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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2006-07
PART I (2006) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(as of 31 December 2006)

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, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, 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, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, United States, Venezuela	Côte d'Ivoire
-2- <i>Temperate tunas, North</i>	Algeria, Belize, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, United States	European Community
-3- <i>Temperate tunas, South</i>	Belize, Brazil, European Community, Japan, Namibia, South Africa, 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, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela	Japan

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

	<i>Chair</i>
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: H. Arrizabalaga (EC-Spain), 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)	S. LAPOINTE, Canada (for 2006 Meeting)

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, 2006-2007, Part I (2006)*", which describes the activities of the Commission during the first half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 15th Special Meeting of the Commission (Dubrovnik, Croatia, November 17-26, 2006) 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 2006 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.

WILLIAM T. HOGARTH
Commission Chairman

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REPORT FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD, 2006-2007, PART I (2006)**SECRETARIAT REPORTS****2006 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 Syrian Arab Republic to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in September 2005, which was notified to the Secretariat in February 2006, the adherence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in November 2006, the Commission is comprised of the following 43 Contracting Parties (as of December 31, 2006): 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, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

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

In March the Secretariat received a notification that the Governments of the Republics of Angola and Cape Verde, respectively, had deposited their Instrument of Acceptance of the Madrid Protocol on March 7 and 27, 2006, before the Director General of FAO, which entered into force on March 10, 2005. Therefore, the 2006 Budget and that of future years will be based on the data according to the Madrid Protocol.

4. ICCAT Regulations and Resolutions**– Adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions**

On December 14, 2005, the Secretariat officially transmitted the texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted at the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission (Seville, Spain, November 14-20, 2005) to the Contracting Parties and to non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that have Atlantic coastlines or that fish tunas in the Convention area, and to intergovernmental fishery organizations, requesting their cooperation in this regard.

The texts of the Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission in 2005 were published in the *Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part II (2005), 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, and in accordance with Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention, the aforementioned **Recommendations** entered into force on June 13, 2006. On that date, the Contracting Parties were notified of the entry into force of these Recommendations. As regards the **Resolutions** adopted at the 19th Regular Meeting, these reflect decisions of a general nature that were adopted by the Commission during its 2005 meeting and which are not governed by the notification and review process outlined in Article VIII of the Convention.

¹Information as December 31, 2006.

5. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings and working groups

In accordance with Commission decisions on this subject, the following meetings were held in 2006:

- Workshops on Stock Structure of Swordfish (*Heraklion, Crete, Greece, March 13 to 15, 2006*).
- 4th Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies (*Palma de Mallorca, Spain, April 19 to 21, 2006*).
- 2nd Meeting of the Working Group to review the Statistical Monitoring Programs (*Palma de Mallorca, Spain, April 24 to 26, 2006*).
- Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Tropical Species Group (*Sete, France, April 24 to 28, 2006*).
- 2006 Marlin Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain, May 15 to 19, 2006*).
- 2006 ICCAT Bluefin tuna Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain, June 12 to 18, 2006*).
- 2006 Data Preparatory Meeting for Atlantic Albacore (*Madrid, Spain, July 3 to 6, 2006*).
- 2006 ICCAT Atlantic Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (*Madrid, Spain, September 4 to 8, 2006*).
- Meetings of Species Groups (*Madrid, Spain, September 25 to 29, 2006*).
- Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (*Madrid, Spain, October 2 to 6, 2006*).

In 2006, the Commission Chairman announced various Regional Workshops for the ICCAT members. In ICCAT Circular # 451/06, the Chairman explained that the objective of these Workshops was for Contracting Parties to share their opinions and points of view concerning any important matter related to ICCAT, as well as the Commission's priorities for 2006-2007 and later years. The Chairman sent €65,122 to cover the expenses for the organization of the Workshops and travel expenses of representatives of developing Contracting Parties, as well as the travel costs of the Secretariat.

- Workshop 1: North Africa/Northern Mediterranean (*Agadir, Morocco, April 13 & 14, 2006*). Participants: Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.
- Workshop 2, Caribbean and Latin America (*San Pedro, Belize, July 11 & 12, 2006*). Participants: Belize, Brazil, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and CARICOM.
- Workshop 3, West and Southern Africa (*Accra, Ghana, September 13 & 14, 2006*). Participants: Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Namibia, Senegal and St. Tome and Principe.
- Workshop 4. Distant Water Interests (*Tokyo, Japan, September 19 & 20, 2006*). Participants: Japan, Korean and Chinese Taipei.
- Workshop 5. North Atlantic (*Brussels, Belgium, October 25, 2006*). Participants: Canada, EC, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Norway, and the United States.

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 1**, which summarizes the main topics that were discussed at these meetings).

