "The actual amount dead is not known in the year 2003 and 700-950 tons were reportedly killed in 2004 by the storms". Explanations to these allegations are as follows;
 - (1) It is not understood "reported" by whom. If it is the report given to GFCM/ICCAT Ad Hoc Working Group by the Turkish member of this Working Group, the actual amount is known and the loss at the end of the feeding season in three farms in 2003 was 700 tons and only 187 tons of bluefin tuna found dead. Since the accident was broken and cages sunk due to storms and very high waves, the rest (approx. 500 tons) of the fish were released to nature by nature itself.
 - (2) The second accident was the sinking of the cages due to storms and very high waves in 2004.
- In July 2004, a Turkish farming company bought two cages of bluefin tuna from a Mediterranean based company with an ICCAT Statistical Document. The said ICCAT document was not from the exporting company's country. It was from a third Mediterranean country, endorsed 1.5 years ago and was re-exported from a fourth Mediterranean country. Since the history of the document has caused some suspicion on it; the origin country and the ICCAT Secretariat were informed and validity and authenticity were requested about this document from both authorities. Until now, no answer has been received from any authority. The buyer (Turkish Farm Company) insisted that they have the ICCAT certificate and that import and export should be allowed. The national authority did not allow the company either to import or to export the mentioned fish. Finally, due to adverse weather conditions, 225 tons of bluefin tuna were back in nature by nature itself again, except for the 23 tons of dead fish picked up from the sea. This event is one of the best evidence of Turkey's strict application of ICCAT regulations.
- c) It is not easy to calculate every year's catch, farm, and import and export amounts. This is why the balance calculations are made in a three-year time period. In this respect, the annual calculations as stated in the reference paper (It would be safe to assume that Japan's imports of bluefin tuna products during the second half of 2003 and the first half of 2004 were originally caught in 2003) are not expected to reflect the correct results.

- d) In the above mentioned document, apart from the data that cover the pre-accession data of 2003 and 2004, import data that have been submitted to ICCAT by the Turkish Government as well as the import data that will be submitted for 2005 are included and it has been stated that Turkey has exceeded its quota. By this statement, one might get the wrong impression about importation as an illegal activity. It is a fact that like every other country, Turkey has the sovereign right to import every kind of fish from every country with proper certification while Japan and other countries import hundreds of thousands tons of fish from tens of countries every year.
3. The catch amounts, farm operations, imports and exports of Turkey are detailed in **Table 1** below. After the written explanations and using the correct calculation methods, it is clear that the paper proposed by Japan is not likely to reflect the existing situation and it brings a question in mind. Why are only Turkey's catch and farm operations opened to discussion by the Japanese Delegation, while there are other countries, mentioned in the information submitted by Japan, whose bluefin tuna caging and export amounts are three/four times more than their allocated catch quota and the ICCAT Secretariat is informed about imports and exports of Turkey in time?

Table 1. Catch, import, farming and exports by Turkey (in t).

<i>Year</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Import</i>	<i>Carry over</i> ⁽¹⁾	<i>Growth</i> ⁽²⁾	<i>Expected outputs of farms</i>	<i>Lost fish</i>	<i>Allowable max. export amount (t)</i>
2003	3,300	0	0	1,650	4,950	700	4,250
2004	1,075	1,478	170	1,404	4,127	225	3,902
2005	990	2,473	433	2,056	5,952	0	5,952

1. Carryovers are from the previous year and the ICCAT Secretariat was informed accordingly.

2. Growth rates: 6-8 month growth is 50% and annual growth is 75%.

<i>Turkey's imports, by country (in t)</i>			
<i>Country</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>
Korea (Rep.)	0	700	972
EC	0	0	430
Libya	0	538	271
Tunisia	0	240	800
Total	0	1478	2473

Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

Explanation and Assessment by Turkey on Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9 by Japan

1. According to Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9 the bluefin tuna import amount (the sum of the import amount of the second half of 2004 and the import amount of the first half of 2005) of Japan from Turkey is 5,361 t.
2. Using the conversion factors referred to in Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9, the amounts on the ICCAT Statistical Documents issued by the Turkish Authority for the same period are:
 - a) 3,736,786 kg to Japan
 - b) 48,808 kg to USA
 - c) 5,491 kg to EC
 - d) 375 kg to Korea
 - e) 58 kg to Rumania

91,518 kg TOTAL
3. Turkey did not exceed the "others" quota either in 2004 or 2005.

4. In this case, the possibility is:

As common practice, Japanese importers ship their products to Korea or China or elsewhere due to the low cold storage costs and 6-8 months later these products are shipped to Japan. In this case, the 2003 harvest is likely to enter Japan in the second half of 2004 or in the first half of 2005. An indication of this possibility is that Turkey's export amount in the 2003 catch related period is over 4,000 t, while the Japanese import figure is 3,302 t.

That is why in the explanatory paper it indicates that:

- a) It is not easy to balance the calculations of a certain year, within either the same year or the following year.
 - b) To assume that the sum of the imports of the second half of given year and the first half of the following year would set the base for the referred year's catch is not likely to reflect the exact situation.
5. Turkey asks for close cooperation and data/information exchange with the Japanese authorities, including studying and comparing the Statistical Documents issued by the Turkish Authority and the Statistical Documents received by the Japanese Authorities.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

Report by Japan of the Experimental Observer Program for At-Sea Transshipment

Background

At the 2004 annual meeting, laundering activities by LSTLVs involving cargo vessels were exposed, and effective monitoring and control measures for transshipment, in particular at-sea transshipment, were discussed. Japan proposed an observer program to strictly monitor at-sea transshipment to eliminate laundering activities using cargo vessels.

Japan conducted an experimental observer program from June to September of this year to examine feasibility and effectiveness of a measure to deploy neutral observers to freezer cargo vessels for monitoring at-sea transshipment and issuing certificate of transshipment to verify the catch data reported by fishing vessels.

Implementation

The experimental program was implemented by the Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT) and the cost was covered by contribution of OPRT members.

From the end of June to the beginning of September, each of three cargo vessels conducting transshipment in the Atlantic accepted one observer (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Result of the cruises.

<i>Vessel</i>	<i>Cargo vessels</i>		<i>Boarding</i>
	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Flag</i>	
A	1,500	Japan	June 27-July 31 (35 days) (Las Palmas - Panama)
B	2,100	Panama	July 7-August 23 (46 days) (Cape Town - Cape Town)
C	2,700	Japan	August 5-September 1 (28 days) (Cape Town - Las Palmas)

Although this experimental program was implemented as a voluntary basis, the observers selected were internationally recognized surveyors belonging to survey and inspection institutes authorized to conduct inspections by laws and regulations. The observers collected the following data and information, and submitted a Note of Confirmation to OPRT and the Japanese Fisheries Agency for each at-sea transshipment.

Fishing vessel:	Name
	Flag
	International radio call sign
	Positive List number
	Length, tonnage, fish holding capacity
Catch transshipped:	Date and location of transshipment
	Species and quantities of catches transshipped
	Date of catch

Result

During 109 days of total boarding days for three cargo vessels, 2,042.5 t of catches were transshipped to the cargo vessels from 45 fishing vessels. Most of the transshipments were conducted at high sea area off Abidjan (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Results of transshipments.

<i>Cargo vessel</i>	<i>Transshipment</i>		<i>Flag</i>	<i>Number of cargos imported to Japan (as of October 14)</i>
	<i>Number of transshipments (Number of cargos)</i>	<i>Total weight (t)</i>		
A	16	682.5	China, Japan	12
B	21	934	Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Japan	17
C	8	426	Chinese Taipei, Japan	

The Japanese Fisheries Agency checked the Note of Confirmation with the Statistical Document at the application for the import. There was no discrepancy between the Note of Confirmation and the Statistical Document.

Cost

The cost includes personnel cost, travel, accommodation, communication, food and insurance. The cost was calculated for each cargo vessel (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Cost per cargo vessel. (Unit: US\$)

	<i>Cargo vessel</i>		
	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>
Personnel cost	11,455	14,181	9,000
Travel	6,843	7,411	7,508
Accommodations	452	273	285
Communication	57	140	33
Food	636	836	509
Insurance	148	406	148
Others	302	0	249
Total	19,280	23,247	17,732

Discussions

This program was implemented as voluntary cooperation by the cargo vessels as well as the fishing vessels. In some cases, the observers had difficulty with obtaining the information from the fishing vessels such as the name and the call sign, and date and area of the catches transshipped. To ensure effective implementation of

observations, some mechanism to allow observers to access to the necessary information of the fishing vessels should be established.

As a technical aspect, species identification of catches is difficult especially in case where highly processed. However, it was proved that the skill can be established through the technical training.

In conclusion, monitoring of at-sea transshipments and issuance of the Note of Confirmation can be effectively implemented to eliminate falsification of vessel names, catches and species. Further, the monitoring of transshipment at sea makes it difficult to falsify area of catches in light of the location of transshipment. The Note of Confirmation issued by observers on board the cargo vessels will contribute flag states of fishing vessels to monitor and control their fishing vessels by checking the Note of Confirmation with the catch report by the vessels.

**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 was opened by the Chair, Ms. Kimberly Blankenkemper (United States). No opening statements were made.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as proposed (see **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**).

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mrs. Pamela Toschik (United States) was appointed rapporteur.

4. Implementation and functioning of Statistical Document Programs***4.1 Review of bi-annual data reports***

The Chair drew attention to the summary document produced by the Secretariat that described all of the data received by the Secretariat from Contracting Parties under the ICCAT Statistical Document Programs for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and swordfish. The Parties thanked the Secretariat for its work.

4.2 Report of the Working Group to Review the Statistical Monitoring Programs, including consideration of recommendations

The Chair identified several documents to assist in consideration of this Agenda item. The Chair noted the Report of the Meeting of the Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs and a working document prepared by the Chair to facilitate discussion. The PWG Chair, who also chaired the Statistical Monitoring Working Group, reported on the meeting held in Fukuoka in April of this year. The Report of the Working Group meeting is attached as **ANNEX 4.2**. The PWG expressed appreciation for the report of the working group.

Upon inquiry from the delegate from Japan, it was confirmed that the Secretariat had followed up on the recommendations in the Fukuoka report to remind CPCs of their implementation responsibilities. In that regard, the delegate from Japan introduced a document describing their imports of processed tuna from China, which suggested Japan had imported IUU bigeye tuna from China. Japan noted that the import of filleted bigeye tuna from China, while still a small quantity, had increased rapidly since the third quarter of 2004, when closer monitoring of vessels was implemented. China indicated they would respond to Japan's concerns in the Compliance Committee.

The Chair recalled discussion amongst parties at the Fukuoka meeting regarding many small technical changes to the statistical document programs that could be implemented. The Chair noted that other items could be considered in an additional intersessional meeting that addressed the larger issues holistically. A clarification was made that "non-CPCs," should be provided access to ICCAT data, as referred to in the Fukuoka report, provided access was limited to official persons.

There was some discussion as to whether small changes should be made to the statistical documents themselves at this stage. The delegate from the EC noted their appreciation for the working document and Fukuoka meeting report; however, he noted a problem of philosophy. He indicated that the EC was not inclined to agree to changes on a piecemeal basis without addressing fundamental problems as described in the meeting report and

working document. He noted that the EC was in favor of a further meeting of the Working Group next year. He also requested that parties opposed to including vessel names on statistical documents provide a better explanation for this position.

The Delegate from the United States clarified that statistical documents for bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and swordfish, already include the vessel name, vessel identification number, and vessel length. At issue was the link to the catching and offloading events to which the documents pertain. He provided an example that the United States and Canada require carcass tags on individual fish, which make a direct link to the vessel, dealer, and offloading events. He also noted the United States was not opposed to linking the statistical document to catch event. At issue was an efficient means of recording that event. He noted further that the United States believes it would be more efficient to link catch and trade events if ICCAT engaged in discussion that would lead down path of electronic documentation, a pragmatic approach.

The Delegate from Brazil highlighted the understanding of the Working Group on statistical documents reflected in its report that for those CPCs whose national laws do not require an individual nomination, that lack of provision of individual names and sample signatures to the ICCAT Secretariat shall not be used on grounds to refuse imports from that CPC. In this regard, Brazil indicated that Brazilian law does not require an individual nomination, so that Brazil will provide the Secretariat with the name and address of the approving institution as well as its official seal with the expectation that the ICCAT Secretariat and importing CPCs will respect this understanding of the Working Group on statistical documents and have in a manner that will not result in any hindrance to Brazilian exports of fish species managed by ICCAT. The Chair confirmed that the current statistical document recommendations do not require the provision of individual nominations and signatures, that working group report from Fukuoka was clear on this matter, and that a way forward on this issue had been developed.

Following this exchange of views, the parties agreed that a second meeting of the Working Group would be needed in light of the diversity and complexity of many of the issues raised in Fukuoka, particularly with respect to the Working Group Terms of Reference 2 b, c, and d of Resolution 04-16. The PWG recommended, therefore, that the ad hoc working group hold a second meeting at a time and place determined by the Commission to further develop recommendations for submission to the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT. It was clarified that these meetings would attempt to finalize work already initiated on these topics.

The EC offered to host the meeting in conjunction with the next meeting of the bluefin tuna working group on integrated management, which they have offered to host in the spring 2006.

5. Review of cooperation by non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and determination of actions to be taken under the 2003 Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures [Res. 03-15]

Prior to discussing this Agenda item, the Chair called attention to the numerous documents relating to this Agenda item. She also highlighted the responses to special letters, trade data, and the draft PWG Actions Table. This last was used to guide the country-by-country discussion. The Chair also noted that discussions regarding Guyana and the Netherlands Antilles would be held under Agenda item 7.

The final Summary Table of 2005 PWG Actions is attached to the report (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**).

Chinese Taipei

There was a great deal of discussion on the issues associated with Chinese Taipei, and parties concurred on many of the issues. Many parties were concerned about the activities of Chinese Taipei and expressed support for Japan's proposal to impose trade sanctions, although some had suggestions for improvement. Many parties felt that the credibility of ICCAT rested on the decision made on this case; they recognized the severity of the case and the longstanding natures of the issues. Most parties expressed a need to take decisive action, and they called for consistency in the implementation of the trade measures resolution. Many parties felt that the information provided by Chinese Taipei, and the remedial actions proposed by Chinese Taipei, were insufficient to address their concerns. It was noted that some parties had been sanctioned for lesser infractions in the past. Several parties also noted that the measures proposed by Chinese Taipei to rectify the situation where existing ICCAT requirements that should have already been implemented. Some parties expressed concern about the fate of Chinese Taipei's fleet in the case of trade measures or a zero quota, suggesting the possibility of the vessels reregistering under flags of convenience and continuing IUU fishing activities in the Atlantic or other oceans. Several parties also commented that ICCAT will be judged by outsiders based on its action in this case. The

importance of encouraging Chinese Taipei to continue their efforts to promote a responsible fishery by its fleet was mentioned by several parties. A summary of additional points made during the discussion is provided below.

The Observer from Chinese Taipei recalled that in 2004 ICCAT passed a resolution asking Chinese Taipei to improve their fisheries management. He introduced a document concerning briefings on improvement of fisheries management (attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**) with summary text and slides describing Chinese Taipei's response to ICCAT's request.

The Observer from Chinese Taipei explained that they faced tremendous pressure to convince their government to undertake the fleet reduction program and enhance fisheries management. He noted that they have strived to make improvements, and explained that some of the fisheries management measures they have implemented are at the forefront of the world, and ahead of the requirements of many RFMOs. He gave the following examples: implementation of a program to differentiate between licensed and IUU vessels to prevent illegitimate use of statistical documents by IUU vessels; addressing capacity size by scrapping vessels; only allowing positive listed vessels to enter Chinese Taipei's ports; and additional management measures. He noted further that Chinese Taipei has demonstrated good faith, and they hope this is recognized by the international community. In addition, he noted that a positive response by the global community would provide a positive message to the government of Chinese Taipei.

The Observer from Chinese Taipei also noted that Chinese Taipei will set individual quotas for by-catch and target species, including three fishing groups in the Atlantic: bigeye tuna (market is Japan), albacore (market is the United States and Thailand), yellowfin tuna (market is the United States). Concerning Chinese Taipei's ability to monitor catch weekly, he noted that by the end of October 2005, the total weekly reported catch of bigeye tuna was 11253 t live weight. One of the slides in the presentation* illustrated the statistical document issuing control, including cross checking the OPRT landing record and sales record, then cross checking with the statistical document and individual quota. The Observer from Chinese Taipei also discussed improvements in data collection, noting that scientific observer coverage in 2005 is about 8%, next year they anticipate it will rise to about 10%. He reminded parties that Chinese Taipei had responded to requests from ICCAT, and that their goodwill and effort should be recognized by ICCAT Commission members.

The presentation by Chinese Taipei also included several suggestions for ICCAT, including development of a mechanism for monitoring at-sea transshipment (such as observers on transshipment vessels), creation of a positive vessel list for transshipment vessels, and equipping transshipment vessels with VMS.

The Delegate from Japan explained that the source of the problem with Chinese Taipei is not one issue, it is longstanding, and provided a brief history of this issue, which is summarized below:

The Delegate from Japan explained that in the mid-1990s Chinese Taipei's local bigeye tuna stock was overfished and depleted; Chinese Taipei then shifted their fleet to the Atlantic Ocean, where their catch of bigeye tuna greatly increased, leading the Commission to set a quota of 16,500 t for bigeye tuna for Chinese Taipei in 1997. Chinese Taipei continued to increase their fishing capacity, and increased their catch using flag of convenience vessels, later called IUU vessels. In 1999, the Commission for first time created an IUU vessel list on which over 300 vessels were listed for IUU fishing; almost all had Chinese names and addresses in Chinese Taipei. Since then, the Commission took a series of measures to contain illegal activities of Chinese Taipei. Chinese Taipei cooperated and reduced those vessels by a certain number, but the delegate from Japan noted that approximately 60 vessels remain active. Chinese Taipei called back vessels registered under flags of convenience to their own registry, which increased their capacity rapidly, but their catch limit remained the same.

The Delegate from Japan noted that fish laundering by Chinese Taipei's fleet was reported in 2003 and that they believed this is still happening as a result of Chinese Taipei's excess fishing capacity. The delegate from Japan elaborated on their discoveries related to fish laundering. They noted that a fishing measure was implemented in 2002 requiring legitimate Chinese Taipei names for vessels; fish laundering was a response to avoid this requirement. Last year, the Japanese Coast Guard and Fisheries Agency of Japan arrested two vessels found in organized laundering activities with Chinese Taipei's vessels. The delegate from Japan estimated that approximately 18,000 t of bigeye tuna were taken in excess of Chinese Taipei's catch limit (16,500 t), totaling over 30,000 t of bigeye tuna, which was exported to Japan.

* Available from the Secretariat.

The Delegate explained that Japan was upset because they have been involved in strenuous efforts to reduce IUU efforts for past 10 years, but the Chinese Taipei vessels have found ways around inspections and management measures. The delegate insisted that this cannot be allowed to continue. He recalled that the Commission identified Chinese Taipei after a long effort to combat IUU, but Chinese Taipei's fishermen tenaciously continued their activities. He noted that the Commission expected proof that the situation was rectified this year, not plans for future improvements. In addition, Japan wanted to stress that the responsibility to prove that the situation is rectified is Chinese Taipei's, not Japan's. The delegate from Japan acknowledged the information provided by Chinese Taipei this year, but did not feel it rectified the situation.

The Delegate from Japan then provided a brief explanation of the information papers they submitted to the Working Group on this topic. Details can be found in Japan's "Information Paper on Activities by Chinese Taipei Fishing Vessels and Industry in the Atlantic Ocean" (attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**) and "Additional Information Paper by Japan on Chinese Taipei", attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**). The delegate from Japan explained that the Chinese Taipei industry devised creative ways to avoid inspection in Japanese ports. The information documents provided by Japan described three methods used to avoid inspection: processing fish in more lenient countries then importing fillets to Japan, importing fish in freezer containers, and discarding small fish (< 40 kg). The delegate from Japan reported that the Japanese public has become more environmentally aware and is saying no to products without legitimate origins.