- Meeting of the EUROSTAT Working Group on Fishery Statistics (*Luxemburg, December 2, 2005*).
- FIRMS Technical Working Group (*Rome, Italy, December 5 to 8, 2005*).
- 30th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (*Istanbul, Turkey, January 24 to 27, 2006*).
- 3rd Meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee (*Madrid, Spain, February 13 to 15, 2006*).
- Meeting of the Informal Working Group in charge of studying issues relative to the conservation and use of marine biological diversity outside the areas of national jurisdiction (*New York, United States, February 13 to 17, 2006*).
- Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Working Group on Coordination of Fishing Statistics of CWP (*Madrid, Spain, February 14 & 15, 2006*).
- Preparatory Meeting of the Conference to Review the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (*New York, United States, March 20 to 24, 2006*).
- Conference to Review the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (*New York, United States, May 22 to 26, 2006*).
- Methodological Workshop on the Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity (*La Jolla, California, May 8 to 12, 2006*).
- 10th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (*Santiago de Compostela, Spain, May 29 to June 2, 2006*).

- 30th Virginia Law of the Sea Conference: Law, Science and Ocean Management (*Dublin, Ireland, July 12 to 14, 2006*).
- Sixth Committee Meeting of the Officers Ministerial Conference on the Cooperation in Fisheries Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT) (*Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, July 18 to 21, 2006*).
- Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) (*Rome, Italy, October 24 to 27, 2006*).
- Presentation of the FADIO project (*Monaco, October 26, 2006*).
- Working Group on FADs (*Saintes, Guadeloupe, December 5 to 8, 2006*).

In addition to the above, Mr. Javier Ariz (IEO, Spain) represented the Commission at the 7th Meeting of the IATTC Working Group on Assessment (*La Jolla, California, May 15 to 19, 2006*).

Also, the Executive Secretary maintained a series of meetings with the Commission Chairman in which matters related to the functioning of ICCAT have been discussed (**Appendix 1**).

7. Tagging lottery

In order to encourage the recovery of tags placed by various ICCAT Contracting Party, a drawing is held each year for the three species groups (tropical tunas, temperate tunas, and billfishes), with a US\$500 for each one.

This year's drawing was held on October 5, 2006 in the Gran Hotel Velázquez (Madrid) during the plenary sessions of the SCRS and the winning tags are as follows:

- *Tropical tunas*: Tag # HM-065177, recovered by the United States. The United States tagged this yellowfin tuna on January 9, 2005.
- *Temperate tunas*: Tag # HM-063836, recovered by the United States. The United States tagged this swordfish on March 22, 2003.
- *Billfishes*: Tag # HM-063507, recovered by Venezuela. This blue marlin was tagged on April 20, 2003.

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 16, 2005, the Commission Chairman, Dr. William T. Hogarth, sent the following special letters (see Appendix 4 to Annex 9, and Appendix 8 to Annex 10 of the *ICCAT Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part II*).

Contracting Parties:

- **Honduras**: Requesting information on the monitoring, control and surveillance measures taken by Honduras.

Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities:

- **Bolivia**: Regarding continuation of bigeye tuna trade restrictive measures
- **Cambodia**: Seeking information on vessel registry and MCS measures in force.
- **Chinese Taipei**: Transmitting the Recommendation to reduce bigeye catch limits and improve fleet control and renewing Cooperating Status.
- **Colombia**: Seeking information on a flag vessel on ICCAT's IUU list
- **Costa Rica**: Regarding continuation of identification in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures*.
- **Cuba**: Regarding continuation of identification in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures*.
- **Ecuador**: Requesting information regarding its catch of Atlantic bigeye tuna and on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS).
- **Egypt**: Informing that Cooperating Status could not be granted as terms of Recommendation 03-20 were not fully met.
- **Georgia**: Regarding continuation of bigeye tuna trade restrictive measures.

- **Maldives:** Requesting information on fishing activities and on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS).
- **Netherlands Antilles:** Renewing Cooperating Status and expressing concern about bigeye tuna harvests.
- **Sierra Leone:** Requesting information on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS), including the process and rules for vessel registration.
- **Singapore:** Regarding continuation of identification in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures*.
- **Sri Lanka:** Requesting information on fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area.
- **St. Vincent and the Grenadines:** Regarding identification in accordance with the Trade Measures Resolution.
- **Togo:** Requesting information on the fleet and on monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS).

In 2005, the Commission also instructed the Executive Secretary to liaise with Costa Rica, Cuba, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels to ensure that Commission letter has been received and attempt to elicit a response. Accordingly, the Secretariat sent letters to the aforementioned countries on September 4, 2006 in an attempt to verify that the Chairman's letters had been received. A response was received only from Sri Lanka. In October 2006 the Secretariat sent a Verbal Notes to the Embassy of Sierra Leone in Paris, and to the Embassies of Costa Rica and Cuba in Madrid. None of these countries responded to the notes prior to the Commission meeting.

8.2 Letters concerning fulfillment of budgetary obligations

In early 2006 the Executive Secretary notified all the Contracting Parties of their contributions to the 2006 budget. In May, 2006, the Commission Chairman sent a first reminder concerning the payment of contributions in arrears.

In September, the Executive Secretary sent a second reminder to the Contracting Parties that had not made their corresponding payments. As of December 31, 2006, the following Contracting Parties had not paid their total contributions are: Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea (Rep.), Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Tomé & Príncipe, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Uruguay, and Vanuatu.