The Delegate from Japan pointed out several problematic aspects of Chinese Taipei's fleet reduction program, noting that some of the vessels to be scrapped are old, sunken, do not have record of bigeye tuna fishing in past, or are less than 24 meters. He also noted that the fleet capacity will still be significantly larger than Chinese Taipei's quota after the proposed fleet reduction. The delegate from Japan also noted that the Chinese Taipei fishing industry is still building vessels less than 24 m, and has at least 100 of these vessels operating under foreign flags in the Atlantic, all unreported, catching tuna, sharks, and other ICCAT regulated species. While Chinese Taipei was asked to work with their fishermen to provide information on these vessels, no data were received. Japan noted that they received responses to questions posed by the Commission to Chinese Taipei, but Japan felt that the responses did not satisfy the requests made by the Commission. They noted that the additional actions Chinese Taipei will be taking are existing requirements of ICCAT, and should have been implemented 10 years ago. Japan stressed the need for correct, complete, and accurate catch data, but noted that these were not presented. They urged Chinese Taipei to investigate illegally caught and laundered fish, so that ICCAT can accurately estimate the amount of fish caught. Japan hopes that the seriousness and longevity of this matter were understood. The delegate from Japan also noted that Brazil and the United States had provided information on IUU vessels owned by businesses in Chinese Taipei.

The Observer from Chinese Taipei responded that they were encouraged by Japan's recognition of the effort required by the Chinese Taipei government to address this issue. Chinese Taipei recalled a meeting they hosted last month, with four ICCAT members. The Observer recalled the general feeling of this informal meeting was that most participants appreciate the effort Chinese Taipei has made, but all say that they have to do more. Based on this, the fisheries agency agreed to scrap an additional 40 vessels to make a total of 160 vessels all together. The observer from Chinese Taipei noted that this is very difficult financially.

The Observer from Chinese Taipei made oral responses to some specific assertions made by Japan, and responded to others with additional documents submitted to the PWG (attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**) and **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 10**). The observer noted that sunken vessels still have ship building rights, so buying back these rights is a way of eliminating fishing capacity. For vessels less than 24 m built in Chinese Taipei's ship yard, the information from Japan was not correct; these vessels are all replacements for old tonnages, half are under 20 tons and are utilized for coastal fisheries. He noted that Chinese Taipei has already made a regulation to prohibit new vessels, unless approved by the RFMO or importing country. The Observer from Chinese Taipei noted that some of the things mentioned by Japan were exaggerations, and that he regrets assumptions are so often used to attack Chinese Taipei. The Observer stated that Chinese Taipei knows they have to make more improvements, but they hope that Chinese Taipei will receive positive recognition for their efforts, rather than punishment.

The Delegate from Japan questioned some of the contents of Chinese Taipei's explanatory document. He noted that SCRS has indicated bigeye tuna can be caught in almost the entire Atlantic Ocean; consequently fishing zones may not work. He suggested that VMS should not be relied on for 100% of monitoring, and recommended the use of patrol vessels and inspections. He questioned Chinese Taipei's use of the CPUE formula developed by Japan and Korea, commenting that Japan has observed larger crews and more frequent setting of lines on Chinese Taipei's vessels than those used to develop the CPUE formula. The observer from Chinese Taipei

responded that there is limited crew space on their vessels, and lines can only be retrieved once per day. They also explained that they use monitoring and control tools in addition to VMS, including statistical documents and surveyors at the landing points.

The Delegate from Ghana inquired as to why vessels over 10 years old were being scrapped, noting that it should rather be modern vessels. The observer from Chinese Taipei explained that they kept new vessels to maintain safety in the bigeye tuna fleet, scrapping less efficient vessels.

The Delegate from Canada noted that during the discussion it was difficult to follow all calculations, and asked for clarifications in relation to Chinese Taipei's fleet. The Observer from Chinese Taipei responded that after scrapping the proposed vessels, their remaining fleet will average 500-600 gross tons, the total annual number of fishing days for bigeye tuna vessels would be approximately 26,833, with approximately 100 vessels fishing.

The Delegate from Japan introduced a document recommending trade restrictive measures on Chinese Taipei and reiterated his concerns about magnitude of Chinese Taipei's activities, the history of IUU fishing by Chinese Taipei, and the issue of equity in implementation of the trade measures. He provided additional detail on the magnitude of the problem, estimating 10,000 t of bigeye tuna laundered through the Indian Ocean, 2,000 t of filleted fish, 2,000 t of frozen fish, and 1,000 t of discarded small fish laundered for a total of 15,000 t of bigeye tuna laundered and exported to Japan. He also recalled the history of Chinese Taipei, with over 300 vessels on the initial ICCAT IUU vessel list. The delegate further commented that Japan had requested repeatedly that the Chinese Taipei authorities seriously investigate this issue; this year the Chinese Taipei authorities admitted 8,000 t of bigeye tuna were caught on IUU vessels were exported to Japan. The delegate from Japan suggested that this was an underestimate because Japan believes 60 IUU longline vessels are still operating out of Chinese Taipei, each capable of catching 300 t or more per year. The delegate from Japan calculated that the total IUU caught bigeye tuna could be conservatively estimated at 15,000 t + 8,000 t bigeye tuna, meaning at least 23,000 t of bigeye tuna were caught illegally. The delegate reiterated his comments about consistency and credibility, and noted that if ICCAT does not take action, they will face very serious challenges from outsiders.

The Delegate from the United States noted that any action on Chinese Taipei should have concrete measures and timeframes for compliance, and he described a number of specific measures, which were later included in the Chairman's proposal.

The Delegates from the United States, Sao Tome, and Brazil expressed appreciation for Japan's proposal, but concern about the implications of it. The delegate from the United States recalled that ICCAT had identified Chinese Taipei in response to bigeye tuna issues, but noted that Japan included swordfish and bluefin tuna. The delegate indicated that the United States was not comfortable adding these species because they were within their quota, on average, over the past three years. While the delegate from the United States agreed that Chinese Taipei must take measures to improve, he suggested more thought must be given to what action ICCAT should take, particularly in light of the significant economic impact of the trade measures proposed by Japan. The delegate from Belize wondered what the incentive was to prevent reflagging, and the ability of Chinese Taipei to enforce it. He further noted that Chinese Taipei has large quota but contributes very little money to ICCAT compared to what it derives. He suggested imposing fines when violations are found if this was possible. The delegate from Japan expressed concern over these comments. He recognized the U.S. concern about the impact on the economy of Chinese Taipei, but wondered if this concern was fair based on ICCAT's past actions. He also urged the United States to conduct a study of swordfish and albacore in their market, similar to that the Japan conducted for bigeye tuna. The delegate from Japan responded to the comments from Belize, recalling that Japan scrapped hundreds of vessels in the North Pacific for salmon. He noted that Chinese Taipei is not poor and must make a real fleet reduction.

The Delegate from the EC noted the need for consistency and coherence among RFMOs. He noted that the activities of the fleet of Chinese Taipei have been a source of considerable concern for many RFMOs. He commented that ICCAT has facilitated, by inaction, the continued non-respect of ICCAT measures, has closed their eyes to concerns about transshipment, and that ICCAT's importing states have not done their part. He explained that the EC has banned swordfish imports from Chinese Taipei when they have exceeded their quota. He proposed that if Chinese Taipei wants to continue to fish and transship, they must transship in designated ports to be properly monitored, and they should not be granted the luxury of at-sea transshipment.

The Delegate from Canada identified two fundamental issues for Chinese Taipei: their ability to control their fleets, and their ability to control their residents relative to IUU fishing. He also noted ICCAT members'

obligations not to have any involvement with vessels from Chinese Taipei if trade measures or a zero quota are implemented.

The Delegate from Namibia called for Chinese Taipei to accelerate the pace of its vessel reduction program to ensure capacity falls within the quota. He also noted that fleet capacity should correspond to both quota and the ability of Chinese Taipei to control its fleet.

The Delegate from China asked Chinese Taipei how many vessels were involved in laundering activities, noting that China has punished individual non-compliant vessels in its fleet. The delegate recognized that China may be one route for fish laundering, but expressed their desire to eliminate IUU products in their market.

The Delegate from Brazil commented that this brings up the fundamental question of the way ICCAT recommendations and resolutions are implemented. He recalled that Resolution [03-15] was the object of much debate, and it was important to ensure the measures were transparent. He noted that the trade measures were identified as a last resort, and that quota reductions should be implemented before trade sanctions. He suggested that PWG consider how to address this case to promote compliance and set a precedent for how ICCAT enforces conservation measures.

The Delegate from Senegal recalled that small countries have been subject to sanctions for smaller infractions. She asked that sanctions be applied fairly, with a time limit, and that they be properly assessed and decided upon before the conclusion of the meeting.

The Chair introduced a working document on a recommendation regarding control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic bigeye tuna fishery, and noted a possible improvement to language, requiring Chinese Taipei to prove when they have met the required conditions.

The Observer from Chinese Taipei stated that the requirements in this document for a zero quota in the 2006 fishing season were not workable. He explained that if there were no vessels operating in 2006, there would be insufficient funds to pay for the vessel reduction program, as the vessels remaining in the fleet are required to pay for part of this program. He asked that parties base their decision on evidence, not on hearsay. He also expressed concern about the fate of the Chinese Taipei fleet if sanctions were taken, noting that the vessel reduction program will not take place in that case.

The Delegate from Japan commented that Chinese Taipei has been over-fishing bigeye tuna for 5 to 10 years by a huge amount, which has been threatening the stock of bigeye tuna, while other parties made a strenuous effort to protect bigeye tuna. He noted that fishing vessels in Japan are called back to port and confined when violations are found and that Chinese Taipei should take similar measures.

The Delegate from Equatorial Guinea reminded the PWG not to have double standards, but to apply the same rules across the board.

The Delegate from the EC made a procedural note that if ICCAT requires vessels to return to port, this must happen in 2006 after normal implementation of conservation measures. He also noted that he needed to consider if the proposed actions were manageable in the short term, if the actions were appropriate in view of letter sent last year to Chinese Taipei, and whether this was a way to guarantee improvement in the situation.

Many countries expressed appreciation for the Chairman's working document, and supported the recommendations in it. There were some suggestions for technical and wording changes, and some reservations were expressed.

Based on discussions, a revised working document was submitted to PWG. The Chair explained that the provisions in the document included a 4,600 t quota of bigeye, consisting of an allowance of 1,300 t of by-catch in the albacore fishery (limited to 60 vessels), and 3,300 t for an experimental directed bigeye tuna fishery (limited to 15 vessels); all other vessels must stop fishing and would be deleted from ICCAT's authorized vessel list; Chinese Taipei must provide the list of authorized vessels to ICCAT; vessels fishing must submit to a mandatory check in Cape Town or Las Palmas; Chinese Taipei must also implement attached monitoring and control measures on a set timescale; they must report results of the experimental fishery and monitoring and control systems at least one month before the 2006 ICCAT meeting; and they must demonstrate compliance with these requirements at the 2006 ICCAT meeting. If Chinese Taipei has not rectified the situation by the dates set in the document, the Commission will decide whether or not to take trade restrictive measures on bigeye tuna.

The delegate from the EC requested additional time to review the Chair's working document to ensure the language in the operative paragraphs and attachment were consistent, included a VMS provision for all vessels, and required lists of both albacore and bigeye tuna fishing vessels that will be allowed to fish in 2006. It was clarified that the document already contained strict VMS requirements. The PWG agreed, therefore, to submit the Chair's working document for a recommendation regarding control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic bigeye tuna fishery (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 05-02]**) to plenary for further consideration.

Bolivia

The Chair noted that sanctions were maintained last year and no additional information was provided by Bolivia this year. The Working Group agreed to maintain sanctions and notify Bolivia by sending them a letter (attached as **Appendix 8.1 to ANNEX 10**).

Cambodia

The Chair noted that Cambodia had responded to last year's letter from the Commission, and that they indicated they have no vessels licensed to fish in Atlantic. They did express interest in having vessels listed on ICCAT's positive list. The Working Group agreed to send a letter (attached as **Appendix 8.2 to ANNEX 10**) to Cambodia requesting further information, including: inquiring whether Cambodia has submitted their list of vessels to FAO, what the size of their global fleet is, how vessel registration is conducted in Cambodia, details on their monitoring and surveillance program. It was noted that Cambodia may have recently changed their vessel registration process, and that two Cambodian vessels are listed under the IATTC IUU list, and one Cambodian vessel is listed on the CCAMLR IUU list.

Colombia

The Working Group agreed to send a letter to Colombia (attached as **Appendix 8.3 to ANNEX 10**) based on a report of a Colombian flag vessel observed by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter operating in vicinity of Colombian EEZ and targeting ICCAT regulated species. The Chair noted that the Commission can discuss reports such as these both in terms of the IUU vessel list and at the country level under terms of Resolution 03-15.

Costa Rica

The Chair noted that Costa Rica has been identified for past two years. They did not directly respond to the 2004 letter from the Commission. They did provide some statistical document information indicating zero catch, which appeared valid based on zero trade data. The Working Group agreed to maintain the identification of Costa Rica. It was agreed to send a strongly-worded letter (attached as **Appendix 8.4 to ANNEX 10**) seeking relevant fishery information, and the Working Group called upon the Executive Secretary to pursue responses to their questions via embassy liaisons, as Costa Rica has not responded to past letters from the Commission. The delegate from Belize noted administrative complications in Costa Rica, and suggested that the Executive Secretary confirm that they are pursuing the correct diplomatic channels.

Cuba

The Chair noted that no catch or trade information was provided by Cuba. The Working Group agreed to send a strongly worded letter (attached as **Appendix 8.5 to ANNEX 10**), and to request that the Executive Secretary pursue responses to ICCAT's questions via embassy liaisons, as Cuba has not provided sufficient responses to letters from the Commission.

Ecuador

Noting a report that Ecuador harvested 46 t of bigeye tuna from the Atlantic Ocean, the Working Group agreed to send a letter of inquiry to Ecuador regarding fleet size, area of catch, and MCS measures in place (attached as **Appendix 8.6 to ANNEX 10**).

Georgia

Given the lack of response from Georgia, the Working Group agreed to maintain sanctions and agreed to send a letter notifying Georgia of this decision (attached as **Appendix 8.7 to ANNEX 10**).

Israel

The PWG took note that Israel had exported 0.8 t of bluefin tuna in 2004. The Chair recalled that Israel had expressed strong views with regard to ICCAT inquiries in the past, although they were not interested in seeking cooperating status with ICCAT at that time. It was agreed that no action was warranted at this time.

Maldives

Noting a report of Maldives catching 15 t of bluefin tuna, from unknown locations, and noting Maldives does not have bluefin tuna quota, the Working Group agreed to send a letter of inquiry to Maldives (attached as **Appendix 8.8 to ANNEX 10**), seeking information about fleet size, area of catch, and monitoring and control measures in place.

Mauritania

Mauritania responded to ICCAT's letter with a request for information on becoming a Contracting Party. The PWG agreed that no action under Resolution [03-15] was warranted at this time.

Palau

The Chair noted that a response had been received from Palau, albeit through unusual channels. The letter claimed that Palau had no record of the vessel on the ICCAT negative list. Based on this, the Working Group felt that no additional action was necessary, but that it would be monitored in the future as necessary. It was agreed that this vessel would remain on the IUU list, under "unknown" flag.

Seychelles

The Working Group agreed that no action was warranted as there were no outstanding issues involving the Seychelles.

Sierra Leone

Noting that the Commission did not receive the additional information requested from Sierra Leone in 2004, and after thorough discussion, the Working Group agreed to send a follow-up letter to Sierra Leone (attached as **Appendix 8.9 to ANNEX 10**) seeking answers to the issues raised in the 2004 letter. The PWG also requested the Executive Secretary to pursue a response from Sierra Leone via embassy liaisons.

Singapore

The Delegate from the EC noted that their difficulties with Singapore had only been rectified in part. They reported that Singapore was cooperative when contacted by the EC, but that the implementation of the statistical document program was incomplete. Singapore only issues re-export certificates (as they have no catches), and these certificates are only issued at the request of operator. If an operator does not request a re-export certificate, the consignment will be re-exported without that document. In addition, there is no verification of exports across the board, as would be warranted by relevant measures. The customs system in Singapore has not provided for proper means to apply correctly the ICCAT statistical document program. While appreciating Singapore's cooperative stance, the Working Group agreed to maintain the identification of Singapore due to the remaining lacunae that need to be addressed. Singapore will be informed of this decision with a letter and thanked for their progress to date (attached as **Appendix 8.10 to ANNEX 10**).

Sri Lanka

The Chair noted that Sri Lanka did not respond directly to the Secretariat's request for information; however, they did provide statistical document validation information. It was agreed to send a strong letter (attached as **Appendix 8.11 to ANNEX 10**) and to ask the Executive Secretary to pursue responses to ICCAT's questions via embassy liaisons.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The Delegate from the United States introduced a report on information obtained by the U.S. Coast Guard during a routine boarding of a vessel, flagged to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The report noted a number of ICCAT species aboard, and connections to ICCAT members and a cooperating non-contracting party. The catch on the vessel included 50 t of bluefin tuna. The Chair noted that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been a cause for concern to the PWG for many years.

It was also noted that Brazil had submitted information in relation to the IUU activities of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines vessel *Southern Star 136*, and that this vessel had been included in the draft "List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area".

The Delegate from Japan expressed sympathy for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, commenting that they were another victim of Chinese Taipei but that the response of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to ICCAT's inquiry on the matter was not sufficient because no serious investigation was made. The delegate also recognized the possible involvement of Japan interests in this incident and committed to investigate the matter, while encouraging Chinese Taipei to investigate its involvement. It was agreed to identify St. Vincent and the Grenadines in accordance with the *Resolution on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], to send a letter to St. Vincent and the Grenadines (attached as **Appendix 8.12 to ANNEX 10**) informing them of this decision, and to ask Chinese Taipei to work with St. Vincent and the Grenadines to take enforcement measures on fishing vessels controlled by businessmen from Chinese Taipei.

Togo

The identification of Togo was revoked in 2004. No direct response to the Secretariat's letter was provided, although some data were received. The delegate from Japan indicated that their request for information last year was not addressed. The Working Group agreed to send a letter to Togo (attached as **Appendix 8.13 to ANNEX 10**) asking for information on its fleet, including MCS measures and vessel licensing and registrations processes.

6. Development of IUU vessel list

The Chair introduced the draft IUU vessel list prepared by the Secretariat, which contained 8 vessels and accompanying evidence, and attention was drawn to two documents, one submitted with additional information on a vessel flagged to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, *F/V Emily 21* and another on a vessel flagged to Colombia, *F/V No. 16 Shin Yeou*. Based on the information in the documents, the Working Group agreed to add these vessels to the IUU vessel list.

The Secretariat produced a revised list incorporating all the proposed changes. The PWG agreed to forward the revised list to the Commission for adoption. The agreed "2005 List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area" (IUU List) is attached as (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 10**).

7. Requests for Cooperating Status

The Chair briefly reviewed the relevant documents pertaining to the Cooperating Status issue.

Chinese Taipei

The Delegate from Japan noted that they would like to maintain the Cooperating Status of Chinese Taipei until next year if the PWG Chair's proposal (submitted under agenda item 4.2) was adopted by the Commission. It was agreed to defer the decision on Chinese Taipei's Cooperating Status to the plenary meeting in conjunction with discussion of Chair's proposal. The delegate from Japan noted that if ICCAT decided not to take strong action against Chinese Taipei in accordance with Resolution [03-15], Cooperating Status should be revoked. He asked the PWG to confirm that if Chinese Taipei fails to meet the conditions agreed on this year, it will result in revocation of Cooperating Status immediately at the 2006 meeting. Some members expressed concern about prejudging what actions would or should be taken in 2006. The letter to Chinese Taipei is attached as **Appendix 8.14 to ANNEX 10**.

Egypt

The Chairman explained that Egypt was seeking Cooperating Status. She recalled that Egypt submitted a request two years ago that suggested they may not have fully understood what Cooperating Status entailed. Information was provided to Egypt on this regard after the 2003 meeting.

The Delegate from Japan noted that the response from Egypt to the Commission was not sufficient in that it did not make a commitment to observe the Commission's conservation and management measures. It was agreed to send a letter explaining the requirements and seeking additional information (attached as **Appendix 8.15 to ANNEX 10**). The PWG agreed that cooperating status should not be granted under the circumstances.

Guyana

The Working Group agreed to continue Guyana's Cooperating Status.

Netherlands Antilles

The Delegate from Japan reminded the Working Group that the Netherlands Antilles continued to violate ICCAT regulations. He recalled that the Netherland Antilles made a commitment in 2004 to abide by Commission rules, but did not do so. He proposed to revoke Cooperating Status.

The Delegate from Belize noted that the Working Group should consider the monitoring and control processes that the Netherlands Antilles has implemented before making a decision and he asked what was known in this regard. The Working Group did not have this information at hand.

The Delegate from the EC recalled that the decision on the Cooperating Status of the Netherlands Antilles was the subject of a long debate at the previous ICCAT meeting, which in the end resulted in the granting of cooperating non-contracting status. He questioned the basis for revoking Cooperating Status. He suggested that the reported catch was probably due to activities by specific vessels, and that ICCAT's normal course of action would be to inform the party and request further information. It was agreed to send a letter (attached as **Appendix 8.16 to ANNEX 10**) seeking detailed information on this matter, requesting that the Netherlands Antilles comply with the Commissions' regulations, and indicating that cooperating status would be reviewed in 2006 based on information received.

8. Measures to improve fishery statistics required by ICCAT

The Delegate from the United States proposed a recommendation to enhance data and record keeping in recreational fisheries, noting this area of data collection had been weak in the past. He explained that the proposal asked CPCs to submit Task I and II data and explain techniques used to manage sport and recreational fisheries as well as methods used to collect data. He explained that this type of information would be of great help to SCRS in terms of stock assessments as well as for the Commission when considering management measures. The delegate from the EC responded that the U.S. proposal was interesting and relevant, and he noted that another proposal on recreational fisheries would be discussed in plenary. He suggested, therefore, that the two recreational proposals could be dealt with jointly. The United States noted important distinctions between the two proposals. Specifically, the EC proposal addressed fishing mechanisms or means, and the U.S. proposal addressed the data collection process. It was agreed to refer the U.S. recreational proposal to plenary to facilitate a more comprehensive discussion.

9. Other matters

No additional matters were discussed.

10. Election of Chair

The Chair of ICCAT recalled that during a meeting of Head Delegates, it was decided to consider a restructuring of ICCAT's PWG and Compliance Committee. He noted that some of the restructuring work will be done intersessionally and may be reported back to the Commission in 2006. He explained that the objective was to

consider whether and how to merge these bodies. Since the PWG may not convene in 2006, the decision on the election of the Chair should be deferred until next year. The delegate from the United States noted that it will take the experience of the current Compliance Committee and PWG Chairpersons to make this change successful. He further noted that the United States is prepared to give up the Chair of PWG, but Ms. Blankenkoper should collaborate with Mr. Wieland during the intersessional period to develop a way forward. The delegate from Japan expressed gratitude to the Chair, noting her excellent work as Chair for the past five years, including the production of many letters, and her work day and night.

11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chair thanked the members of the PWG for their patience and hard work. She also expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Rapporteur, interpreters, and Secretariat staff. The 2005 meeting of the PWG was adjourned on Saturday, November 19.

The Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. Implementation and functioning of Statistical Document Programs
 - 4.1 Review of bi-annual data reports
 - 4.2 Report of the Working Group to Review the Statistical Monitoring Programs, including consideration of recommendations
5. Review of cooperation by non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and determination of actions to be taken under the 2003 *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]
6. Development of IUU vessel list
7. Requests for Cooperating Status
8. Measures to improve fishery statistics required by ICCAT
9. Other matters
10. Election of Chair
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Actions taken in relation to Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities in 2005

	<i>2004 Actions</i>	<i>Direct Response to Chair's letter</i>	<i>Catch data reported</i>	<i>SDP validation information provided</i>	<i>Reported as IUU under 02-21</i>	<i>Unreported catch estimates from SDP</i>	<i>Unreported catch estimate from other trade data</i>	<i>Observations / other information</i>	<i>2005 Actions</i>
COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES									
<i>CHINESE TAIPEI</i>	Cooperating status renewed. Identified under Res. 03-15. Letter sent to Chinese Taipei. Situation to be reviewed in 2005. Uruguay to communicate the names of the vessels which were refused permission to land.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	BFT Exports greater than Task I in 2004, but may include products caught in 2003. BET exports in 2003 greater than Task I.	Information from Japan contained in Japan.	133 vessels on ICCAT Record of Vessels, 98 targeting BET. Submitted Annual Report.	Recommendation agreed in Plenary calling for significant reduction in BET catch limit and implementation of additional fleet control measures to address past overharvesting/other fishery problems; cooperating status continued. Letter regarding these matters will be sent by the Commission Chairman.
<i>GUYANA</i>	Cooperating status renewed. Letter to Guyana informing them of this decision.	No direct response but requested information provided	Yes	No	No	No	No	Submitted Annual Report.	Cooperating status to be maintained. Secretariat to inform Guyana of this.
<i>NETH. ANTILLES</i>	No action warranted under the Trade Resolution. Cooperating Status granted by Commission.	n/a	Yes	No	No	No	No	0 vessels +24 m fishing in Atlantic since August 2004.	Cooperating status to be maintained but with letter to Netherlands Antilles expressing concerns in relation to catch levels and requesting details on their MCS measures, and requesting them to comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

	2004 Actions	Direct Response to Chair's letter	Catch data reported	SDP validation information provided	Reported as IUU under 02-21	Unreported catch estimates from SDP	Unreported catch estimate from other trade data	Observations / other information	2005 Actions
OTHER NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES									
<i>BOLIVIA</i>	Sanctions maintained (BET).	No	No	No		No	No		Sanctions maintained. Bolivia to be informed by letter from Chairman.
<i>CAMBODIA</i>	Sanctions lifted. Letter to Cambodia with provision that Cambodia should liaise with RFMOs to ensure that there are no IUU fishing activities being carried out under the Cambodian flag and confirm that they are respecting ICCAT conservation and management measures.	Limited response		No	No	No	No	Cambodia reported that no vessels are licenced to catch tuna.	Chairman to send letter requesting further information on vessel registry, whether vessels have been reported to FAO and MCS measures in force.
<i>COLOMBIA</i>					Yes, Vessel sighted in 2005.	No	No		Chairman to send letter requesting further information on fishing activities and explanation of the activities of the vessel sighted.
<i>COSTA RICA</i>	Identification maintained (SWO).	No direct response, but Costa Rica has provided information on Statistical Document validation.	No	Yes	No	No	No		Identification maintained. Chairman to send strong letter indicating that no response to Commission's concerns and requests may lead to further action. Executive Secretary to liaise with Costa Rica through diplomatic channels to ensure that Commission letter has been received and attempt to elicit a response.
<i>CUBA</i>	Identification maintained (BFT)	No	No	No	No	No	No		Identification maintained. Chairman to send strong letter indicating that no response to Commission's concerns and requests may lead to further action. Executive Secretary to liaise with Cuba through diplomatic channels to ensure that Commission letter has been received and attempt to elicit a response.
<i>ECUADOR</i>					No	46 t of BET exported in 2004, but no catch data reported.	No		Chairman to send letter requesting information on BET catches, fleet size and area of catch and MCS measures in place.

	2004 Actions	Direct Response to Chair's letter	Catch data reported	SDP validation information provided	Reported as IUU under 02-21	Unreported catch estimates from SDP	Unreported catch estimate from other trade data	Observations / other information	2005 Actions
EGYPT		n/a	Yes	No	No	No	No	Egypt has requested Cooperating status. Decision on granting cooperating status to Egypt was deferred in in 2003 pending clarification of intent.	Cooperating status not granted as Egypt did not confirm its commitment to respect by ICCAT management measures. Letter to be sent explaining requirements and requesting further information.
GEORGIA	Sanctions maintained (BET).	No	No	No	No	No	No		Sanctions maintained. Chairman to send letter to Georgia informing them of this decision.
MALDIVES					No	15 t of BFT exported in 2004, but no catch data received.	No		Chairman to send letter requesting clarification of species and area and MCS measures in place.
PALAU	Letter sent requesting information relating to vessel placed on IUU list in 2004.	Yes	No	No	1 vessel 2004.	No	No		No action warranted at country level. Monitor in 2006.
SINGAPORE	Identified. SWO exports and failure to implement SDP.	Singapore has submitted information on Stat. Doc. validation, which was requested by Chairman.	No	Yes	No	No	No		Maintain identification. Chairman to send letter thanking Singapore for action taken and request further action in relation to the implementation of the SDPs.
SRI LANKA	Letter - further concerns regards IUU activities and request information on monitoring and control.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No		Chairman to send strong letter indicating that no response to Commission's concerns may lead to further action. Executive Secretary to liaise with Sierra Leone through diplomatic channels to ensure that Commission letter has been received and attempt to elicit a response.

	2004 Actions	Direct Response to Chair's letter	Catch data reported	SDP validation information provided	Reported as IUU under 02-21	Unreported catch estimates from SDP	Unreported catch estimate from other trade data	Observations / other information	2005 Actions
SIERRA LEONE	Sanctions lifted (BFT; BET; SWO).	No		Yes	No	No	No		Chairman to send letter requesting response to issues raised in 2004 letter. Executive Secretary to liaise with Sierra Leone through diplomatic channels to ensure that Commission letter has been received and attempt to elicit a response. Continue to monitor in 2006.
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Letter sent encouraging efforts of St. Vincent, but expressing serious concerns about harvest levels and noting that steps must be taken to improve the situation in the near future. SVG to work with ICCAT CPs in these efforts.	No response. ICCAT was copied with letter to owner of Southern Star 136 requesting information in relation to IUU allegation. (not circulated).	Yes	No	Yes, 3 vessels 2004; 2 additional vessel submitted in 2005.	No	No		Identified. Letter to St.Vincent & the Grenadines expressing concerns in relation to IUU vessels' activities and reminding them of their flag state responsibilities. Request Chinese Taipei to assist St.Vincent in controlling these vessels.
TOGO	Identification revoked (SWO).	No direct response, but Togo reported data, which was requested by Chairman.	Yes	No	No	No	No		Chairman to send letter requesting information on fleet size and MCS measures in place.
NON CONTRACTING PARTIES MONITORED IN 2005									
ISRAEL	Monitor and review in 2005	n/a	No	No	No	Exported 0.8t BFT in 2004, but no catch data reported.	No		No action warranted.
MAURITANIA	No action deemed necessary. Continue to monitor.	n/a	No	No	No	No	No	Mauritania requested information in relation to the possibility of becoming a Contracting Party.	No action warranted.
SEYCHELLES	Identification revoked (BET).	No response received or required.	n/a	Yes	No	No	No		No action warranted.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**Information by Chinese Taipei on Improvement of Fisheries Management**

Last year the ICCAT Commission meeting passed a Resolution requesting Chinese Taipei to improve its fisheries management. During the year, the fisheries authority of Chinese Taipei has done its utmost to rectify the deficiency of its fisheries management, MCS, and the reduction of vessels commensurate with the fishing quota of bigeye tuna. The PowerPoint presentation has been prepared to allow members of ICCAT to have an in-depth understanding of what efforts Chinese Taipei has made in the year to improve its fisheries management. This will be of help to reduce the time spent on the topic during the Commission meeting in November, for the sake of efficiency of the Commission meeting.

During the year, the authority of Chinese Taipei, in particular the decision-making officials in the government, have been facing a tremendous challenge, and putting all efforts to convince the high-level administration to squeeze the budget to undertake a vessel reduction program on the large-scale tuna longline fishery, and to enhance measures on the management of fisheries. Facing the difficulty of shortage of manpower, the recruitment of military service substitutes was even applied. The authority of Chinese Taipei dare not say it has done a perfect job, as time is needed for the implementation and experience should be accumulated on some of the measures, in order that they can be proven to be effective.

As a democratic and open society, formulation of policies will always encounter political pressures from different sectors. The determination and will expressed by the fisheries authority in facing huge pressure from the industry, can well demonstrate the understanding and good will of the fisheries authority in dealing with the matter. Some of the major measures taken can be considered as a forefront in the world:

- In order to cut any linkage between the legitimate licensed longline fishing vessels and the IUU fishing vessels such that the statistical document issued to the legitimate licensed vessels would not be used by the IUU vessels, to those ocean areas under the competence of IOTC and WCPFC, which have not yet adopted quota allocation, Chinese Taipei has made a self-restraint on the fishing activities of its fleet by applying individual quotas to fishing vessels has been applied;
- To prevent expansion of global fishing capacity, before adoption of such measures by RFMOs, regulations have been promulgated to prohibit exportation of fishing vessels unless replacement of scrapped or lost vessels as declared by the importing countries or at the approval of the relevant RFMO:
- In order to combat the IUU fishing vessels, only those vessels on the positive list of RFMOs are permitted to enter into the ports of Chinese Taipei.

It is noteworthy that the measures pushed by the fisheries authority of Chinese Taipei are facing huge political pressures from various sectors, including acute criticisms from the shipbuilding industry. Yet the Fisheries Agency has stuck firmly to its decision. This demonstrates the good faith of the government of Chinese Taipei, and it is hoped that these efforts will have the support and recognition by the international community. In addition, such a positive attitude from the international community will provide the government of Chinese Taipei a firmer position to resist the criticism from the shipbuilders.

The development of the high seas fisheries of Chinese Taipei has a long history. It was only after the adoption of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement in 1995 that the international community had gradually provided room for accommodating Chinese Taipei as a partner in the conservation and management of high seas fisheries. The special consideration of the international community in our situation should be cherished, and the Fisheries Agency is willing to exert its greatest efforts in managing the fisheries resources to ensure their sustainability.

Rome was not built in one day. Likewise, a package of stable and proper fisheries management measures cannot be done in one day. Under the encouragement from members of the international community, Chinese Taipei has strived to make improvement.

Japan’s Information Paper on Activities by Chinese Taipei Fishing Vessels and Industry in the Atlantic Ocean

1. Situation after exposure of the laundering cases

In July and August of 2004, the Japan Coast Guard and Fisheries Agency of Japan arrested two cargo vessels involved in tuna laundering activities organized by Chinese Taipei fishermen. Other data and evidences suggested that such laundering activities are not limited to those two cases but rather being widely conducted in the entire Chinese Taipei’s fishing fleets. In view of the seriousness of this matter, ICCAT and other Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations took almost the same decisions to request Chinese Taipei to conduct through investigation on the laundering activities, report back the results and take effective measures to eliminate such activities. After the exposure of the two tuna laundering incidents, the following phenomena were observed in Japanese tuna import data.

(1) Import trend of bigeye caught by Chinese Taipei fishing vessels

The following table and figure show the trend of Japanese import of frozen bigeye caught by Chinese Taipei fishing vessels. Just after the incidents of exposure of the laundering activities in July, 2004, the import amount dropped sharply but soon recovered to the previous level (**Table 1 and Figure 1**). If the laundering activities had been restricted effectively after the incidents, the amount of the import must have been reduced significantly. But this is obviously not the case.

Table 1. Frozen bigeye import from Chinese Taipei (round weight: t).

	Western				Total
	Atlantic	Indian	Central Pacific	Eastern Pacific	
2003-1st quarter	4,158	14,920	2,616	2,367	24,061
2 nd quarter	7,339	15,903	2,855	1,311	27,408
3 rd quarter	5,599	14,536	2,286	1,259	23,680
4th quarter	1,857	13,717	2,464	2,093	20,131
2004- 1st quarter	3,276	16,371	2,750	1,920	24,317
2 nd quarter	6,767	12,176	1,847	1,252	22,042
3 rd quarter	2,766	8,215	2,683	1,467	15,130
4th quarter	2,522	13,041	4,557	1,584	21,704
2005-1st quarter	4,191	15,416	3,271	752	23,630
2 nd quarter	3,847	11,107	2,875	823	18,652

Source: Fisheries Agency of Japan.

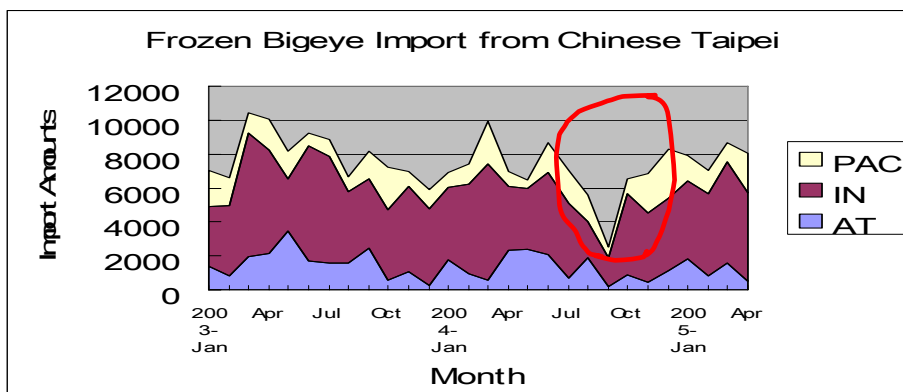


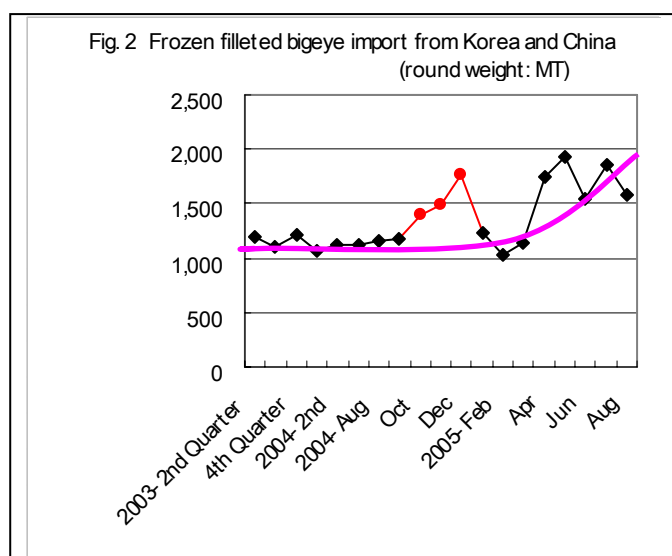
Figure 1. Frozen bigeye imports from Chinese Taipei.

The Japanese authority intensified landing inspection of freezer cargo vessels to check the Chinese Taipei frozen tuna products. But after the incidents, the captain and crew of the cargo vessels became vigilant, showing flawless documents to the officers. It is extremely difficult to identify ocean origins of bigeye from observation of frozen products. Thus Japan is now working hard to establish inspection techniques to use DNA analysis for such identification. And because of the difficulties with landing inspection, Japan is also proposing to maintain inspectors onboard all the cargo vessels as one of transshipment control measures to be adopted by the Commission.

Although greatly appreciating Chinese Taipei's effort, one can never be convinced that the laundering activities stopped this year. The Chinese Taipei authority does not conduct landing or boarding inspection to verify reported catch by its fishermen. Chinese Taipei's fleet reduction program that has a very limited effect to rectify the situation as described below has yet to be fully implemented. Further, the Chinese Taipei fishing industry is creating more complicated and innovative ways to circumvent inspection.