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

In accordance with the Commission's decision at its meeting in Seville in November 2005, aimed at remedying the situation concerning the delays concerning budgetary obligations, the Commission Chairman sent letters in November to Cape Verde, Gabon and Honduras in which he notified these Parties that they should present a payment plan in 2006, in view of the decision adopted by the Commission to apply Article X.8, i.e., the loss of voting rights, if such a plan was not presented. In May and September 2006, the Executive Secretary sent reminders of the previous letters.

In May and September 2006, the Executive Secretary sent letters to Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay and Vanuatu informing them that as of 2006 they are included among those Contracting Parties whose past due debt exceeds two years and that if this situation is not remedied, discussions would take place at the next Commission to apply Article X.8 of the ICCAT Convention.

Also in May and September, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary sent reminders to Ghana and the Republic of Guinea concerning their compliance with the payment plans presented at the Commission meeting in Seville. They also reminded St. Tomé and Príncipe that it should present its payment plan in 2006.

On December 31, 2006, the Contracting Parties whose debt exceeds two fiscal years were: Cape Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and St. Tome & Príncipe.

9. Secretariat publications in 2006

The following publications were issued in 2006:

- Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part II (2005) (Vols. 1, 2 and 3): English.
- Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part II (2005) (Vols. 1, 2 and 3): French.

- Report for Biennial Period, 2004-05, Part II (2005) (Vols. 1, 2 and 3): Spanish.
- Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 35.
- Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. LIX, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 (printed copies and on CD ROM).
- ICCAT Newsletter (February and September, 2006).

10. Organization and management of Secretariat staff

10.1 Organization

For information purposes, since 2005 the Secretariat is organized as follows:

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 Department of Translation and Publications is in charge of tasks related with the compilation, adoption, translation and publications of circulars, reports and scientific documents in the three official languages of the Commission. The Department is comprised of seven staff:

Pilar Pallarés: Publications Coordinator.

Philomena Seidita: Technical Officer and translator.

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

Compliance Department

The Compliance Department carries out, among others tasks, the monitoring and compliance of the ICCAT regulatory measures, validation of ICCAT Statistical Document programs and the preparation of compliance tables. The Department is comprised of one staff member.

Jenny Cheatle: Technical Officer who carries out the tasks assigned to the Department, under the supervision of the Assistant Executive Secretary.

Department of Coordination of Scientific Activities

The scientists of the Contracting Parties carry out a wide range of scientific research and a monitoring of activities aimed at the conservation of the tuna resources. The Secretariat is directly involved in the coordination of some of these activities, which are carried out by the Assistant Executive Secretary as the Scientific Coordinator and in which other Department of the Secretariat also participate.

Department of Finance and Administration

This Department carries out all the administrative, financial and human resources tasks of the Secretariat. The Department is comprised of six staff members.

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

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

At the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission, it was proposed that a study be conducted on the functioning of the Secretariat to define and review the tasks it carries out, as well as the resources available to it. In 2006, the

Secretariat prepared a document on the functioning of the Secretariat (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**) which provides an extensive description of its structure and organization.

10.2 Pension plan for Secretariat staff

In accordance with the Commission's decision at its 14th Special Meeting (New Orleans, November 2004), as regards consulting the ICCAT staff about their possible joining the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), the Executive Secretary informed all the staff of the decision adopted by the Commission and provided the necessary information so that all the staff members could be duly informed.

In September 2005, a representative of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund visited the Secretariat and informed all the staff of the conditions for joining the Pension Fund. Later, the Executive Secretary asked the staff to indicate their intentions about joining the Fund and gave them a period of time in which to decide.

At the 19th Regular Meeting (Seville, November 2005), the Commission approved the proposal to amend Articles 6.1 and 6.2 of the *Staff Regulations and Rules*, to adapt them to the possible incorporation in the Pension Fund.

In December 2005, the Executive Secretary requested the staff to give their definitive decision. Once all the information provided by each staff member was compiled, the Executive Secretary, on March 30, 2006, sent the official request to join the U.N. Joint Staff Pension Fund, including all the documentation requested as well as a list of the staff that had decided to join the Fund.

On August 21, 2006, the Pension Fund informed ICCAT that its candidature to join the Fund had been reviewed during its regular meeting (Nairobi, Kenya, July 13-21, 2006), and that the request for membership had been rejected since it did not comply with Article 3 of the Statutes of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, indicating, however, that in the future and once the ICCAT *Staff Regulations and Rules* aligned with those of the United Nations Pension Fund, ICCAT could again request joining the Fund.

The UNJSPF has indicated three conditions that are not compatible with its regulations:

- a) Participation in UNJSPF would be compulsory for all serving staff that qualify, while ICCAT has given free choice to its staff currently participating in Van Breda;
- b) the Commission's contribution to the pension plans of staff hired before 2000 under Articles 6.1.c and 6.2.c of the ICCAT Staff Rules and Regulations departs from the UN Common System of salaries and allowances;
- c) ICCAT's privileges and immunities as an international organization are only recognized by Spain through the Seat Agreement, which could impact adversely the Pension Fund's own privileges and immunities, particularly as regards investments.

Through correspondence with UNJSPF administration, the Executive Secretary explained that (a) and (b) above had been accepted by ICCAT, being mindful of acquired employee rights. In addition, conditions (a) and (b) are transitional because they would eventually disappear through the retirement of staff who are under this system.