(2) Import through detour routes

After July, 2004, import of filleted frozen bigeye from Korea and China increased significantly (**Figure 2**). It is almost impossible for Japanese inspectors to track back from filleted tuna products to fishing vessels having originally caught fish. Inspection at the first points of import in Korea or China became essential to overcome this difficulty, but the inspection there is not so severe as in Japan. According to the information from industry sources, a substantial amount of illegally caught Atlantic bigeye (probably over a thousands t) have been sent to those intermediate processing countries and going through the Japanese customs in fillet form since the July incidents.



Note: Up to June 2004, the monthly average of each quarter of the year.

Figure 2. Frozen filleted bigeye tuna imports from Korea and China (round weight: in t).

Another detour the Chinese Taipei fishermen found useful to avoid inspection is a freezer container. The import of Chinese Taipei frozen bigeye in freezer containers jumped after the July incidents (**Figure 3**). In case of import of tunas in freezer containers, each lot is much smaller than that of freezer cargo vessels and thus requires much more frequent inspection, which is hard for Japan to cope with. Further, the containers usually go through customs without being opened to avoid deterioration of qualities and are delivered directly to freezer storage houses in Japan. Thus, frozen bigeye in containers are hardly subject to effective inspection.

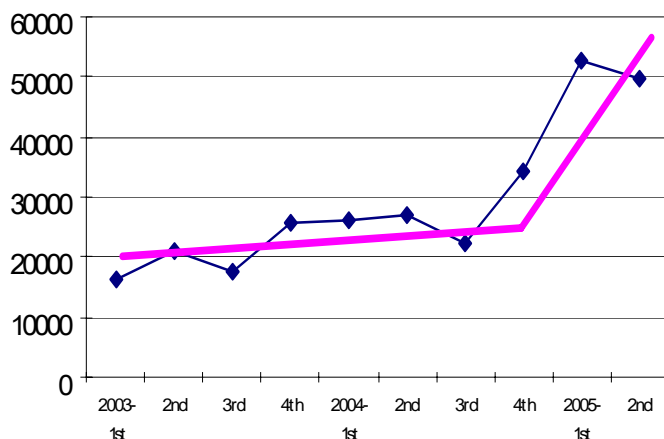


Figure 3. Frozen tuna imports from Chinese Taipei by container (major companies) (product weight: in t).

2. Atlantic bigeye tuna laundering in 2004

At the 2004 meeting of the Commission, it was decided to reduce the annual catch limit for Chinese Taipei by 1,600 t for 2005-2009 because of the minimal estimated overage of Atlantic bigeye laundered in 2003 only. ICCAT confirmed laundering activities in 2004. Based upon the import data, the laundered amount of Atlantic bigeye by Chinese Taipei fishermen in 2004 was estimated to be at least 9,750-16,000 t. This estimation used the data of Indian Ocean bigeye import only. The laundering activities also involve Pacific bigeye and yellowfin as disguise. Then the estimated amount here is a minimal estimate.

In the estimating process, the data and information in the comments of Chinese Taipei presented to the 2004 meeting were used. Since the comments pointed out “one cannot determine whether a vessel has the capacity of ultra low temperature freezing from vessel’s age”, we dropped the estimated laundered amount based on old vessels’ export to Japan 4,000 t in the 2004 information paper (see Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10 of the 2004 PWG Report). The Chinese Taipei 2004 paper also described “the ratio between bigeye and yellowfin catch in the Indian Ocean has changed accordingly with more weighting on bigeye catch, and maintained at about 2:1” (see Appendix 7 to ANNEX 10 of the 2004 PWG Report). If we use this 2:1 ratio and consider that an amount of Indian Ocean bigeye import of one vessel over twice of yellowfin import (Y x 2) is a laundered amount of Atlantic bigeye, the total laundered amount in 2004 is 16,000 t (**Table 2**). If we use a 3:1 ratio, which was used in the last year’s Japanese paper, for conservative estimation, the total laundered Atlantic bigeye becomes 9,750 t. Further, this estimate is based upon import of the vessels that exported over 100 t of bigeye to Japan only. There are other vessels with import records of less than 100 t. Then one can easily understand the very conservative nature of this estimate, and that the actual magnitude of the laundering activities by Chinese Taipei fishermen is far larger than this estimate.

Table 2. Estimated amount of Atlantic bigeye tuna import under disguise of Indian bigeye.

		2001	2002	2003	2004
Total import of Indian Ocean bigeye from Chinese Taipei	(a)	31,208	42,632	59,009	49,803
Estimated Atlantic bigeye disguised as Indian (lower end estimate)	(b)	3,775	6,306	17,592	9,745
(Total bigeye amount of each vessel exceeded BE:YF=3:1 or = 2:1)					-15,957
Estimated actual amount of Indian bigeye	(a-b)	27,433	36,326	41,417	40,058
Number of vessels exported Indian bigeye (exported over 100 t)		301 (88)	303 (133)	332 (164)	317 (231)

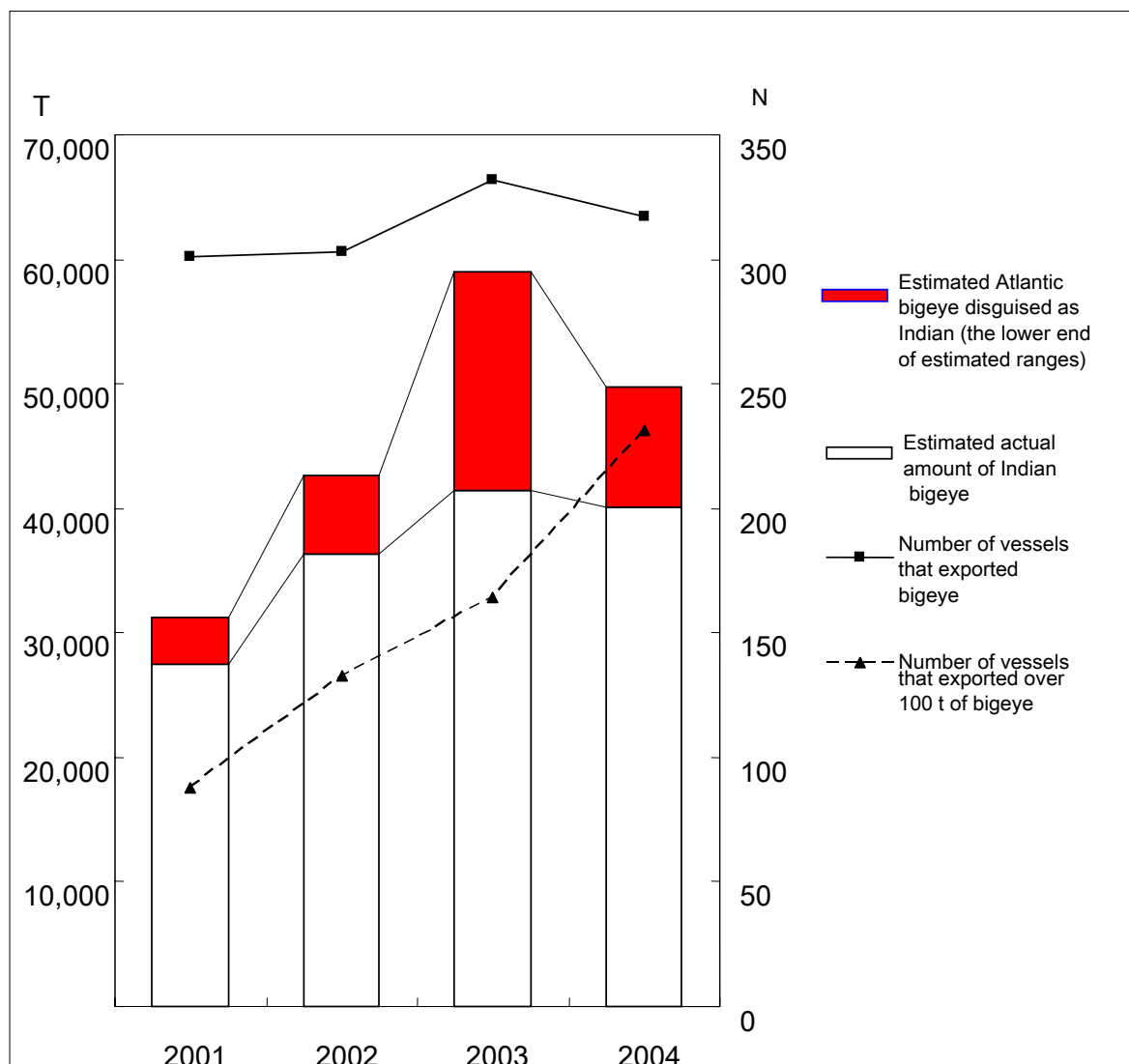


Figure 4. Estimated amount of Atlantic bigeye imports.

3. Effect of the fleet reduction program announced by Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei recently announced a fleet reduction program for large-scale tuna longline vessels; a total of 120 vessels will be reduced in 2005 (73) and 2006 (47). Among those 120 vessels, 28 vessels are planned to be scrapped in the Atlantic (**Table 3**); these vessel names were already announced too. Japan very much appreciates this effort by Chinese Taipei and strongly wishes it would result in tangible improvement of the level of compliance. To our regret, however, we must say that the fleet reduction program will not rectify significantly the situation the Commission identified as problematic last year.

Table 3. Fleet Reduction Program announced by Chinese Taipei.

	Area				Total
	ICCAT	IOTC	IATTC	WCPFC	
Current number of LSTLVs	144	337	90	90	614
Number of reduction	28	62	5	25	120
Number of remaining vessels	116	275	85	65	494

According to the results of the following analysis, the effect of the planned fleet reduction is concluded to be far less than the level needed to ensure compliance of Chinese Taipei with its Atlantic bigeye catch limit. The total catch of Atlantic bigeye by Chinese Taipei in 2004 is estimated to be at least 26,250 t (16,500 t (catch limit) + 9,750 t (minimal estimated laundered amount)), whereas Chinese Taipei's catch limit is supposed to be 12,950 t if the Commission applies the same five-year pay-back plan to the 2004 overage by Chinese Taipei (14,900 t (the current catch limit) - 9,750 t/5(one-fifth of the 2004 overage)). Thus the needed level of capacity reduction for the Chinese Taipei fleet in the Atlantic is at least 12,300 t (26,500 t-12,950 t). The estimated effect of the planned fleet reduction is much less than this level.

(1) Expected reduction of Atlantic bigeye catch by the fleet reduction

According to the announced list of the vessels planned to be scrapped in the Atlantic, they are not necessarily the vessels targeting Atlantic bigeye, including old and/or small (<24 m) longliners. The total amount of their export of Atlantic bigeye to Japan was just 2,277 t in 2004 (Japanese trade data). Even if we apply the general under-reporting rate in 2004 (26,250 t/16,500t) to this amount, it becomes merely 3,519 t, which is well below the needed level (12,300 t).

(2) Remaining fishing capacity

According to the Chinese Taipei Fleet Reduction Program, 60 large-scale longliners will remain to catch Atlantic bigeye.

	<i>BET</i>	<i>Main target</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>YFT</i>	<i>ALB</i>	
Current number of vessels (2004)	90	10	44	144
Planned number of vessels after 2007	60	5	51	116

However, all of those vessels are relatively new and exclusively targeting Atlantic bigeye. The past export records show one of those vessels can easily catch 300 t of Atlantic bigeye annually. In total, they can catch 18,000 t. In addition, Chinese Taipei does not have intention or capability to inspect landing by not only those bigeye longliners but also yellowfin and albacore longliners, many of which are to be converted from bigeye fishing to yellowfin or albacore fishing. The only tool to monitor their catches is landing inspection conducted by the Japanese authority at Japanese ports, but the Chinese Taipei industry seems to work hard to create and expand detour routes circumventing the Japanese inspection as described in section 1 above. In short, one can never be assured that the remaining fishing capacity is a safely low level ensuring compliance with the Chinese Taipei's bigeye catch limit or that the planned fleet reduction will eliminate the on-going laundering activities by Chinese Taipei fishermen.

4. Fishing vessels under 24m in length

According to the information from industrial sources, the demand for building small (under-100 t/24 m) tuna longline fishing vessels remains still high in Chinese Taipei. About 80 small longliners were reported to be built this year. The shipyards in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei, are fully booked for the coming three years for construction of the same type of small tuna longliners.

On the other hand, it was already observed that several tens of small longliners controlled by the Chinese Taipei industry were operating in the Atlantic to export tunas to the U.S. and other markets, whereas Chinese Taipei or any other Party did not report catches of those small vessels to the Commission. This is another hidden fishing operation by Chinese Taipei fishermen. It should be noted here that financial compensation paid to the Chinese Taipei fishermen in Chinese Taipei's fleet reduction program may well be used for construction of these small longliners.

5. Conclusion

- The laundering activities by Chinese Taipei fishermen of Atlantic bigeye in probably continuing to the some extent as last year.
- The laundered amount of Atlantic bigeye by Chinese Taipei fishermen in 2004 is estimated to be at least 9,750-16,000 t.
- Although Chinese Taipei's effort should be appreciated greatly, its fleet reduction program does not have a sufficient effect to rectify the situation the Commission identified last year.
- The number of small longliners operated by the Chinese Taipei industry in the Atlantic is probably increasing but unreported yet. The level of their tuna catch can be another serious threat to the tuna resources in the Atlantic.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

Japan's Additional information Paper on Chinese Taipei

1. Chinese Taipei did not comply with the Commission's requests

(1) Although Chinese Taipei authority's effort should be appreciated greatly, none of the Commission's requests were complied with according to Chinese Taipei's response to the Commission (ICCAT Circular #1611/05). The Commission requested, by the Chair's letter of December 15, 2004, Chinese Taipei to take the following measures and submit the information for the review by the Commission at its 2005 meeting;

- a) to cease and desist from any activities which is in breach of official ICCAT conservation and management measures: the IUU and laundering activities are believed to be continuing,
- b) to take effective actions including MCS measures to rectify the activities at issue as to not diminish the effectiveness of the said measures: same measures were and/or will be taken but are not demonstrated effective enough,
- c) "b" should include additional actions to ensure appropriate monitoring, control and surveillance of its fleet and to report complete and accurate catch and effort data to ICCAT: no accurate data were reported,
- d) to ensure fishing capacity is commensurate with its fishing possibilities, keeping in mind that any solution should not include export of capacity to other oceans: still the over fishing capacity exists and is believed to remain even after the fleet reduction.

On items a) and d), the original Japanese Information Paper (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**) describes the details. On item b), it is unclear from their response whether Chinese Taipei conducted a thorough investigation on laundering and/or IUU cases. Even if it did so, no results including imposed punitive measures were reported.

Chinese Taipei reported the following as additional actions:

- i) the implementation of VMS program,
- ii) weekly reporting requirement,
- iii) stringent control of issuing of statistical documents,
- iv) prohibit shifting of albacore fishing vessels to target on bigeye tuna,
- v) scrutinizing, detecting and investigating unusual activities of fishing vessels,
- vi) port sampling at foreign ports,
- vii) requesting fishing vessels to report sightings of IUU fishing activities.

Actions (i) and (vii) are the existing requirements. Actions (ii), (iii), (v) and (vii) are the actions that should have been taken well before to ensure compliance to the existing conservation and management measures. Thus these five items should not be counted as additional actions.

With respect to actions (iv) and (vi), all of their albacore and bigeye catches are landed in many foreign ports. Chinese Taipei does not provide effective mechanisms to verify their catch amounts at foreign ports. Moreover, Japan pointed out in its original Information Paper (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**), there exist detour routes such as processing plants in foreign countries and transshipment using frozen containers. Port sampling is a scientific activity and can not be an effective enforcement activity. Another way to avoid the landing inspection at Japanese ports were also found as described in (2) below.

On item c., the Annual Report of Chinese Taipei did not provide any catch and effort data based on the assessment on the amount of catch by over-fishing in the past and laundering activities in 2003 and 2004. On the contrary, Chinese Taipei's SCRS bigeye catch table was corrected downward this year. They did not include their admitted amount of laundered Atlantic bigeye (3,800 t) in their 2003 catch.

2004 SCRS Report: bigeye catch in 2003 was 19,541 t.

2005 SCRS Report: bigeye catch in 2003 is 18,682 t and 2004 is 16,399 t.

(2) A new way for Chinese Taipei vessels to pass the Japanese landing inspection was found in the Japanese import data. Body weight percentage composition of bigeye tuna imported to Japan by August in 2005 showed that the percentage of bigeye tuna larger than 40 kg is over 80% in 34 vessels out of the total of Chinese Taipei vessels (94). This 80% is an abnormally high figure in light of the past records. Among the 34, 4 vessels landed bigeye all of that was large fish (100%) whereas 15 vessels recorded over 90% of large bigeye in their total bigeye landing. In 2004, 23 vessels out of 110 vessels recorded higher than 80% and only 3 vessels recorded more than 90%. Obviously, some of fishermen are sending only large bigeye to Japan and landing small fish in other countries so that the Japanese bigeye import record matches Chinese Taipei's catch limit.

The number of Chinese Taipei tuna fishing vessels by each ratio of over 40 kg fish to their Atlantic bigeye catch imported to Japan:

<i>Fish over 40 kg</i>	<i>2005 (up to August)</i>	<i>2004</i>
>100%	4 vessels	1 vessel
90% - 100%	11 vessels	2 vessels
80% - 90%	19 vessels	20 vessels
<80%	60 vessels	87 vessels
Total	94 vessels	110 vessels

(3) In Chinese Taipei's Fleet Reduction Program, the following problems were found in addition to the original Japanese Information Paper.

Chinese Taipei's Fleet Reduction Program:

- i) Scraps only hull and allows fishermen to use engine, freezer, line hauler and all other vessel equipments and fishing gears. Taking account of the information that a substantial number of smaller longline vessels are being built in Chinese Taipei, their reduction program is eventually a fleet renewal program. Fishermen receiving compensatory money from the fleet reduction program see this payment as an opportunity for further fisheries investment.
- ii) Includes small vessels and vessels that may have not been operating. There observed, among the vessels moored for scrapping in Chinese Taipei ports, newly painted vessels or vessels painted different names on top of their original names.
- iii) Includes 9 sunken vessels.
- iv) Includes 10 IUU vessels that returned to Chinese Taipei. These vessels are to be eliminated from the beginning and thus should not be included in the fleet reduction program.

2. Chinese Taipei fishermen are still involved in the IUU fishing activities

Chinese Taipei stated in its response:

"The amount of Atlantic bigeye tuna catch being reported as catch from other oceans is estimated to be around 3,800 tons. On the other hand, the over-reported amount of bigeye tuna catch to Indian Ocean is estimated to be 12,000 tons, of which, 3,800 contributed from the Atlantic catch, and the remaining 8,200 tons from catch of IUU fishing vessels".

This means that IUU fishing activities have been conducted under the name of the Chinese Taipei fishery. However, Chinese Taipei did not provide any concrete results of their investigations on these over-fishing and laundering activities. Chinese Taipei did not demonstrate either that their fishermen have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of the IUU vessels involved so that they cease and desist from any activities which is in breach of official ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Chinese Taipei authorities admitted that about 40 to 60 IUU large tuna longline vessels owned and operated by Chinese Taipei residents still exist. But no action seems to have been taken to eliminate the IUU fishing activities yet, although it acknowledged at least 8,200 t of bigeye tuna laundered between IUU fishing vessels and Chinese Taipei vessels.

In this respect, Japan would like to commend Brazil highly for its outstanding contribution to investigation on the IUU activities involving Chinese Taipei fishermen. Brazilian report (ICCAT Circular #1511/05, dated September 29, 2005) showed clear evidence that a strong connection still exists between St. Vincent & the Grenadines vessel *Southern Star 136* and Chinese Taipei fishermen and conducting IUU fishing.

According to the report, the officers and crew of *Southern Star 136* testified that their catch was exported to Japan. But Japan has no import record from St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2004. The only possible explanation for this information gap is fish laundering.

Southern Star 136 (flag: St. Vincent & the Grenadines) is owned by Kwo Jeng Fisheries Co., Ltd. This company is represented by Mr. I-Cheng Huang, a legitimate Chinese Taipei tuna longline fisherman. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors and the Chairman of the Atlantic Ocean Committee of the Taiwan Deep Sea Tuna Boatowners & Exporters Association last year. The 2002 ICCAT list of IUU vessels listed a total of 31 tuna longline vessels of this company and his group. He told Japan that he operated 100 small and large-scale tuna longliners in the Atlantic under various flags. A leader of the Chinese Taipei tuna industry is deeply involved in IUU fishing business.

3. Conclusion

The measures taken by Chinese Taipei to date are insufficient and the connection between Chinese Taipei residents and IUU fishing vessels still continues.

The Commission has taken sanction measures against countries that undermine the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. For the sake of fairness, a similar measure should be taken for Chinese Taipei.

If the Commission did not step forward, Chinese Taipei fishermen may take it as an unspoken approval by the Commission of their fishing activities and continue such irresponsible operations.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

Chinese Taipei vessels to be Scrapped in 2006

	<i>Vessel Name (English)</i>	<i>Vessel Name (Chinese)</i>	<i>GRT</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Year Built</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	CHIN CHING 1	金進1	719	56,3	1990	15	Sunk
2	SUNG HUEA 1	松輝1	424	44,3	1982	23	
3	WIN FAR 326	穩發326	492	53,1	1980	25	
4	LUNG TAN	龍騰	343	39,6	1971	34	
5	CHIN HORNG CHAN 3	金宏展3	419	46,0	1983	22	
6	TAI YUAN 313	泰源313	462	49,3	1989	16	
7	JIN YUN HORNG	金佑鴻	353	44,7	1982	23	
8	YU SHIH SIANG	裕世祥	329	40,9	1982	23	
9	SHUU CHANG 1	旭昌1	353	39,9	1983	22	
10	HSIN YU HSING	新宜興	737	57,3	1988	17	
11	SI CHUEN 1	西春1	357	39,5	1982	23	
12	JUI DER 6	瑞德6	315	43,0	1985	20	
13	TUNG YUAN 6	東源6	403	45,4	1981	24	
14	YIH HANG 2	義航 2	433	42,9	1990	15	Sunk
15	JIN CHIANG	錦江	452	51,0	1983	22	
16	MING KIEH 1	明杰1	343	34,5	1971	34	Sunk
17	YING CHI HSIANG	盈啓祥	397	48,8	1987	18	
18	YUAN BAO 168	元寶168	473	43,9	1979	26	
19	YU SHENG SHYANG 7	裕勝祥7	406	46,0	1983	22	
20	HAUR CHUEN 12	豪春12	449	43,3	1980	25	
21	HSIN CHEN FA	新成發	368	38,7	1974	31	
22	HORNG SHUENN YIH 32	鴻順益32	588	42,4	1979	26	
23	CHIEN CHING 212	建慶212	413	43,6	1981	24	
24	SHIN YIH	新益	202	28,3	1974	31	
25	SHIN YEOU 3	信友3	453	42,0	1985	20	
26	YUH YEOU 6	昱友6	451	42,0	1985	20	
27	CHIN FU 1	金富1	492	50,3	1980	25	
28	KAO FONG 287	高豐287	454	50,0	1980	25	
29	CHIN YONG WEN	金詠穩	343	39,6	1971	34	
30	JIN LONG 232	金隆232	400	48,8	1982	23	
31	TAI HAO 101	泰豪101	716	55,7	1984	21	
32	SI TAI 201	西泰201	391	39,2	1985	20	
33	SI TING 166	西盈166	520	39,5	1981	24	
34	HSIANG FA 168	翔發168	79	27,0	2000	5	
35	YUNG CHI 101	永季101	359	39,2	1985	20	
36	WEN SHUN 126	穩順126	78	22,5	1989	16	Sunk
37	WEN SHUN 202	穩順202	71	22,2	1992	13	
38	LAIN JYI CHUN 16	連吉春16	333	39,3	1974	31	
39	YUH YIH HSIANG 16	裕億祥16	437	47,8	1984	21	
40	HSIANG CHANG 202	翔強202	75	27,0	1999	6	
41	HSIANG FA 688	翔發688	79	27,0	2000	5	
42	YUNG YOW	榮祐輪	492	49,9	1985	20	
43	LI SHENG	立昇	431	43,3	1979	26	
44	SHANG JEN 168	祥仁168	778	57,6	1993	12	

45	HANN CHUN 26	漢春26	705	48,3	1985	20	
46	CHUN HONG 202	群弘 2 0 2	78	22,1	1995	10	Sunk
47	HUI TA 201	輝達201	93	22,9	1995	10	Sunk
48	CHIN CHING 16	晉慶16	717	49,2	1991	14	
49	CHI FU 1	啓富1	352	47,1	1982	23	
50	YING SHUN HSIANG	盈順祥	440	51,5	1989	16	
51	SHIN YEOU 1	信友1	439	41,8	1985	20	
52	AN LONG	安隆6	339	38,5	1971	34	
53	HSIEH HSUAN 686	協玄 6 8 6	459	41,8	1985	20	
54	YUH DER SHYANG 71	裕得祥71	420	48,9	1985	20	
55	YU I HSIANG 211	裕億祥211	364	48,8	1987	18	
56	YING MAO HSIANG	盈茂祥	351	46,2	1987	18	
57	SHANG SHUN 126	興順126	451	48,8	1985	20	
58	LUNG SOON 888	隆順888	377	44,4	1980	25	
59	LUNG SOON 666	隆順666	349	41,7	1974	31	
60	CHIN CHING 2	吉慶2	447	43,3	1980	25	
61	WIN FAR 336	穩發336	577	54,2	1981	24	
62	SHIN CHUEN 1	欣春1	497	55,3	1975	30	
63	WELL RICH 168	偉發 1 6 8	368	42,0	1981	24	
64	MAN YU NO.11	滿裕11號	442	45,0	1975	30	
65	MING CHUN	名春	205		1968	37	
66	CHIEN CHYANG	建強	465	43,0	1989	16	
67	FU YUAN NO.21	富元21	491	51,0	1980	25	
68	CHIEN TONG NO.202	建通202	436	49,0	1984	21	Sunk
69	HWA SHYUAN NO.16	華玆16	352	44,0	1981	24	
70	FENG YA NO.21	豐亞21	330	42,0	1979	26	
71	KAO FONG NO.113	高豐113	315	43,0	1986	19	
72	ZHONG I NO.316	中義316	390	47,0	1965	40	Sunk
73	KIN SHUN AN NO. 3	金順安3	159	31,0	1973	32	Sunk

Shaded: Sunken and/or more than 25 years old and/or less than 24 m in length.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10

Chinese Taipei's Response to Japan's Information Paper

1. Introduction

The 2004 ICCAT meeting identified Chinese Taipei for non-compliance of ICCAT conservation measures. After the meeting, Chinese Taipei implemented various measures, including strict verification and issuance of Statistical Documents, individual quota, improved VMS, monitor transshipment, placing of observers, implementing a vessel reduction program. These measures were already mentioned in the briefing made to the participants of the informal meeting held in Taipei on October 28, 2005, with copy of the PowerPoint presentation circulated to members. The effects of these measures will become more and more evident in end of 2005. Chinese Taipei is disappointed that Japan did not wait until the effect of the measures begin to take place, but used past data to come to a wrong conclusion as well as using incorrect information to mislead other members of the commission. We will take this opportunity to defend ourselves of the wrongful accusations by Japan.

2. Situation after the cases in the 3rd quarter of 2004

(1) Decreasing trend in the export of bigeye of CT

Japan stated that in the 3rd quarter of 2004, Chinese Taipei's export to Japan decreased suddenly, thus assuming this trend will continue; but the results showed otherwise.

In July and August of 2004, the two fish transport vessels involved in fish laundry were investigated by Japan. The two vessels were carrying about 2000 t fish which was refused customs clearance and rejected by Japan. In addition, Japan stated that all high sea transshipments were in contravention to its regulations. Therefore, fishing vessels postponed their transshipment and transport vessels delayed their calls at Japanese ports during the period. Not until they received approval from the Japanese government in October 2004 that they resumed normal offloading and thus in the 4th quarter of 2004 the total unloading quantity reverted back to normal.

Comparing Japanese data of the first half year for the 2003, 2004 and 2005, the total bigeye tuna exported to Japan were 54,469 t in 2003, decreased to 46,359 t for the same period in 2004 and then further decreased to 42,282 t in 2005. From the above tonnage, the bigeye tuna from Atlantic Ocean were 11,497 t, 10,043 t and 8,038 t in 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively; the bigeye tuna from the Indian Ocean were 30,823 T, 28,547 t and 26,523 t in 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively. As to the tuna exported to Japan based on latter half of the years, the quantities were 43,811 t and 36,834 t in 2003 and 2004, respectively. From these figures, the quantity from Atlantic Ocean was 7,456 t in 2003 and decreased to 5,288 t in 2004; the quantity from Indian Ocean dropped from 28,253 t to 21,256 t during the same period. The above data shows that the bigeye tuna exported to Japan from 2003 to 2005 was in a decreasing trend.

Moreover, the effects of the vessel reduction program will become more evident in the 4th quarter of 2005, where the quantity of bigeye tuna harvested will be reduced.

(2) Responsibility of the Operator State of cargo vessels

Japan believes "after the incident, the captain and crew of the cargo vessels became vigilant, showing flawless documents to the officers." Therefore no discrepancies were to be found.

Japan is in essence suspecting and accusing Japanese captains and companies of the transport vessels, since all captains of the transport vessels are Japanese citizen. It was reported that they became very strict and cautious when transshipping fish in order to follow the Japanese government's requirements after the incident. They carefully checked that each fishing vessels are indeed on the white-list vessels before allowing the fish to be transshipped.

(3) Strict control and monitoring of catch by Chinese Taipei

Japan criticized Chinese Taipei for not conducting landing and boarding inspection to verify reported catch of its fishermen.

We would like to report to the Commission that we have increased observers and port visiting in 2005, implemented weekly report system, requested the captains of transport vessels to sign transshipment documents during transshipment. There were also surveyors present for inspection when unloading fish at discharging port. All these improvements have been in effect starting from 2005. Chinese Taipei believes these measures will effectively deter the laundering activities of bigeye tuna after 2005.

3. Shipments to Japan through detour routes?

(1) Through Korea and China?

Japan indicated that the increase of processed sashimi bigeye tuna from China and Korea significantly increased after the incident, estimating that the export of processed sashimi bigeye tuna from illegally caught Atlantic bigeye, suspecting the fish caught by Chinese Taipei was entering into Japan through a detour route.

From our records, Chinese Taipei issued Statistical Documents for a total 849 t (live weight) of frozen bigeye tuna to export to Korea and China in 2004. During the 10 months ending on October 24, 2005 the quantity had decreased to 618 t (live weight).

It was noted that Korea did not report to ICCAT the re-export of Chinese Taipei's fish from Korea to Japan nor did China. Therefore, it was obvious that the fish exported to Japan from Korea and China should have been caught by these two countries.

(2) Increase of container shipments in 2005 due to exceptionally good fishing of yellowfin tuna in Indian Ocean

Japan indicated that an increase of container shipment of tuna in the 3rd quarter of 2004 to 5000 t in the 2nd quarter of 2005.

The increase of container shipments in 2005 was due to exceptionally good fishing of yellowfin tuna in Omani and Pakistani waters. More than 40,000 t of yellowfin tuna were caught in the first half of 2005, a 35% increase from that of 2004. Insufficient transport vessels in the first half of 2005 prompted owners to use containers to ship out the excess cargo. Most fishing vessels called at Muscat in Oman, Port Oasim in Pakistan, Port Louis in Mauritius, Colombo in Sri Lanka and Singapore for transshipment by containers.

As far as we can understand the container company will not release the container unless it can be sure that the vessels are indeed on the white list. Surveyors will be present during loading to examine and confirm the cargo loaded is from the white list vessel that actually reserved the container. After this process the bill of lading will be issued. By common commercial practice another confirmation process is done by surveyors in unloading port in Japan upon discharge of the container by species and weight.

4. Extent of Atlantic bigeye tuna laundering in 2004

Japan used those vessels in the Indian Ocean which exported more than 100 t of bigeye tuna to Japan as base to estimate the laundering of Atlantic bigeye tuna in disguise of Indian bigeye tuna to be between 9,750 and 16,000 t.

We have made an estimate on the extent of bigeye tuna laundering using the average CPUE from various sources and the total number of fishing days by different types of vessels. In finding out the average CPUE, sources such as catch logbook, observers report (observer program started in 2002) and CPUE of Japanese vessels were used as references. The number of fishing days of the total fleet was calculated from the VMS tracking records of the fishing vessels targeting on bigeye and those catching bigeye as by-catch (albacore vessels), by areas of fishing: bigeye area (between 15° N and 15° S) non-bigeye area (outside the bigeye area). The CPUE of fishing vessels fishing in the bigeye area was 670 kg per day, and non-bigeye area 50 kg per day. Since from 2003 all tuna longline vessels fishing in the Atlantic Ocean were required to install VMS (100% coverage). Those vessels with navigation speed of less than 250 km in a day were considered as vessels that were fishing, and based on this criterion, it was calculated that 25,636 fishing days were made in the bigeye area and 10,819 days in the non-bigeye area in 2004. From the above information, we could arrive to a preliminary conclusion that the total catch of bigeye tuna was 17,717 t, and our catch limit for bigeye in 2004 was 16,500 t. In other words, we had an overharvest or false-reported catch of 1,217 t. Without any concrete proof, Japan's assumption that the laundering of bigeye tuna by our fleet was between 9,750 and 16,000 t was groundless.

Table 1. Calculation of false-reported catch by the Chinese Taipei fleet in 2004.

<i>Group</i>	<i>Fishing Days</i>	<i>CPUE</i>	<i>Catch estimate</i>
Bigeye tuna	25,636	670	17,176
Non-bigeye tuna	10,819	50	541
		Total	17,717
		Quota	16,500
		False-reported	1,217

5. Commensuration between catch and fleet size after the implementation of fisheries adjustment and vessel scrapping program

Japan indicated the needed level of capacity reduction for the Chinese Taipei fleet in the Atlantic is at least 12,300 t (26,500 t-12,950 t). The estimated effect of the planned fleet reduction is much less than this level.

Due to the fact that bigeye vessels are younger than albacore vessels, Chinese Taipei allowed the bigeye tuna vessels of better condition to change to albacore targeting vessels and scrap the same number of older albacore vessels. This was done due to the consideration of maintaining a younger and safer fleet. After the fisheries

adjustment and vessel scrapping, the number of bigeye vessels in the Atlantic Ocean will be reduced from 100 to 60.

As mentioned above, the catch of bigeye tuna was estimated to be 17,717 t in 2004, and that catch false-reported was 1,217 t. This will be paid back in four years from 2006, that is, Chinese Taipei's annual catch limit will be reduced from 14,900 t to 14,596 t.

Once the fisheries adjustment and vessel scrapping program is completed in 2007 the fleet will consist of 60 bigeye tuna vessels. Each bigeye vessel will be allocated a quota of 220 t, but if one takes into consideration the current CPUE figure, this individual quota allowance should be able to meet each vessel's operational viability. Considering the cost for Atlantic bigeye tuna vessels is around NTD 47 million (US\$1.4 million) at the present high fuel price and the sales of average catch of bigeye tuna 180-220 t plus by-catch yellowfin tuna 60 t, and other fish 20 t, will generate around NTD 46-51 million (US\$1.5 million), it shows the individual quota should be enough for bigeye tuna vessels to break even or with a small profit. Also we allow transfer of quota among vessels with prior approval from the fisheries authority.

In addition, other measures and regulations are being implemented to ensure compliance and deter the possibility of fish laundering. They include designation of fishing areas for the different types of fishing vessels to be monitored by VMS, increase in the number of observers, and carrying out more frequent port visits. We will also utilize the already very effective surveyor inspection system during unloading in Japan.

6. Fishing vessels under 24 m in length

Japan reported Chinese Taipei is continuing to build vessels under 100 GRT and vessels <24 m, and there are 80 vessels built this year, shipyards are full with order for the next three years.

Chinese Taipei has adopted a limited entry program on tuna fisheries management since 1991 restricting the addition of the total number of vessels. During the first ten months of 2005, a total of 71 small longline vessels (bottom and surface fisheries) were built in Chinese Taipei. However, the majority of them were to replace old tonnages, and half of them are under 20 GRT for coastal fisheries.

It should also be noted that on June 29, 2005 Regulations were promulgated to prohibit the exportation of fishing vessels, unless for the replacement of sunk or lost vessels as declared by the importing countries or at the approval of the relevant RFMO, to prevent increase of global fishing capacity.

As for the small-scale vessels operating in Atlantic Ocean, there are 23 small vessels operated by citizen of Chinese Taipei, registered in Panama and Vanuatu and chartered to Brazil under ICCAT chartering arrangement. In addition, it was reported some 50 small scale vessels were registered in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Through diplomatic contact with St. Vincent and the Grenadines, it was confirmed that these vessels are controlled and managed by St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

7. Conclusion

Japan not only used misleading data, but also continually accused Chinese Taipei of these infractions from such data. Chinese Taipei feels that it must stand up to defend itself from incorrect allegation and prove to the international community the actions we have taken since.

Following last year's ICCAT meeting Chinese Taipei realized that it needed to improve its fleet management and control. Therefore, it has implemented very strict and stringent measures such as fleet reductions, tighter controls etc. It is our hope that the Commission will appreciate and recognize our efforts. The measures implemented will also need the cooperation of other members to be truly successful and it is our hope and desire such assistance will be forthcoming. In view of the measures taken and our persistent efforts in rectifying our deficiency in fisheries management, we hope that all members of the Commission will continue to support us in attaining Cooperating Status.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 10**Chinese Taipei's Response to Japanese Additional Information Paper****1. Efforts in complying with Commission's request in one year**

In the presentation we made on November 14, 2005*, we have given details of the actions we have taken in improving our fisheries management and the scrapping of 120 large-scale tuna longliners in 2005 and 2006. We appreciate the positive response from some members of the Commission for our actions, though we knew that we have to do more. We have openly announced that we will scrap an additional 40 large-scale fishing vessels to make a total of 160 vessels to be scrapped.

We also hope to have your understanding that it has been a great challenge for our government to make improvement in fisheries management and seek scrapping a large number of vessels within one year. Due to limited time, perhaps there were not enough broader thinking or there could be some points of negligence. Chinese Taipei is willing to humbly make review for further rectification. As some of the management measures taken are rather complicated some countries might have different views and have made judgment from another direction. In addition to the response we have made in the paper, we would like to take the opportunity to clarify our philosophy. In any event, it is hoped that the objective of the ultimate conducts and suggestions will be of help to the conservation of tuna resources by ICCAT.

Japan mentioned in its additional information paper that the MCS measures we have done, were part of the normal MCS and they should have done by us anyway. We would like to point out that if we can implement these MCS measures properly it would certainly be helpful to the management of Atlantic tuna fishery.