However, condition (c) remains a major obstacle to joining the UNJSPF. Therefore, the Secretariat recommends that the Commission consider the feasibility of extending recognition of ICCAT's privileges and immunities to all Contracting Parties. The potential benefits would probably not be limited to facilitating the change to the UNJSPF. The recent increase in Commission meetings outside Spain and the likely future increase in workload outside Spain (e.g. due to observer programs) warrant a careful consideration of this matter.

Thus, it is recommended that the Commission take a decision on this matter as soon as possible.

11. Other matters

11.1 New headquarters of the ICCAT Secretariat

Contacts continued in 2006 with the Spanish Authorities concerning the work needed to be carried out on the headquarters to meet the needs of the Secretariat. Based on the progress made, it is expected that by 2007 or the first quarter of 2008 the new Secretariat offices will be ready.

11.2 Management of other programs

Since 2004, Japan has provided funds to finance a five-year project for the improvement of data on the tuna fisheries. A Project Coordinator and an administrative assistant were hired to monitor the project activities and the accounts.

Since 2005, the United States of America has contributed to the Special Data Fund established in accordance with [Rec. 03-01], to assistant scientists from developing countries to participate in the meetings of the Scientific Committee.

In February 2006, the United States provided €25,020, as a contribution towards compliance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 03-04].

In March 2006, the United States also sent funds (€65,122), to finance the trip expenses for representatives from developing ICCAT Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to participate in the Workshops convened by the Chairman.

In June 2006, a joint contract was signed between ICCAT and the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) regarding issues of common interest in research. The three-year contract is aimed at furthering the study on the biology, fishing and sustainable exploitation of species under ICCAT mandate by means of electronic tagging. In this regard, €70,000 are available to the Secretariat for the purchase of tags for the scientists.

During the 2005 SCRS Meeting, the Informal Group on the Coordination of Funds proposed the possibility of using the balance from the BETYP to support the scientific and statistical work of ICCAT. After the meeting of the SCRS the Executive Secretary received the approval and confirmation from the donors for this purpose. Thus a fund with a balance of €20,000 was created, financed by the European Community, to be used to finalize the ICCAT Manual, and a tag fund with a balance of €20,457.20, financed by Japan.

**MEETINGS AT WHICH ICCAT WAS REPRESENTED
BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2005 AND NOVEMBER 2006**

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 other persons on behalf of the Secretariat. Basic information presented for each meeting includes substantive agenda items and the main implications for ICCAT.

Fishery Statistics Working Group, Committee of Agricultural Statistics (EUROSTAT)

Location: Luxemburg, December 2, 2005

Representative: P. Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat)

Substantive Agenda Items: Reorganization of EUROSTAT services; Review of the draft regulation on the submission of statistical data on aquaculture and status of the adoption of the draft regulation on fish landing statistics.

Comments: A summary presentation of the new structure of EUROSTAT was presented with a detailed description of the Department of Fishing Statistics. The rest of the discussions focused on the draft regulation on the collection and submission of statistics on aquaculture by EC Member States. The definition of terms in use, as well as the format for submitting information, raised a lot of discussions. The idea was maintained proceeding to an improvement of the text from here in the first quarter of 2006, in consultation with the General Directorate of Fisheries of Brussels, to better take into consideration the current legislation.

The procedure used, aimed at carrying out precise regulatory provisions on data formats, terminology and concept, contributes substantially to the submission and processing of statistical information.

Actions: None.

Report availability: The report will be available on the EUROSTAT web site.

FIRMS Technical Working Group

Location: FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, December 5-8, 2005

Representative: P. Pallarés (ICCAT)

Substantive Agenda Items:

- Revision of the structure and contents of the FIRMS web page.
- Presentation and revision of the process of elaboration and validation of entries to the FIRMS web page.
- Presentation of the FIRMS module on fisheries.

Comments: The Meeting resulted in an important advance concerning the collaboration of criteria and decision making regarding the structure of the web page on marine resources.

In general, the freedom of partners to define the terms of their own Fact Sheets was confirmed. This includes the definition of titles, search designs, etc.

Regarding ICCAT, the points of major interest which were discussed were as follows:

- Differentiation stock-resource. At the beginning the Fact Sheets were conceived as stocks. In the case of ICCAT, the species with more than a differentiated stock could be considered as:
 - In different Fact Sheets, one per stock.

- As a resource. In that case the title of the sheet would be modified, including resource status, instead of stock status and, in all cases, “considered as a single stock” would appear in the summary.
- The same flexible criteria is applied for the designation of the type of “assessment method” (direct, indirect or none).
- Partners can define a search hierarchy to organize the list of species.

Actions: From the discussions maintained, several matters came up that the Secretariat should verify and others for which it should make decisions. Such as:

- Review the statistical parts that appear on the ICCAT web site, in some cases, these do not correspond with the stock structure.
- Participation of ICCAT in the fisheries inventory. Currently ICCAT does not participate in this inventory, only in the inventory resources.
- Supply an ICCAT list of users of the system.
- Review that the criteria for data validation are followed.
- Discuss the proposal of terms presented during the meeting.

Report availability: FAO-FIDI (and <http://firms.fao.org>)

Report of the 30th Session of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Location: Istanbul, Turkey, January 24-27, 2006.