2. Based on the measures of limited entry rebuilding right of sunken vessels are in fact part of the vessel reduction

Chinese Taipei has been implementing limited entry in tuna fisheries management since 1990, and buying out of fishing license of sunken vessels and rebuilding right on re-registered vessels was considered similar result as control of fishing capacity. Japan queries the inclusion of sunken vessels as the target for vessel reduction, that among the 73 vessels to be scrapped, nine of them were sunken vessels and 10 were vessels for reduction in the re-registration program. Our clarification is as follows:

- From our information, there were only five sunken vessels. It should be noted that any vessel sunken the owners are still entitled to have the replacement qualification and maintain the rebuilding right. The government has paid a lower fee to buy-out the rebuilding right, resulting a global reduction in fishing capacity. If members have concern on this process, we will consider not accepting such replacement qualification as target for vessel reduction in the second phase of the vessel reduction program. Among the vessels which have joined the vessel reduction program, four of them sank during the voyage of their returning to homeport, and they were considered as being scrapped, and should not be categorized as sunken vessels.
- Japan pointed out that 10 re-registered vessels were included in the vessels under the vessel reduction program. It must be noted that in the course of our implementing the re-registration program, in order to maintain our existing fishing capacity, we have required any vessel that sought re-registration to have one vessel scrapped. In the past three years, 38 vessels have been scrapped to let those vessels to seek re-registration. We did not emphasize this effort in the past, and merely expressed to the international community our effort in promoting vessel re-registration. Up to this year, there remained 10 vessels pending to be scrapped, and they were included in the present vessel reduction program. We have not tried to hide anything, and during bilateral talks with Japan we have made this very clearly and frankly. When the representatives from the four countries came to Taipei, their general feeling was that we should reduce more vessels. As such, we officially announce that we agree to scrap an additional 40 vessels in a global basis.

3. Scrapping of small vessels on ICCAT positive list in the vessel reduction program

As the issue of small vessels being scrapped, 98 vessels targeting bigeye tuna were approved by ICCAT in the 2004 recommendation, included five vessels under 100 GRT, and they could certainly be listed as targets for

* The powerpoint presentation given by Chinese Taipei is available from the Secretariat.

vessel reduction in the Atlantic Ocean. As to whether or not the catch limit for bigeye is enough, it can be further discussed, but no one can deny that reduction of small vessels is also of help to the reduction of fishing capacity.

4. High percentage of large fish in shipments of tuna to Japan

As to the question of high percentage of large fish in our shipments of bigeye to Japan, this has been a normal commercial practice and also a request from the Japanese industry to ship larger fish to Japan in order to reduce to quantity of bigeye import to Japan. Smaller fish has thus been shipped to other countries (China and Korea). Despite this fact, there were still 60 vessels with shipments of less than 80% proportion of bigeye to Japan. In 2005 shipment of bigeye to China and Korea amounted to 700 t.

5. Efforts of Chinese Taipei in eliminating IUU fishing

As for the issue of IUU vessels, to allow no room for fish laundry, even in those areas where the regional fisheries organizations such as IOTC and WCPFC have not adopted measures for catch limits, we have implemented individual quota for vessels by fishing areas and species. The global application of individual quota on our vessels would cut any connection between the legitimate vessels of Chinese Taipei and the IUU vessels. We are willing to cooperate with all parties to track the remaining IUU vessels.

In 1999 Japan and Chinese Taipei entered into a joint action plan in cooperation to eliminate IUU fishing vessels. In the review of the performance made in 2003, 44 vessels have escaped the scrapping program offered by Japan, and two vessels built in Chinese Taipei escaped the re-registration program, and a new action plan was concluded, but there was no development since. More efforts should exerted by both sides to eliminate the remaining IUU vessels.

6. Japan's concern on the possibility of bigeye catch in the albacore area

By application of individual quota of bigeye to bigeye vessels and by-catch quota of bigeye (20 t) to albacore vessels under strict monitoring and control in the issuing of statistical documents, there should be no over-catch of bigeye by vessels targeting on albacore. Japan's concern on the possibility of over-catch of bigeye by albacore should not happen.

7. The case of IUU vessel reported by Brazil

As to the IUU vessel reported by Brazil, Chinese Taipei has made contact with St. Vincent and Grenadines and found out that the vessel was originally built in 1982 in Japan and exported as second-hand vessel. We do not know whether this vessel was among the vessels escaped Japan's scrapping program, and this needs further investigation. According to St. Vincent and Grenadines it belongs to a company called Way Wong Ltd. that is different from the one as indicated by Brazil. Thorough investigation on the matter should be made. As to the individual company, Kwo Jeng Marine Services, as referred to by Japan, we will make further investigation.

8. Consistency in imposing trade restrictive measures by ICCAT

We would to take the opportunity to draw the attention of members that when the PWG is making its decision under the *Resolution by ICCAT on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] not only should this Working Group abide by the wording of the resolution, but it also needs to pay attention to the related practice accumulated from the past years. Such related practice serves the purpose of providing reference with which people can interpret the real meaning of the wording of Resolution 03-15 and those resolutions replaced by Resolution 03-15. Moreover, such practice has to be taken into consideration in order for the PWG decision-making process to maintain its consistency and credibility. In this connection, Chinese Taipei has examined the PWG practice between 2002 and 2004, with respect to its decision-making in imposing sanction upon a country that was previously identified. Chinese Taipei also carefully reviewed the PWG's decision to continue or renew certain country's identification status during these three years. We believe that such study can provide valuable guidance for the present PWG Members to consider when they are selecting the most appropriate approach to address the issue of Chinese Taipei, which was identified in 2004 ICCAT Meeting under Resolution 03-15. Chinese Taipei found out that there are four countries whose identification status has been renewed. There are another three countries that received sanction. Compared with what has been done by these two kinds of countries, the rectification measures that have been taken by Chinese Taipei since 2004 New Orleans Meeting can be safely said to be quite sufficient and warranting Chinese Taipei's continued identification status, instead of receiving trade sanction as proposed by Japan. In order not to embarrass the countries concerned their names are not included in this paper. The reason is very simple. For those four countries whose identification status has been renewed by the PWG, what

they have done is much less than the achievements of Chinese Taipei for the past year. On the other hand, for those three countries that received trade sanctions, what they have done or have not done are much worse than the work of Chinese Taipei.

9. Conclusion

1. All the information provided by Japan is based on assumption. In response to the concern from a number of members of the Commission that the issue is in fact a global issue, Chinese Taipei has, therefore, decided to scrap an additional 40 vessels, making a global vessel reduction of 160 vessels.
2. Chinese Taipei is willing to cooperate with concerned countries to seek ways to track to remaining IUU vessels and to further improve our MCS measures.
3. With the above consideration in mind, and with all the work done by Chinese Taipei in improving its fisheries management and MCS measures, we believe such work should be welcomed and appreciated rather than imposing trade sanction to discourage the party who is do its utmost to make improvement.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 10

Commission Chairman's Special Letters to Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

8.1 Letter to Bolivia: Letter regarding continuation of bigeye tuna trade restrictive measures

I am writing to inform you that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) took a decision at its 2005 annual meeting to continue the prohibition on the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Bolivia by ICCAT Contracting Parties, as well as those non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with Cooperating Status, in accordance with the Commission's *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Bolivia Pursuant to the 1998 Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-17]. A copy of the subject measure is enclosed for your information. The decision was taken in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT's *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [Res. 98-18].

For your information, I am enclosing herewith a Compendium of ICCAT's Management Recommendations and Resolutions. It includes an instrument entitled *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], adopted by ICCAT at its 2003 meeting. The 2003 Resolution both broadened the scope of ICCAT's existing trade regime and established a more transparent process for the application of trade restrictive measures. Although the Resolution 03-15 replaces the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [Res. 98-18], previous decisions taken in accordance with this measure will remain in force until otherwise decided by the Commission.

ICCAT members have been operating under a strict management regime of time and area closures, capacity limitations, and catch limits relative to bigeye tuna to ensure its conservation and that the cooperation of all countries is required to support the effectiveness of these measures. In the absence of any additional information regarding Bolivia's monitoring control and surveillance measures or actions taken to address past activities, the Commission concluded that it would not be appropriate to lift the bigeye tuna trade restrictions in place against your country.

As in previous communications, ICCAT hereby requests Bolivia to take effective measures to rectify the fishing activities of vessels on its registry so as not to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures for bigeye tuna and to implement fully ICCAT conservation and management decisions, including instituting measures to ensure appropriate monitoring, control, and surveillance of your fleet and reporting catch and effort data to the Commission. We would, therefore, be grateful to receive detailed information regarding: (1) the types of monitoring, control and surveillance methods used by Bolivia with respect to its fishing vessels; (2) Bolivia's total catch of tuna and tuna-like species in 2005 and prior years; (3) the markets to which Bolivia exports bigeye tuna and/or its products; and (4) the maritime areas in which Bolivian vessels fished bigeye tuna.

The Commission will again review the situation of Bolivia at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006 in Croatia. Information concerning these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting. The information requested above will be valuable to the Commission when it considers

trade-related matters relative to Bolivia during its 2006 review. It is imperative that Bolivia respond to the questions posed by ICCAT and demonstrate that the situation has been rectified in order for the Commission to make a determination to lift trade restrictive measures, if appropriate.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Bolivia to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be furnished in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Bolivia that it can join ICCAT or seek cooperating status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to requesting cooperating status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20]. For your convenience, this Recommendation is included in the attached Compendium.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.2 Letter to Cambodia: Seeking information

This letter is further to earlier correspondence from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) dated December 15, 2004 (copy enclosed). In that letter, the Commission requested that Cambodia supply information on the monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) measures it has in place to ensure Cambodia's ability to control its fleet and abide by ICCAT management measures.

To-date, the Commission has not received a direct response from your government to our 2004 letter. On behalf of the Commission, I would like to draw this fact to your attention and request that Cambodia provide a response to the matters raised in the 2004 letter, including detailed information on your MCS measures and process and rules for vessel registration. Furthermore, the Commission requests that you confirm that Cambodia has submitted to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) information on those Cambodian vessels that fish on the high seas, which is required by the FAO Compliance Agreement.

Information concerning the matters raised in our 2004 and 2005 letters to your authorities should be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to the next meeting of the Commission, which is scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith a Compendium of ICCAT's management recommendations and resolutions. It includes an instrument entitled *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] under which fishery related information for the Convention area relative to the activities of both ICCAT members and non-members will be reviewed.

Thank you for your attention to these issues, and please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.3 Letter to Colombia: Seeking information on a flag vessel on ICCAT's IUU list

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am informing you that a large-scale tuna long line vessel flying the flag of Colombia was sighted operating in the Convention area in 2005.

Pursuant to the terms of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 02-23], this vessel was listed on the 2005 ICCAT "List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area" (the IUU list). Enclosed please find a copy of the 2005 IUU list together with a vessel sighting informational report submitted by the United States.

The Commission hereby requests Colombia to provide a response to the attached sighting report, including any relevant information it has with respect to the subject vessel. Further, pursuant to paragraph 8 of Recommendation 02-23, the Commission also requests Colombia, as appropriate, to take all necessary measures to eliminate the IUU fishing activities by its vessel, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or of the fishing license of this vessel. Finally, the Commission asks that Colombia provide detailed information on its monitoring, control, and surveillance measures and process and rules for vessel registration.

Please inform the Commission with the requested information, including any measures taken with regard to this matter, at least 30 days in advance of the next meeting of the Commission, which is scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006 in Croatia. At that meeting, the Commission will consider which vessels are to be included on the 2006 IUU vessel list.

For your use and information, I am enclosing a complete Compendium of ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, which contains Recommendation 02-23.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

8.4 Letter to Costa Rica: Regarding continuation of identification in accordance with the Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures

This letter is further to earlier correspondence from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) dated December 15, 2004 (copy enclosed). The Commission also refers to a letter from Costa Rica dated May 11, 2005, ICCAT's response of May 12 and Costa Rica's further reply of June 30, 2005. ICCAT would like to thank Costa Rica for its provision of information on Statistical Document validation included in the June letter.

I am writing to inform you that the Commission decided at its November 2005 annual meeting to continue its identification of Costa Rica in accordance with the terms of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. Each year, the Commission reviews fishery related information for the Convention Area relative to both ICCAT members and non-members. During its 2003 review, the Commission was reminded that swordfish from Costa Rica were imported by an ICCAT member in 2002. Such imports had been occurring since 1999 although Costa Rica has reported no Atlantic swordfish catch data to ICCAT. This information suggested that Costa Rican flag vessels were fishing outside the ICCAT management regime.

Costa Rica has not availed itself of the opportunity to clarify to the Commission the situation concerning these catches. In view of these circumstances, the Commission identified Costa Rica in 2003 as a non-Contracting Party whose vessels have been fishing for Atlantic swordfish in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures. The Commission, therefore, requested the Government of Costa Rica to take the necessary actions to rectify the fishing activities of its vessels and to implement fully ICCAT's conservation and management measures. Having again received no response from Costa Rica in 2005 on this question, the Commission reiterates its request to receive detailed information regarding: (1) the types of monitoring, control and surveillance methods used by Costa Rica with respect to its fishing vessels; (2) Costa Rica's total catch of tuna and tuna-like species in 2005 and years prior to 2004; (3) the markets to which Costa Rica exports or exported swordfish and/or its products; and (4) the maritime area in which Costa Rican vessels fished swordfish.

The Commission will again review the situation of Costa Rica at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Information concerning actions taken by Costa Rica relative to these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting. If it is determined that Costa Rica has not rectified the situation and continues to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT, the Commission may recommend that its Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on Atlantic swordfish and its products from Costa Rica. It is imperative that Costa Rica respond to the questions posed by ICCAT in order for the Commission to make a determination to lift the identification, if appropriate.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith a Compendium of ICCAT's Management Recommendations and Resolutions. It includes the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], adopted by ICCAT at its 2003 meeting. The 2003 Resolution broadened the scope of ICCAT's previous measures and improved the transparency of the process for applying trade restrictive measures.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Costa Rica to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning this meeting will be forwarded in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Costa Rica that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to requesting Cooperating Status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20]. For your convenience, this recommendation is included in the attached Compendium.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.5 Letter to Cuba: Regarding continuation of identification in accordance with the Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures

This letter is further to earlier correspondence from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) dated December 15, 2004 (copy enclosed). ICCAT is also in receipt of the letter from Ing. Miguel Ortega of the Ministry of the Fishing Industry, dated November 25, 2004. At its 2005 annual meeting in Seville, Spain, the Commission undertook its annual review of fishery-related information for the Convention area relative to both ICCAT members and non-members. I am writing to inform you that the Commission decided at its November 2005 annual meeting to continue its identification of Cuba in accordance with the terms of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15].

At its 2003 annual meeting, the Commission had reviewed the activities of Cuba pursuant to the Commission's *Resolution Concerning an Action Plan to Ensure the Effectiveness of the Conservation Program for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Res. 94-03]. This Resolution called upon the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures to identify those non-Contracting Parties whose vessels have fished for Atlantic bluefin tuna in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures. Resolution 94-03 was replaced by Resolution 03-15. For your information, I am enclosing herewith a Compendium of ICCAT's Management Recommendations and Resolutions. It includes Resolution 03-15, which broadened the scope of ICCAT's previous measures and established a more transparent process for the application of trade restrictive measures.

In deciding whether to identify a non-Contracting Party, the Permanent Working Group reviews catch data compiled by the Commission, trade information obtained through national statistics and the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program, and other relevant information obtained in ports and on the fishing grounds. ICCAT will request identified Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to take all necessary corrective actions, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT will recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, on the subject species.

In its letter issued following the 2004 annual meeting, ICCAT requested detailed information regarding: (1) the types of monitoring, control and surveillance methods used by Cuba with respect to its fishing vessels; (2) Cuba's total catch of tuna and tuna-like species in 2004 and prior years; and (3) the markets to which Cuba exports ICCAT-managed species and/or their products. Having again received no response from Cuba in 2005 on this question, the Commission reiterates its request to receive detailed information regarding the above.

The Commission will again review the situation of Cuba at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Information concerning these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting and should include data on Cuba's total catch of tuna and tuna-like species up to 2005. If the Commission determines in 2006 that Cuba has not rectified the situation and continues to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission may recommend that its Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on Atlantic bluefin tuna and its products from Cuba. It is imperative that Cuba respond to the questions posed by ICCAT in order for the Commission to make a determination to lift the identification, if appropriate.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Cuba to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Further, the Commission would remind Cuba that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to requesting Cooperating Status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20]. For your convenience, this Recommendation is included in the attached Compendium.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.6 Letter to Ecuador: Requesting information regarding its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna and MCS measures

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) coordinates the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The Commission annually collects and

reviews data and information regarding the activities of both ICCAT members and non-members that can impact ICCAT fisheries. The *Resolution by ICCAT on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] calls on the relevant ICCAT subsidiary body to identify those non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities that have failed to discharge their obligations under international law to cooperate with ICCAT in the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species. In deciding whether to make an identification, ICCAT reviews catch data compiled by the Commission, trade information obtained through national statistics and ICCAT's statistical document programs, the ICCAT list of vessels determined to be illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU), and other relevant information obtained in ports and on the fishing grounds. ICCAT will request identified parties to take all necessary corrective actions to rectify the situation, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT may recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures.

The 2004 review under this instrument indicated that 46 t of bigeye tuna were exported from Ecuador in 2004. The Commission noted that Ecuador does not report catch data to ICCAT and has not been assigned catch limits; thus, any catches of Atlantic tuna or tuna-like species by Ecuador flag vessels are outside the ICCAT management regime. The Commission requests that Ecuador fully implement ICCAT's conservation and management measures, and provide information with respect to your fleet and fishing activities, including: (1) number of vessels in the fleet by length or tonnage; (2) monitoring, control and surveillance measures in place; (3) total catch of tuna and tuna-like species from the ICCAT Convention Area for 2005 and previous years; and (4) the maritime area in which Ecuador's fleet fishes for ICCAT species.

The Commission will review the situation of Ecuador at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Information concerning these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Ecuador to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information on this meeting will be provided in due course. Further, the Commission would advise Ecuador that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to requesting Cooperating Status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20]. For your convenience, this Recommendation is included in the attached Compendium. The attached compendium also contains Resolution 03-15, which was mentioned above.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.7 Letter to Georgia: Regarding continuation of bigeye tuna trade restrictive measures

I am writing to inform you that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) took a decision at its 2005 annual meeting to continue the prohibition on the import of bigeye tuna and its products in any form from Georgia by ICCAT Contracting Parties, as well as those non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with Cooperating Status, in accordance with the Commission's *Recommendation by ICCAT for Bigeye Tuna Trade Restrictive Measures on Georgia* [Rec. 03-18]. A copy of the subject measure is enclosed for your information. The decision was taken in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT's *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [Res. 98-18].

For your information, I am enclosing herewith a Compendium of ICCAT's Management Recommendations and Resolutions. It includes an instrument entitled *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], adopted by ICCAT at its 2003 meeting. The 2003 Resolution both broadened the scope of ICCAT's existing trade regime and established a more transparent process for the application of trade restrictive measures. Although the Resolution 03-15 replaces the *Resolution Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-Scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [Res. 98-18], previous decisions taken in accordance with this measure will remain in force until otherwise decided by the Commission.

As explained in previous communications, the Commission reviews annually fishery related information for the Convention area relative to both ICCAT members and non-members. During its 2003 review, the Commission reviewed information that large-scale tuna longline vessels continued to be registered to Georgia, although they were foreign-owned. At least one of these vessels had operated in the Convention area. Additionally, the

Commission took note of the increasing level of Atlantic bigeye tuna harvests by Georgian flag vessels as indicated by trade and scientific data from 2001 and 2002. Given the available information, the Commission concluded that large-scale longline vessels of your country continued to operate in the Convention area in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures and recommended the imposition of trade restrictive measures. These trade restrictions were continued in 2004. Further, in the absence of any additional information regarding Georgia's monitoring, control, and surveillance measures or actions taken to address past activities, the Commission concluded at its 2005 meeting that it would not be appropriate to lift the bigeye tuna trade restrictions in place against your country.