Representative: D. Meski (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: Inter-sessional activities of the Committees; Management of Mediterranean Fisheries, Issues connected with the functioning of the Commission.

Comments: Following review of the various inter-sessional activities of the various GFCM committees, and in particular the Scientific Advisory Committee, the following Recommendations were adopted:

- Recommendation GFCM/2006/1 on the management of certain fisheries exploiting demersal and small pelagic.
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/2 on the establishment of a closed season for the dolphinfish fisheries based on fishing aggregation devices (FADs).
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/3 on the establishment of fisheries restrictive areas in order to protect the deep sea sensitive habitats.

The GFCM also adopted the following measures, aimed primarily at combating IUU activities in the Mediterranean Sea:

- Recommendation GFCM/2006/4 on the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the GFCM area.
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/5 on the criteria for obtaining the status of cooperating non-contracting GFCM area.
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/6 on the terms of reference for the GFCM Compliance Committee.
- Recommendation GFCM/2006/7 on data confidentiality policy and procedures.

GFCM/2006/4 and GFCM/2006/5 are similar in nature to the ICCAT measures taken in relation to these topics.

Such coherence between the measures taken by the various RFMOs will not doubt assist in their implementation by those which are Contracting Parties to both Commissions.

Further collaboration was evidenced by the adoption of three Recommendations which had been adopted by ICCAT at its 19th Regular Meeting:

- Recommendation [05-04] to amend the Recommendation [04-06] on Bluefin Tuna Farming GFCM/2006/8 (A).

- Recommendation [05-05] to amend the Recommendation [04-10] concerning the conservation of Sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT (GFCM/2006/8 (B)).
- Recommendation [05-06] establishing a program for transshipment by large-scale longline fishing vessels (GFCM/2006/8 (C)).

In relation to the mandate of the joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species, the Commission acknowledged once more the positive achievements of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species since its establishment in 1989. In view of the wish expressed by ICCAT to consider the proposed updated mandate for the Joint Working Group at its next plenary session, the Commission decided to review progress made on this issue at its Thirty-first session which will take place in January 2007. At its 19th Regular meeting, it was agreed that ICCAT would consider this issue in light of the decision of the GFCM.

There was some considerable discussion in relation to administrative and financial matters of the Commission, including status of ratification, headquarters of the Commission, implementation of the autonomous budget, adjustments to the rules of procedure and the preparation of a compendium of recommendations and resolutions and the meeting schedule for 2006, which includes nine meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee, and eight meetings relating to the work of the Committee on Aquaculture.

Actions: None.

Report availability: ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/gfcm/gfcm_30/GFCM30e.pdf

Third Meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee

Location: Madrid, Spain, February 13-15, 2006.

Representative: V. Restrepo, P. Pallares, P. Kebe, and C. Palma (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: Progress on the development of FIRMS Partnership; Review of new perspective Partners; Review of Technical Working Group Meeting; FIRMS Information Management Policy; Review of the Progress Status of the FIRMS Database and Module Development.

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, using a harmonized internet-based structure. ICCAT's principal contribution is the species executive summaries produced by the SCRS. The meeting was hosted by ICCAT.

Much of the meeting was devoted to make improvements on standard terminology to be used in the reports from the various bodies. Considerable attention was paid to the possible use of common descriptors for stock status. Up to now, FIRMS has adopted the seven standard descriptors that FAO has used for many years ("overexploited", "fully-exploited", etc.). ICCAT noted several concerns with this system that could lead to inaccuracies in reporting for ICCAT stocks. The meeting agreed on a proposal to study the possibility of adopting two different sets of descriptors instead: one for stock abundance, and another for exploitation rate.

The SCRS will be consulted about the appropriateness of such a system.

The meeting also made considerable progress on the information management policy, including terminology.

At this time, the FIRMS system is sufficiently developed so that example stock status reports should be made available in the short-term. The meeting agreed that the United Nations Conference meeting held in May 2006 on the UNFSA provided a good opportunity to "kick-off" FIRMS and publicize it.

ICCAT plans to complete the uploading of its executive summary reports into FIRMS by May 2006.

Actions: SCRS: The Committee should decide on the usefulness of adopting a common set of qualitative descriptors of stock status as recommended by the meeting. The Committee should also monitor the development of FIRMS, as this can become an effective mechanism for making the species summaries available to a much wider audience worldwide than is currently possible with the Biennial Reports and the ICCAT Web.

Report availability: From FAO-FIGIS (and <http://firms.fao.org>)

Meeting of the Informal Working Group in charge of studying issues relative to the conservation and use of the marine biological diversity outside the areas of national jurisdiction

Location: New York, February 13-17, 2006

Representatives: Driss Meski (ICCAT)

Comments: This meeting, in which Mr. Meski participated, was held in compliance with Resolution 59-24 of the United Nations, in order to discuss improved knowledge on scientific, socioeconomic and environmental aspects of marine biodiversity. This, with the aim of analyzing to what extent the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea could be applied to assume sustainable conservation and exploitation of marine biodiversity in areas located outside national jurisdiction.

During the discussion, emphasis was placed on the contribution of the overall group of players comprised of international, intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations for the compliance of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

All these should be carried out based on precautionary and eco-system approaches that have resulted from scientific studies and impact studies carried out in this regard.

All the competent authorities, United Nations, FAO and regional fishery organizations should get involved in this matter so as to prevent all practices of destructive fishing.

It was agreed to continue with discussion under the responsibility of the United Nations to arrive at establishing targeted programs.

Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Working Group on Coordination of Fishing Statistics of CWP

Location: Madrid, Spain (ICCAT headquarters), February 14-15, 2006

Representatives: P. Kebe, C. Palma, P. Pallarés, V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat)

Substantive agenda items:

- Progress on the FishCode – STF Project
- Statistics on aquaculture
- Format of the file of vessels and fishing ports
- Quality indicators of fishery data
- CWP visibility

Comments:

1. *Status of Progress on the FAO FishCode - STF Project.* In the framework of this project which is aimed at improving information on the fishing status and trends, several working groups have been organized by FAO in collaboration with regional fishery bodies (SEAFDEAC, OSPESCA, SPC et IATTC).
Thus ICCAT has reported on the progress of these two projects regarding the improvement of data. FAO and ICCAT should collaborate in the future to better harmonize their actions on this matter.
2. *Statistics on Aquaculture.* EUROSTAT has some problems as regards the concepts and definitions used in aquaculture, and the CWP should monitor this matter. Furthermore, the idea of creating a working group outside CWP was maintained including NACA (Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia and Pacific) which has the most experience in this domain. At the next CWP meeting, EUROSTAT and ICCAT will present a document that will serve as a basis for discussions.
3. *Format of the file of vessels and fishing ports.* The new revision of vessel codes (ISSCFV) and the coding of fishing ports based on the UN-LOCODE was presented by the CWP Secretariat. This system is still provisional and a re-evaluation of its usefulness will be carried out later.
4. *Quality indicators of fishery data.* A document was prepared by FAO. Its publication is expected for 2006. Members of the CWP were recommended to review this document and send their comments to FAO as soon as possible.
5. *CWP visibility.* Regional Fishery Bodies should incorporate links that are more visible in their web page in the CWP web site. At the next CWP meeting NAFO should present specific proposals regarding this matter.

The 22nd CWP meeting will be held in Rome in 2007 a week before the COFI meeting.

Report availability: CWP site:

http://www.fao.org/fi/NEMS/events/home_search_events.asp?order=DESC&search=1&lang=es&body=CWP&month=13&year=ALL

Conference to Review the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

Location: *United Nations, New York, March 20-24, 2006 (Preparatory Meeting) and March 22-26, 2006 (Work of the Conference)*

Representatives: *Mr. D. Meski (Preparatory Meeting and Work of the Conference) and Dr. W. T. Hogarth (Work of the Conference)*

Comments:

Preparatory Meeting, March 20-24, 2006:

In the framework of consultations among States regarding the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, regional fishery management bodies (RFMOs) were invited to participate in the meeting held at the United Nations headquarters regarding the preparation of the Conference to Review the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement which will take place from May 22-26, 2006. This Conference is held under the provisions of the 1995 Agreement, ten years after its entry into force. ICCAT was represented by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski.

The meeting centered on a discussion of a general nature regarding the way in which the Conference would be conducted. Thus, several interventions concentrated on the objectives of this conference, in particular, regarding matters related to the implementation of provisions of the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

During the first session, the ICCAT Executive Secretary made an intervention in which he presented how ICCAT has agreed with the provisions of Article 10 of the Agreement.

There was a discussion on the organization of the work of the Review Conference, the draft Agenda, procedures and the constitution of the Conference Officers.

The meeting concentrated on the participation of Parties that have not yet ratified the Agreement. Particular attention was given to the place the evaluation performance of regional fishery management bodies (RFMOs) should have in the work of the Conference to Review the Agreement.

The regional fishery bodies have been requested to provide all information which is considered necessary to contribute to the work of the Conference.

At the end of the meeting a work framework was adopted, whereby the agenda of the Conference was adopted. However, no compromise was reached regarding the procedures and the constitution of the Bureau. It was agreed to return to this matter, right from the start of the inauguration conference in May 2006.

The RFMOs have been requested to provide all the necessary documentation regarding the implementation of Agreement provisions.

Work of the Conference, May 22-26, 2006:

The Conference to review the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, held following several informal consultations, had a considerable participation, not only of State Parties, but also intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. ICCAT was represented by the Chairman, Dr. William T. Hogarth and the Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski.

From the start of this work, the Conference should reach consensus on the development procedures and selection of the Officers. The main problem was to come to an agreement regarding the participation of the Parties that have not yet ratified the Agreement, both at the officers level, as well as decision making and elaboration of the report. After a long discussion, the Conference reached a compromise allowing States that are not party to the Agreement, to be involved in all phases of the work. That is how the Officers and the Editor Committee have thus been established with the participation of States that are not party to the Agreement. Due to the lack of consensus, the procedures, were adopted provisionally to be reviewed again if necessary, for final adoption.