The Commission, therefore, again requests the Government of Georgia to take the necessary actions to rectify the fishing activities of vessels on its registry so as not to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures and to implement fully ICCAT conservation and management decisions, including instituting measures to ensure appropriate monitoring, control, and surveillance of its fleet and reporting catch and effort data to the Commission. Rectifying actions should be reported to the Commission. The Commission also requests that Georgia provide any information you may have concerning: (1) the foreign owners of the vessels registered to your country; (2) the types of monitoring, control, and surveillance methods used by Georgia with respect to its fishing vessels; (3) Georgia's total catch of tuna and tuna-like species in 2005 and prior years; (4) the markets to which Georgia exports or exported bigeye tuna and/or its products; and (5) the maritime areas in which Georgian vessels fished bigeye tuna.

The Commission will again review the situation of Georgia at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Information concerning these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting. The information requested above will be valuable to the Commission when it considers trade-related matters relative to Georgia during its 2006 review. It is imperative that Georgia respond to the questions posed by ICCAT and demonstrate that the situation has been rectified in order for the Commission to make a determination to lift trade restrictive measures, if appropriate.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Georgia to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be forwarded in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Georgia that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to Cooperating Status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20]. For your convenience, this Recommendation is included in the attached Compendium.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.8 Letter to Maldives: Requesting information on fishing activities and MCS

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) coordinates the management of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The Commission annually collects and reviews data and information regarding the activities of both ICCAT members and non-members that can impact ICCAT fisheries. The *Resolution by ICCAT on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] calls on the relevant ICCAT subsidiary body to identify those non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities that have failed to discharge their obligations under international law to cooperate with ICCAT in the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species. In deciding whether to make an identification, ICCAT reviews catch data compiled by the Commission, trade information obtained through national statistics and ICCAT's statistical document programs, the ICCAT list of vessels determined to be illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU), and other relevant information obtained in ports and on the fishing grounds. ICCAT will request identified parties to take all necessary corrective actions to rectify the situation, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT may recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures. For your use and information, please find enclosed ICCAT's Compendium of conservation and management measures, which contains Resolution 03-15.

During its 2005 review, the Commission took note that 15 t of bluefin tuna had been exported by the Maldives in 2004. The ocean of origin was unknown, however, and no catch data was provided by the Maldives to ICCAT. The Commission would greatly appreciate information on the ocean of origin of this bluefin tuna. In addition, the Commission would like to request information on the Maldives fleet, including number of vessels and size or tonnage, as well as on the monitoring, control, and surveillance measures for your fleet.

The Commission will review the situation of the Maldives at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Information concerning these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.9 Letter to Sierra Leone: Requesting information on MCS, including process and rules for vessel registration

This letter is further to correspondence sent in 2004 from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) transmitting the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Lifting of Bigeye Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, and Swordfish Trade Restrictive Measures Against Sierra Leone*, adopted at the November 15-21, 2004, meeting of the Commission in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

In that letter, the Commission took note of the efforts made by Sierra Leone to address the concerns of the Commission, including providing data and revoking the registration of a vessel previously identified as conducting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the Convention area and of Sierra Leone's stated intention to strengthen monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) of its fleet. The Commission stated that a key element of that effort would be improvement by Sierra Leone of its process and rules for vessel registration.

The Commission welcomed the participation of a representative of Sierra Leone at the 2004 Commission meeting and requested that Sierra Leone provide information on its plan for implementing MCS improvements and other issues of relevance to ICCAT, as promised by the Sierra Leone representative at the 2004 Commission meeting. To date, Sierra Leone has not provided the subject information. ICCAT hereby renews its request that this information be supplied by Sierra Leone at least 30 days prior to the next meeting of the Commission, which is scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Sierra Leone to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be forwarded in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Sierra Leone that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to requesting Cooperating Status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20], which is included for your convenience in the attached Compendium.

Thank you for your attention to these issues, and please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.10 Letter to Singapore: Regarding continuation of identification in accordance with the Trade Measures Resolution

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am informing you that, on account of the findings below, the Commission decided to maintain Singapore's identified status in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] at its 19th Regular Meeting, held November 14-20, 2005, in Seville, Spain. The subject Resolution is enclosed for your information.

As noted in previous communications with your Government, the Commission annually collects and reviews data and information regarding the activities of both ICCAT members and non-members that can impact ICCAT fisheries. Resolution 03-15 calls on the relevant ICCAT subsidiary body to identify those non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities that have failed to discharge their obligations under international law to cooperate with ICCAT in the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species. In deciding whether to make an identification, ICCAT reviews catch data compiled by the Commission, trade information obtained through national statistics and ICCAT's statistical document programs, the ICCAT list of vessels determined to be illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU), and other relevant information obtained in ports and on the fishing grounds. ICCAT will request identified parties to take all necessary corrective actions to rectify the situation, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT may recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures.

As noted in a previous communication, the 2004 review under this instrument indicated that more than 12,000 tons of swordfish products were imported from Singapore into three ICCAT members (the European Community, Japan, and the United States of America) in 2003, representing an increase from 4,433 tons in 2002 to 7,983 tons in 2003 to the European Community alone. As more than 90 percent of the imports are frozen fish and not filets, the bulk of this trade is composed of re-exported products. At the time of the 2004 Commission meeting, Singapore had refused to implement ICCAT's Statistical Document Program for Swordfish [Rec. 00-22]. It is referred in this context to the letter of July 29, 2003, from the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority of Singapore and to the fact that Singapore did not answer ICCAT's letter of June 24, 2004 (enclosed). Further inquiries regarding this trade strongly indicate that, to a large extent, swordfish imported into Singapore is supplied by countries that do not implement relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures or is of unknown origin. There is a strong likelihood that some proportion of this swordfish was originally harvested in the ICCAT Convention area. This was of grave concern to the Commission given that, whilst Singapore is one of the largest traders in swordfish worldwide, the trade was not under the full control of Singapore authorities.

While the Commission is grateful to Singapore for the information provided in response to its previous communication, the 2005 review under this instrument indicated that, in 2004 and 2005, large volumes of swordfish products continue to be exported by Singapore to ICCAT members. The Commission took note that Singapore is implementing partly ICCAT's Statistical Document Program for Swordfish [Rec. 01-22]. It is referred in this context to the information from the authorities of Singapore advising the ICCAT's Secretariat on the April 21, 2005, that Singapore does not license any fishing vessels, and hence, only validates re-export certificates, to which are attached the relevant statistical documents. An evaluation of this situation has indicated that a large percentage of re-exports from Singapore are not accompanied by re-export certificates that also include the relevant statistical documents. Thus, the flag States of the fishing vessels remain unknown. The Commission remains gravely concerned that a significant part of Singapore's swordfish trade is still not under the full control of the authorities validating re-export certificates.

Singapore has a duty as an importing and re-exporting State to cooperate by helping the Commission track the trade of swordfish. Failure to implement fully the statistical document program while continuing to trade in swordfish product means that there is a significant loophole in ICCAT's ability to track the trade in swordfish catch, verify how much swordfish is being harvested and by whom, and counteract illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Without such information, the scientific assessments for swordfish could be compromised, and ICCAT's conservation and management measures for swordfish could be undermined.

The Commission hereby requests Singapore to take effective measures to rectify this situation so as not to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. In addition, the Commission would be grateful to receive from Singapore a list of those countries and/or flag vessels that supply Singapore with swordfish or swordfish products.

The Commission will review the situation of Singapore at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Information regarding these matters should be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days in advance of that meeting. If it is determined that Singapore has not rectified the situation and continues to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT, the Commission may recommend that its Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on ICCAT species from Singapore.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. I enclose copies of ICCAT's statistical document Recommendations and Resolutions for your use and information.

Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.11 Letter to Sri Lanka: Requesting information fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area

This letter is further to correspondence from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 2003 and 2004 (attached). In its previous letters, the Commission: (1) noted that since Sri Lanka does not report catch data to ICCAT and has not been assigned catch limits, any catches of Atlantic tuna or tuna-like species by Sri Lanka flag vessels are outside the ICCAT management regime; (2) requested that Sri Lanka fully implement ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including measures to eliminate any illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities by its flag vessels; and (3) provide information on catches of ICCAT species and on the monitoring, control and surveillance program (including vessel registration processes) for its fleet. The Commission also advised Sri Lanka of its new *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning*

Trade Measures [Res. 03-15] and that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if it maintained an interest in exploiting species under ICCAT's purview.

To date, Sri Lanka has not provided the requested information. ICCAT is once again requesting that Sri Lanka provide this information, which is relevant to a determination of whether Sri Lanka is in compliance with ICCAT's conservation and management measures or whether any of its vessels are engaging in illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing activities in the Convention Area. If Sri Lanka does not provide this information, the Commission may take appropriate action pursuant to the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. This measure is enclosed for your use and information.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.12 Letter to St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Regarding identification in accordance with the Trade Measures Resolution

This letter is further to earlier correspondence from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) dated December 15, 2004, (copy enclosed). I hereby inform you that, on account of the findings below, the Commission identified St. Vincent and the Grenadines in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] at its 19th Regular Meeting, held November 14-20, 2005, in Seville, Spain. The subject Resolution is enclosed for your information.

Each year, the Commission collects and reviews data and information regarding the activities of both ICCAT members and non-members that can impact ICCAT fisheries. Resolution 03-15 calls on the relevant ICCAT subsidiary body to identify those non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities that have failed to discharge their obligations under international law to cooperate with ICCAT in the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species. In deciding whether to make an identification, ICCAT reviews catch data compiled by the Commission, trade information obtained through national statistics and ICCAT's statistical document programs, the ICCAT list of vessels determined to be illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU), and other relevant information obtained in ports and on the fishing grounds. ICCAT will request identified parties to take all necessary corrective actions to rectify the situation, and will review those actions at its subsequent annual meeting. If those actions are judged insufficient, ICCAT may recommend effective measures, if necessary including non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures.

At its 2004 annual meeting, the Commission took note that St. Vincent and the Grenadines had reiterated its commitment to take steps to ensure that it did not support illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as its recent efforts to cooperate with ICCAT. However, the Commission also noted continuing concern about reported catches by St. Vincent and the Grenadines of Atlantic bigeye and Atlantic albacore. Additionally, the Commission advised St. Vincent and the Grenadines that three of its registered vessels appeared on the 2004 ICCAT "List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Areas" (IUU List) and requested, pursuant to Recommendation 02-23, that St. Vincent and the Grenadines take all necessary measures to eliminate the IUU fishing activities of its vessels, including, if necessary, the withdrawal of registration or vessel fishing licenses. St. Vincent and the Grenadines has not provided the Commission with any information with respect to these vessels and they again are listed on the 2005 IUU List. A copy of the 2005 IUU List is enclosed. In addition, a vessel determined to be flagged to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the F/V Emily 21, was boarded in the Caribbean by the U.S. Coast Guard in June 2005. According to the attached information report, it appears that the F/V Emily 21 fishes in the Caribbean and offloads its catch at sea to a transport vessel homeported in Port-au-Spain. The information before the Commission suggests that vessels flagged to St. Vincent and the Grenadines may be offloading their catches to transport vessels owned by Chinese Taipei interests and not reporting them as St. Vincent and the Grenadines' catch. Information was also provided on illegal fishing by the Southern Star 136, a St. Vincent and the Grenadines flag vessel found operating in Brazil's exclusive economic zone. This information is also enclosed for your use and information. Given the foregoing, it does not appear that St. Vincent and the Grenadines complied with the Commission's request to take all measures necessary to eliminate IUU fishing activities by its vessels.

In view of these circumstances, the Commission has identified St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a non-Contracting Party whose vessels have been fishing for ICCAT species in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation measures. The Commission requests that you provide detailed information regarding: (1) the types of monitoring, control and surveillance methods used by St. Vincent and the Grenadines

with respect to its fishing vessels; (2) total catch of tuna and tuna-like species in 2005 and prior years caught by vessels registered to St. Vincent and the Grenadines (wherever offloaded); (3) the markets to which St. Vincent and the Grenadines exports ICCAT species and/or their products; and (4) the maritime area in which St. Vincent and the Grenadines' vessels fished for ICCAT species.

The Commission will again review the situation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines at its next meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Information concerning actions taken by St. Vincent and the Grenadines relative to these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting. If it is determined that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has not rectified the situation and continues to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT, the Commission may recommend that its Contracting Parties take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species and their products from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. At that meeting, the Commission will also consider which vessels are to be included on the 2006 IUU vessel list.

For your information, I am enclosing herewith a Compendium of ICCAT's Management Recommendations and Resolutions. It includes the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], adopted by ICCAT at its 2003 meeting. The 2003 Resolution broadened the scope of ICCAT's previous measures and improved the transparency of the process for applying trade restrictive measures.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite St. Vincent and the Grenadines to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning this meeting will be forwarded in due course. Further, the Commission would remind St. Vincent and the Grenadines that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to requesting Cooperating Status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20]. For your convenience, this recommendation is included in the attached Compendium.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.13 Letter to Togo: Requesting information on fleet and MCS

This letter is further to earlier correspondence from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) dated December 15, 2004, revoking Togo's identification status with respect to Atlantic swordfish. In that letter, ICCAT took note of Togo's commitment to abide by ICCAT conservation and management measures and encouraged Togo to take steps to strengthen its monitoring and control measures. At its 2005 meeting, ICCAT again reviewed fishery related information and noted that Togo provided catch data to the Commission; however, no details on Togo's fleet or on the monitoring, control, and surveillance measures in place to regulate it were provided. The Commission would greatly appreciate receiving information on the number of vessels fishing for ICCAT species in Togo's fleet and their size or tonnage, the MCS measures in place to control the fisheries, and Togo's process and rules for vessel registration.

ICCAT would appreciate receiving the subject information at least 30 days prior to the next meeting of the Commission, which is scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. Further, the Commission would like to invite Togo to participate in the 2006 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be forwarded in due course. In addition, the Commission would remind Togo that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if your country maintains an interest in exploiting species under the purview of ICCAT. With respect to requesting Cooperating Status, I would draw your attention to the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20], which is included for your convenience in the attached Compendium.

Thank you for your attention to these issues, and please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.14 Letter to Chinese Taipei: Transmitting Recommendation to Reduce Bet Catch Limits and Improve Fleet Control and renewing Cooperating Status

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am transmitting to you the enclosed *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery* [Rec. 05-02] adopted at the 19th Regular Meeting of ICCAT on November 14-20, 2005, in Seville, Spain.

Notwithstanding this decision, the Commission decided that, at this time, Chinese Taipei's Cooperating Status should not be revoked. Pursuant to the terms of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20], the Commission will once again review Chinese Taipei's Cooperating Status at its 2006 annual meeting, scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. As you know, those non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with Cooperating Status accept the obligation to fully apply the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to abide by data and other reporting requirements. In return, those with Cooperating Status receive certain benefits, such as qualifying to receive quotas and to enter their vessels on ICCAT's record of authorized vessels. Cooperating Status can be revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

8.15 Letter to Egypt: Informing that Cooperating Status could not be granted

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is in receipt of your August 18, 2005, communication in which your country requests that it be granted Cooperating Status. At its 19th Regular meeting, the Commission considered this request pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20].

While the Commission welcomed the information provided by Egypt, including the transmission of catch data and the explanation that Egypt has neither tuna vessels in its fleet nor bluefin tuna farming installations, Cooperating Status could not be conferred at this time as Egypt did not address all the criteria specified on Recommendation 03-20. In particular, Egypt did not confirm its commitment to respect ICCAT conservation and management measures. Should Egypt wish to seek Cooperating Status again next year, such a commitment is needed. In addition, the Commission also asks that Egypt provide information on the measures it has in place to monitor and control its vessels, including the process and rules for vessel licensing and registration.

Requests for Cooperating Status must be received by ICCAT no later than 90 days in advance of a Commission meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia. For your use and information, enclosed please find a copy of ICCAT's Compendium of conservation and management measures.

Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

8.16 Letter to Netherlands Antilles: Renewing Cooperating Status and expressing concern about bigeye tuna harvest levels

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I have the honor to inform you that the Commission renewed Cooperating Status for the Netherlands Antilles at its 19th Regular Meeting, held November 14-20, 2005, in Seville, Spain. As you know, those non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities with Cooperating Status accept the obligation to fully apply the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission and to abide by data and other reporting requirements. In return, those with Cooperating Status receive certain benefits, such as qualifying to receive quotas and to enter their vessels on ICCAT's record of authorized vessels. Cooperating Status can be revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.

In considering this matter at its 2005 meeting, the Commission took due regard that the Netherlands Antilles has been reporting catch data to the Commission. In reviewing that data, however, the Commission noted that bigeye tuna harvest levels by the Netherlands Antilles are quite high and have shown an upward trend in recent years. This raised concerns at the 2005 ICCAT Meeting with regards to your compliance with ICCAT's bigeye tuna

management measures. The Commission would like to request the Netherlands Antilles to provide an explanation of its bigeye tuna harvest levels, to ensure that harvests by your vessels are consistent with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, and to provide details on the monitoring, control, and surveillance regime in place to regulate your fleet.

Each year, Cooperating Status is reviewed by the Commission pursuant to the terms of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* [Rec. 03-20]. Therefore, ICCAT would appreciate receiving the subject information at least 30 days prior to the next meeting of the Commission, which is scheduled for November 20 to 26, 2006, in Croatia.

For your use and information, enclosed please find a copy of ICCAT's Compendium of conservation and management measures.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 10

2005 List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area (Adopted by the Commission in November 2005).

<i>Serial Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC</i>	<i>Date informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current flag</i>	<i>Previous flag</i>	<i>Name of vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (other)</i>	<i>Owner name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Area</i>
20040001	Japan	24/08/2004	1788	Saint Vincent & Grenadines		National No. 101		Kwo-Jeng Marine Services Limited	Trinidad & Tobago	AT
20040003	Japan	24/08/2004	1788	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	E. Guinea	Chang Yow No. 212		Chang Yow Fishery /Continental Handlers	Saint Vincent	AT
20040004	Japan	24/08/2004	1788	Saint Vincent & Grenadines		Aquarus				AT
20040005	Japan	24/08/2004	1788	Unknown		Bravo				AT
20040006	Japan	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown		Ocean Diamond				AT
20040007	Japan	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown		Madura 2		(P.T. Provisit)*	(Indonesia)*	AT
20040008	Japan	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown		Madura 3		(P.T. Provisit)*	(Indonesia)*	
2005001	Brazil	03/08/2005	1615	Saint Vincent & Grenadines		Southern Star 136	Hsiang Chang	Kuo Jeng Marine Services Limited	Port of Spain Trinidad & Tobago	AT
2005002	USA	10/11/2005	PWG-059	Saint Vincent & Grenadines		F/V Emily		Continental Ltd.	C (O Fubon Inc. Co. Ltd., 237 Chen Kvo Srd Seci, Taipei, Chinese Taipei	AT
2005003	USA	14/11/2005	PWG-081	Colombia		F/V No. 16 Shin Yeou			Mamonal, Co. (Cartagena, Co)	AT

*According to 2002 ICCAT IUU Vessel List.