In the participants' interventions several issues were raised, in particular, the role that the RFMOs should play and the adoption of a precautionary echo-system approach. Likewise, several delegations insisted on scientific

research directed at a better understanding of the state of the resources. In this regard, the ICCAT Chairman explained the actions carried out by ICCAT for the application of the provisions of Article 10 of the 1995 Agreement supporting the documents distributed by the Executive Secretary on the overall measures and procedures undertaken by our organization.
(see http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/review_conf_InputsIGOs.htm).

Assistance to developing countries was also stressed by various delegations that pointed out that this could contribute to a strong adherence to the Agreement. Supplementary information regarding financial assistance is found at the following site:
http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/fishstocktrustfund.htm

The strengthening of RFMOs and the evaluation of their performance were also at the core of the work of the Conference.

At the end of this work, the Conference was adjourned at the proposal of the Chairman. The participants could not reach a consensus on the monitoring of the application of the Agreement, in particular, the periodicity of holding the Review Conference and/or informal consultations.

It was agreed that the final report of the Conference would be distributed to all the organizations under the auspices of the United Nations and the Secretariats of RFMOs and to continue the informal consultations with Parties to monitor the application of the Agreement with the idea of holding the Review Conference no later than 2011.

Methodological Workshop on the Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity: Stock Status, Data Envelopment Analysis, Industry Surveys and Management Options

Location: La Jolla, California, United States, May 8-12, 2006.

Representative: V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: (A) To develop quantitative methods to determine the desired magnitude of or desired change to fishing capacity on the basis of the status of stocks, taking into account the multi-species and multi-gear nature of tuna fisheries; (B) To determine the feasibility of (i) routinely collecting input data for the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) and (ii) performing industry surveys of tuna fishing capacity utilization; (C) To relate DEA estimates of fishing capacity utilization to traditional estimates of fishing capacity; (D) To review the factors affecting fishing capacity (number of vessels, their physical characteristics, etc.) that could be regulated by fisheries authorities; (E) To review the existing measures for managing tuna fishing capacity and possibly, to identify additional options for such measures in the context of the outcome of addressing Objectives A to D.

Comments: The Workshop was convened by an FAO project funded by the government of Japan, with the collaboration of several tuna agencies and programs. Participants included staff from various Secretariats, universities and government agencies, all of whom were asked to participate in an expert capacity. Most methods available to estimate capacity use data on catch rates and vessel characteristics, independently of stock status information. One of the methods introduced at the workshop was based on stock assessment results. The Workshop agreed that such methods were promising and recommended further work to be undertaken. A series of other methodological recommendations were made. The Workshop also recommended that detailed data sets that relate catch/effort to the physical characteristics of vessels be made available to further develop quantitative methods.

On the issue of managing capacity, the Workshop concluded that there was mounting evidence that the current fishing capacity worldwide exceeds the long-term potential for most stocks. The Workshop produced a statement listing interim measures that could be taken in order to stabilize the situation, including a moratorium on new large-scale tuna vessels. The statement also included recommendations for the long-term management of capacity.

Report availability: Proceedings of the Workshop will be published by FAO.

Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Assessment of Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Stocks (IATTC)

Location: La Jolla, California, United States, May 15-19, 2006.

Representative: J. Aríz (IEO, Spain).

In response to an invitation from the Inter-American Tropical Tunas Commission (IATTC), ICCAT participated as an observer in the work of the Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Assessment of IATTC Stocks.

Substantive Agenda Items: This Working Group responds to an initiative of the IATTC Director. At this type of working group no parallel analyses are carried out to those carried out by IATTC scientists, which are those that present assessments of the various tuna stocks, and the participants analyze and discuss the documents prepared by IATTC staff.

This year, in addition to the discussion on the analysis of the distinct species assessed, the Group also discussed various issues proposed by the Commission: 1) the proportion of the weight of the fins to the body weight of sharks; 2) the impact of the incidental catch of sea birds and the identification of the geographic areas where there could be interactions; 3) the assessment of key shark species and the preparation of a plan for a complete assessment of sharks, in cooperation with scientists of the Parties and those of the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

As regards the species under IATTC mandate, the stock assessments carried out by IATTC on yellowfin, bigeye, swordfish and silky shark, were reviewed. The yellowfin and bigeye stock assessments were carried out with A-SCALA.

Documents were also reviewed concerning sensitivity analysis of Japanese longline catches of bigeye, an assessment of this species for the entire Pacific Ocean, analysis of skipjack CPUE, presentation of the results of experiments using circular hooks (in the eastern Pacific and Indian Oceans), estimates of the rates of shark fin weight in relation to body weight, interactions of sea birds in longline fishing, research plan for a complete assessment of the shark stocks, analysis of the results of the management measures adopted for the 2004-2006 period, and review of the recommendations developed by IATTC.

The participants made various recommendations, among which the following are noteworthy: 1) that the Group continue carrying out its activities; 2) that the assessment model run be carried out various times during the meeting, for yellowfin and bigeye; 3) that the Commission coordinates together with WCPFC and other Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs,) the implementation of resolutions on sea birds and the preparation of information and scientific papers that support this information; 4) a skipjack assessment for the entire Pacific carried out together with WCPFC; 5) that IATTC, in collaboration with other RFMOs, develop a strategy to mitigate the by-catches in the various fisheries, and that this item be included on the agenda for the meeting in Kobe, Japan (January 2007); 6) develop a joint IATTC-WCPFC tagging program; 7) analysis of the size of the closure area and the duration of the closures to alleviate the problems of by-catch; and 8) that during the 2006 closures, permit detailed research to be carried out in the area with commercial vessels.