DOCUMENTS DEFERRED FOR DISCUSSION IN 2006

11.1 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR COMPLIANCE OF THE ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

STRESSING the need to improve control and management of quota and catch limit established by ICCAT,

RECOGNIZING that fresh bluefin tuna products require prompt handling to avoid deterioration of their quality;

RECOGNIZING the importance of cooperation between flag Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as “CPCs”) and importing CPCs to improve compliance of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. CPCs shall take necessary measures to closely monitor their catch amounts of species for which national quotas or catch limits are established by the ICCAT.
2. The Statistical Documents of species for which national quotas or catch limits are established shall indicate the accumulated export amounts and total quota or catch limits by the management year (of such quota or catch limits).
3. The flag CPCs shall validate the Statistical Documents only when the accumulated export amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year.
4. CPCs, where there are reasonable grounds for believing that the catch of any other CPC in particular management year has reached its quotas or catch limits based on information such as collected statistical documents and imports statistics, may notify their findings to the relevant CPC directly and to the ICCAT Secretariat for circulation to all CPCs. The flag CPC which receives the above notification shall examine and take additional measures, if necessary, to ensure its obligation referred to in this recommendation.
5. CPCs shall require that the species for which national quotas or catch limits are established by ICCAT and covered by Statistical Document Programs, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied with the Statistical Documents validated by the flag CPCs in accordance with paragraph 3. above.
6. CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag CPCs shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

11.2 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AND PERSECUTION OF IUU VESSELS IN THE ICCAT AREA

RECOGNIZING ICCAT’s responsibility as concerns the management of stocks of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic and adjacent seas, in the international framework;

CONSIDERING that achieving the objectives of ICCAT necessarily involves direct implication, without reserve, of all the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) in the persecution of IUU vessels;

CONVINCED that cooperation and forceful action of the CPCs is the best guarantee that such vessels do not find sanctuary in the Convention area;

RECALLING that by the letter dated August 21, 2004, addressed to the CPCs through the ICCAT Executive Secretary, as well as Decree No. 33/2004 of May 17, 2004, transmitted to all the CPC, the Government of Equatorial Guinea officially requested the collaboration of ICCAT and all its members to proceed to the immobilization of any fishing vessel licensed to this country or which flies its flag, in order to undertake the corresponding legal actions, in the interest of an effective fight against IUU vessels;

EXPRESSING with much regret that the Government of Equatorial Guinea's request has not had, up to now, any positive response from ICCAT or from its members, a situation which facilitates the impunity of the activity of these IUU vessels;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities accept the collaboration requested by the Government of Equatorial Guinea and proceed to the immobilization of any fishing vessel licensed to this country or which flies its flag, wherever it may be found, and which has not been officially notified to ICCAT by the Government of Equatorial Guinea as having a legal license, and inform the Government of Equatorial Guinea of such immobilization for the corresponding purposes.
2. The CPCs implement this Recommendation as soon as possible, in accordance with their regulatory procedures.

11.3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ICCAT'S RULES OF PROCEDURE ON MAIL VOTING (Rule 9)

The Rules of Procedure shall be amended as follows:

Rule 9 – Voting*

1. Each member [] shall be entitled to one vote.
2. Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the [members] of the Commission, except as are provided for in Article VIII, paragraph 1(b)(i) of the Convention.
3. Two-thirds of the member[s] of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for voting.
4. The Chairman or a Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall not vote, but may appoint another Delegate, expert or adviser from his delegation to vote in his place.
5. Votes shall be taken by show of hands, roll call or secret ballot.
6. A vote by roll call shall be taken upon request of a member [] of the Commission. Voting by roll call shall be conducted by calling in English alphabetical order the names of all member[s] of the Commission entitled to vote. The name of the first member to be called shall be designated by lot drawn by the Chairman.
7. Any matter shall be decided by secret ballot if the Commission so determines.
8. In cases of special necessity, where a decision cannot practically be deferred until the next meeting of the Commission, a matter may be decided during the period between meetings of the Commission by intersessional vote, either electronically via the Internet (e.g. e-mail, secure web site) or other means of communication.
9. The Chairman, on his or her initiative or at the request of a member of the Commission that has made a proposal, may move adoption without delay of such proposal by intersessional vote. The Chairman, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant Panel or other subsidiary body, as appropriate, shall determine the necessity of considering the proposal intersessionally and shall determine the appropriate majority required for decision-making, pursuant to paragraph 2 above.

* Proposed changes are indicated by []; paragraphs 8 to 16 are new proposals.

10. Where the Chairman determines that it is not necessary to consider a motion proposed by a member intersessionally, or that a two-third majority of members of the Commission is necessary for approval of the subject proposal pursuant to paragraph 2 above, the Chairman shall promptly inform that member of such determination and the reasons therefore, at which time the proposer may request an intersessional vote on the Chairman's determination, to be subject to the majority decision rule.
 11. Where the Chairman initiates an intersessional vote, or concurs on the necessity of considering a proposal moved by a member intersessionally, the Executive Secretary shall promptly transmit the proposal and both determinations made by the Chairman under paragraph 9 to members via the official correspondents provided for in Rule 1, paragraph 4, requesting that responses be returned within 40 days.
 12. Members shall promptly acknowledge receipt of any request for an intersessional vote. If no acknowledgment is received within 10 days of the date of transmittal, the Executive Secretary shall retransmit the request and shall use all additional means available to ensure that the request has been received. Confirmation by the Executive Secretary that the request has been received shall be deemed conclusive regarding the inclusion of the member in the quorum for the purpose of the relevant intersessional vote.
 13. Members shall respond within 40 days of the date of transmittal of a proposal, pursuant to paragraph 11, indicating whether they cast an affirmative vote, cast a negative vote, or abstain from voting. If no reply from a member is received within 40 days of transmittal, that member shall be recorded as having abstained.
 14. The result of a decision taken by intersessional vote shall be ascertained by the Executive Secretary at the end of the voting period and promptly announced to all members. If any explanations of votes are received, these shall also be transmitted to all members.
 15. Proposals transmitted by the Executive Secretary for an intersessional vote shall not be subject to amendment during the voting period.
 16. A proposal that has been rejected by intersessional vote shall not be reconsidered by way of an intersessional vote until after the following meeting of the Commission, but may be reconsidered at that meeting.
- [17.]The voting rights of any member [] of the Commission may be suspended by the Commission if the arrears of contributions of that member [] equal or exceed the amount due for the two preceding years.

11.4 DRAFT RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A CAPACITY WORKING GROUP

RECALLING that the Commission's management objective is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable yield;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) provides steps for better management of fishing capacity with particular priority on highly migratory fisheries;

RECOGNIZING that many stocks under ICCAT jurisdiction are fully or overfished;

AGREEING that overcapacity threatens the achievement of ICCAT's conservation and management objectives;

GIVEN the need to assess and address over-capacity in fleets participating in many ICCAT fisheries and seeking eventually to develop effective ways to address this problem in a comprehensive manner;

RECOGNIZING that the FAO's IPOA-Capacity notes the need to enhance the ability of developing countries to develop their own fisheries as well as to participate in high seas fisheries, including access to such fisheries;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. A Capacity Working Group is established, with the following terms of reference:
 - a) Review and assess the level of capacity and the level of harvests, as indicated in SCRS assessments;
 - b) Based on this review and assessment, identify fisheries with overcapacity, focusing primarily on those fisheries with industrial scale fleets;
 - c) Develop measures for managing capacity in ICCAT fisheries, especially in cases where overcapacity is a contributing factor to over-harvests of total allowable catches;
 - d) Consider the needs of developing countries in developing fishing capacity while ensuring sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like stocks.
 - e) Report the results of deliberations to the Commission at its 2007 meeting, and, as appropriate, recommendations and proposals for next steps to manage fishing capacity in the Convention area.
2. The Working Group shall meet as early as possible in 2007.
3. The SCRS should provide the Working Group with relevant information on short- and long-term stock condition, harvest levels in ICCAT fisheries for the most recent year(s) available, and data on effort and CPUE by gear, season and area, in advance of the 2007 Working Group meeting to assist deliberations.
4. CPCs should submit data to the Commission, for SCRS review, on inputs in terms of numbers of vessels and their characteristics, including size, gear, area of operation, target species, and other relevant information, (e.g., days-at-sea, days fishing, use of transshipment vessels, hold capacity, port access agreements).
5. The Working Group should be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat staff. Broad representation from ICCAT's CPCs is encouraged. The Working Group should also draw as necessary on the technical work and expertise of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the work of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). FAO and RFMO experts on capacity should be invited to participate. In addressing this work program, the Working Group should, as much as possible, include in its deliberations experts in the management of ICCAT fisheries and economics. The Working Group should also take into account the results of the joint tuna RFMO summit scheduled for January 2007.

11.5 PROPOSALS BY THE CHAIRMAN IN RELATION TO INTERPRETATIVE ISSUES, REPORTING FORMATS, DEFINITION OF TERMS AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

1. Interpretative issues

1.a Interpretative issues raised in 2004

In 2004, both the Secretariat and the Key Contacts of the Compendium Working Group raised some interpretative issues that required consideration by the Commission. As there was insufficient time to consider these during the 2004 meeting, it was agreed that the Chairman would work on this during the inter-sessional period, and propose some solutions. The results of this work are as follows:

1. In relation to the treatment of artisanal longline and purse seine marlin fisheries, it had been agreed by the Commission that these fisheries were not included in the restrictions stipulated in the marlin rebuilding plan. The definition of small scale artisanal fisheries was now required, and some options are included in Appendix 2* of this document.
2. The wording of the Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2004-2006 [Rec. 03-06], indicates that the 200t catch limit for northern albacore for those Contracting Parties without a specific quota was subject to the carry-over provisions of paragraph 6.

* The Appendices are available from the Secretariat.

3. The rules pertaining to the treatment of under-harvest and over-harvests remained complex for some species. According to the current regulations in force, under-harvest of southern swordfish may not be carried over.
4. Following review of the implications of operative paragraph 4 of the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning conservation of western bluefin tuna. [Rec. 02-07] on the Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding program for west Atlantic bluefin tuna [Rec. 98-07], it appears that no revised calculations are required.
5. In 2004, new measures relating to the minimum size of bluefin tuna were adopted. The Recommendation by ICCAT concerning a limit on bluefin tuna minimum size and fishing mortality [Rec. 74-1] on minimum size limits for bluefin tuna is no longer in force, resulting in the minimum size for western bluefin tuna being 30 kg with an 8% tolerance limit for fish under that size.

1.b Issues raised in 2005

A query has been raised in relation to the inclusion of vessels of exactly 24 meters in length. In 2003, the Commission agreed that in relation to the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the establishment of a Record of Vessels over 24 meters authorized to operate in the Convention Area, vessels of less than 24 meters were not contemplated by the Recommendation and should not be included in the Record, which expressly provides only for vessels greater than 24 meters. The wording of the Recommendation indicates that those vessels of exactly 24 meters are exempt from the requirements of the Recommendation, but it is suggested that CPCs may include such vessels in the Record if they wish. In the event that the Commission decides to extend the Record to vessels greater than 15 meters, this issue will apply to vessels of exactly 15 meters.

2. Reporting formats

In 2004, the revised guidelines for the Submission of Annual Reports and format for Reports on Internal Actions taken to Ensure that Tuna Vessels on the ICCAT Record of Vessels over 24 Meters are Fishing in Accordance with ICCAT Management and Conservation Measures were adopted by the Commission.

In order to assist with the submission and assimilation of information submitted under the ICCAT management measures, it is suggested that a Working Group on Formats for Submission of Information be created to agree on standard formats for the submission of information required by ICCAT measures. The Secretariat will act as the coordinator of such a group, which would comprise representatives from those Contracting Parties who wish to participate. The Working Group would be a permanent body that would develop standard reporting formats for the collection of information. The Reporting Formats developed and adopted by the Working Group, including those developed during the inter-sessional period, will be binding, until such time as the Commission decides otherwise. The Group should ensure the compatibility and user-friendliness of formats as far as possible, in order to facilitate the submission of information by CPCs.

It is proposed that the initial task of this Working Group be the revision and adoption of the following formats, draft proposals of which are included in Appendix 1*:

1. Revised ICCAT Reporting Table for the Compliance Tables.
2. Reporting format for vessels greater than 24 meters authorized to operate in the Convention area.
3. Format for reporting lists of vessels participating in a directed fishery for northern albacore.
4. Forms for reporting Chartering Arrangements.
5. Form for reporting vessels suspected of IUU activities.
6. Format for reporting lists of vessels which fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes.
7. Format for reporting farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the ICCAT Convention area
8. New or revised existing formats may be proposed by the Group as necessary.

3. Definitions

The need to define certain terms used in the ICCAT Conservation and Management measures was considered by the Compendium Working Group, but this group considered that the task went beyond their mandate, as terms are not standardized, and that any given term may not have the same meaning in different Recommendations.

The Commission needs to decide whether they wish to continue with the work on definitions at this stage, or whether work on the standardization of terminology should be initiated.

Notwithstanding the above, the Chair requested the Secretariat in 2004 to initiate work on definitions, and Appendix 2* contains the work which has been carried out to date.

As a minimum, in the light of Section 1a, paragraph 1, however, it is suggested that the Commission define artisanal fisheries.

4. Proposed Guidelines for the dissemination of information submitted by CPCs

The increase in the number and complexity of the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions and other decisions taken by the Commission has in recent years implied an increase in the obligations of Contracting Parties and Co-operating non-Contracting Parties to submit information to the Commission, either through their Annual Reports or through the Secretariat.

In some cases, the pertinent management measures are clear as to the method and timing of dissemination of the information received, but in other cases, some guidelines and criteria are needed to ensure that the Secretariat is circulating all, but only, the information which the Commission requires it to disseminate.

The Secretariat, as a general rule, circulates information on request from a Contracting Party, even though the circulation of such information is not specified by the relevant management measures. In order to avoid conflict with the circulation of information and measures in force, and to ensure that all information circulated is directly relevant to the work of the Commission, it is suggested that the following guidelines for the dissemination of information be applied:

Requests for circulation of information not specified in ICCAT regulations:

At the request of a CPC, the Secretariat will circulate information to all other CPCs where:

1. The information submitted is related to an ICCAT conservation or management measure.
2. The information is of direct relevance to the scope and mandate of ICCAT.
3. The information is factual and not conjectural.
4. The information relates to acts of a government, institution or vessel, but not to individual persons.

Information circulated at the request of a CPC is usually translated into the three languages of the Commission. In order to avoid delays in circulation of submissions containing lengthy attachments and supporting documents, CPC are requested to send a summary of the salient points for translation. Supporting documents will be distributed in the original language, unless the Commission Chair or the Chair of the auxiliary body of the Commission at which the issue may be discussed considers their translation necessary for the discussions.

Information to be circulated on receipt or in advance of the annual meeting in accordance with Commission decisions:

Compliance Tables [Rec. 98-14 and 2003 Commission Report]
 NGO applications for Observer Status [Ref. 98-19]
 Results of port inspections of non- CPC vessels [Res. 99-11]
 Bi-annual reports of data collected under the Statistical Document Programs [Res. 94-05; Recs. 01-21 and 01-22]
 Sample Statistical Documents [Res. 94-05; Recs. 01-21 and 01-22]
 Information relating to chartering arrangements [Rec. 02-21]
 Draft IUU list [Rec. 02-23]

Information to be collected and made available at the annual meeting:

List of albacore vessels [Rec. 98-08]
 Vessel sightings of Contracting Parties [Rec. 98-11]
 Internal reports on the actions taken to ensure that tuna vessels on the ICCAT record of vessels over 24 meters are fishing in accordance with ICCAT management and conservation measures [Rec. 02-22]
 Trade data [Res. 03-15]
 List of vessels involved in farming operations [Rec. 04-06]

Reports on the time/area closure in the Gulf of Guinea [Rec. 04-01]
Annual Reports [Ref. 04-17]

Information to be published on the ICCAT web site (not circulated):

Institutions and Individuals authorized to validate ICCAT Statistical Documents [Res. 94-05; Recs. 01-21 01-22]
List of Vessels over 24 meters [Rec. 02-22]
Register of Farming Facilities [Rec. 04-06]

Information received from non-Contracting Parties:

As Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities undertake to assume the same obligations as Contracting Parties, information received from these will be circulated in accordance with the same criteria as Contracting Parties.

Information from non-Contracting Parties that have not attained Cooperating Status will only be circulated where:

1. The information received supports an application for Cooperating Party status.
2. The Commission has written to a non-Contracting Party to request information or such party has been identified / sanctioned by the Commission, and the information received is pertinent to the concerns of the Commission.
3. The information is received in response to a reported allegation of activities believed to undermine ICCAT management and conservation measures.

11.6 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO IMPROVE RECREATIONAL FISHERY STATISTICS

RECOGNIZING the responsibility of each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity (hereinafter "CPC") to provide annually, on a timely basis, data related to fishing activities in the Convention Area for species regulated by ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve data from both recreational and commercial fisheries;

RECALLING that, at its 1999 meeting, the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Improving Recreational Fishery Statistics* [Res. 99-07], which called for CPCs to provide data on recreational fisheries and information on techniques used to manage these fisheries;

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Adopt Measures Concerning Sport and Recreational Fishing Activities in the Mediterranean Sea* [Rec. 04-12] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-Year Conservation and Management for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08];

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, each year, data on their sport and recreational fisheries, specifically, Task I and Task II data;
2. CPCs shall explain in their annual reports to ICCAT the techniques used to manage their sport and recreational fisheries and the methods used to collect such data.

11.7 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE MEASURES CONCERNING SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FISHERY ACTIVITIES IN THE ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN SEA

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to regulate sport and recreational fishing activities to ensure that these activities do not undermine sustainable exploitation of the stocks,

CONSIDERING that ICCAT adopted in 2004 the Recommendation 04-12 concerning sport and recreational fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea and that there is a need to extend its coverage to include the Atlantic Ocean,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ATLANTIC TUNA (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties, Entities, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities of Fishing Entities (hereafter named CPCs) shall take the measures necessary to forbid the use, within the framework of sport and recreational fishing, of towed nets, encircling nets, seine sliding, dredgers, gill nets, trammel net and longline to fish for tuna and tuna-like species.
2. The CPCs shall ensure that catches of tuna and tuna-like species carried out in the ICCAT area from sport and recreational fishing are not marketed.
3. The CPCs shall take the necessary measures so that catch data from sport and recreational fishing are collected and transmitted to the SCRS.
4. This recommendation replaces in its entirety the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Adopt Measures Concerning Sport and Recreational Fishing Activities in the Mediterranean Sea* [Rec. 04-12].

11.8 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF UNDERAGES AND/OR OVERAGES OF THE QUOTAS/CATCH LIMITS

RECOGNIZING the need to simplify the rules by generalizing the treatment of underage and overage, both at the level of management and compliance, and to draw up clear rules;

TAKING ACCOUNT the deliberations of ICCAT Working Party on Compliance, held in Murcia, Spain on 11 November 2001.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Management measures

- a) For any species under a quota/catch limit management, the overage of a given year shall be deducted from either the quota/catch limit of the management period immediately after or of the following year.
- b) For any species subject to quota/catch limit management, the underage of a given year may be added either to the quota/catch limit of the management period immediately after or of the following year, within a maximum limit of 10% of the initial quota/catch limit.

The total of the underages carried over during the management period or the period of the management plan applicable to the stock concerned may not exceed 30% of the annual quota/catch limit allocated initially.

- c) The provisions referred to in sub-paragraphs a) and b) do not apply when a recommendation on a stock specifically deals with overages and underages.
- d) The provisions of subparagraphs a) and b) do not apply to the quotas fixed autonomously by the Contracting Parties.

2. Application measures

- a) If in the applicable management period a Contracting Party exceeds its quota/catch limit, this limit will be reduced in the next management period by 100% of the amount exceeding such quota/catch limit. However, ICCAT may authorize other alternative actions, and,

- b) If a Contracting Party exceeds its quota/catch limit during two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include a reduction in the quota/catch limit amounting to 125 % of the overage.

11.9 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF LARGE-SCALE FISHING VESSELS

NOTING that several ICCAT recommendations and resolutions refer to vessels greater than 24 meters length overall, large-scale fishing vessels and/or large scale tuna longline vessels, including the *Recommendation Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 24 Meters Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-22], and the *Recommendation Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13];

RECOGNIZING that a significant number of vessels just below 24 meters length overall have been and continue to be built and are operating in the ICCAT convention area;

INTERESTED in closing any potential loopholes with regard to efforts by fishing vessels just below 24 meters length overall to circumvent ICCAT's conservation and management measures;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Large-scale fishing vessels (LSFVs) and large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLVs) be defined as vessels larger than 15 meters in length overall in all ICCAT documents.
2. Any references in ICCAT's recommendations and resolutions to vessels "over 24 meters length overall" be changed to "over 15 meters length overall".