Report availability: <http://www.iattc.org/IATTCandAIDCPMeetingMay06SPN.htm>

Report of the 10th Session of the Sub-Committee on Trade of the FAO Committee on Fisheries

Location: Santiago de Compostela, Spain, from May 29 to June 2, 2006.

Representative: J. Cheatle (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: MoU between FAO and CITES; Technical Guidelines for responsible fish trade; Safety and quality requirements in international fish trade; Traceability and labeling; harmonization of catch documentation; consideration of projects for CFC funding; fish trade and food security; fish trade and small scale fisheries; reconstruction of fisheries in Tsunami affected countries.

Comments: The MoU between FAO and CITES was adopted by consensus as presented to the Sub-Committee without amendment, although some members expressed concerns.

In relation to the discussion of harmonization of catch documentation, it was agreed that this issue remained important in relation to the International Plan of Action on eliminating IUU fisheries. The current ongoing process of improvements to the ICCAT Statistical Document Program was noted. The matter of harmonization is to be kept on the Sub-Committee agenda, and will also be addressed at the forthcoming meeting of tuna RFMOs in January 2007.

The Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fish Trade were not adopted by the Sub-Committee, and there was agreement that a Technical Consultation should be held to update and amend the guidelines in line with the many concerns expressed by the members.

With regard to eco-labeling, it was agreed that FAO should carry out a study to clarify whether all current eco-labeling schemes currently in force were in compliance with the Technical Guidelines which had been adopted by the COFI.

One of the common threads running through many of the other agenda items was the fear that progress made in eliminating tariff barriers and liberalizing trade could be eroded through disguised trade barriers in the form of unfounded safety and hygiene regulations, or through regulations adopted with the purpose of ensuring sustainable fisheries, but which served mainly to hinder free trade. One of the challenges open to RFMOs will therefore be to ensure the adoption of transparent measures based on scientific or demonstrable evidence which can be implemented by all parties and which will result in sustainable fisheries but do not act, or be seen to act, as unjustifiable trade barriers. There was also a strong call for capacity building in order to be able to implement all international requirements, the burdens of which were often unsustainable for small scale or artisanal type fisheries.

Another theme which was raised in connection with several agenda items was the need to clarify participatory rights and access to fisheries. Many members believed that the issue of allocation was vital both to trade issues and to the correct functioning of fisheries management regimes.

Three additional topics were raised under other matters by members: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization; the future work and role of the Sub-Committee on Fish trade, and the Management of High Seas fisheries. In relation to this latter, the FAO's role in linking trade to fish stock management was stressed.

Actions: None.

Report availability: FAO website

30th Virginia Law of the Sea Conference: Law, Science and Ocean Management

Location: Dublin Castle, Ireland, July 12 to 14, 2006

Representative: P. Pallarés (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: This is the 30th session of the Conference that is devoted to the development of the Law of the Sea. The Conference was structured by panels in which selected experts presented documents. In the panels a range of contemporary issues regarding the role of law and science in ocean management were discussed: Panel I: Setting the Scene. Panel II: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management. Panel III: Ocean Exploration. Panel IV: Marine Science Capacity Building. Panel V: Marine Science and Policy. Panel VI: Marine Science and Law. Panel VII: Marine Biological Diversity, Genetic Resources and the Law of the Sea. Three keynote speakers as the European Commissioner of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (Development of the European Union's Maritime Policy), the Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (Future Strategic Developments in the Law of the Sea) or the Executive Secretary of IOC and Assistant of Director-General of UNESCO (Keynote Address) completed the program.

Comments: The Conference was co-sponsored by the Center for Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia School of Law, the Marine Law and Ocean Policy Centre at the National University of Ireland, Galway, the Marine Institute, Ireland and the Law of the Sea Institute of Iceland. Participants included a wide range of entities mainly related with law although marine research was also well represented. The presence of RFMOs was limited. The conference gave a good opportunity to know the legal perspective of the research and management of the ocean. The effort conducted by entities in order to implement the law of the sea as well as the existing gaps in their development were presented. A higher participation of regional fishery bodies would be desirable in future sessions.

Report availability: Conference proceedings will be published by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. Further Information: www.virginia.edu/colp/.

Sixth Committee Meeting of the Officers Ministerial Conference on the Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT)

Location: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, July 18-21, 2006.

Representative: P. Kebe (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: Creation of the Sub-regional Committee on Fisheries of the Gulf of Guinea (east central). Review of the manual on the distribution of pelagic species of the Atlantic African coast. Cooperation project with international organizations. Review of the financial regulations of COMHAFAT.

Comments: The participation of all the member countries of the officers (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Morocco, Mauritania and Nigeria) was noted. Japan participated in the meeting as an observer, as well as the following international organizations: FAO, ICCAT, Regional Committee of Fishing of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP), Sub-regional Commission on Fishing (CSRP), INFOPECHE, Intergovernmental Organization on Information and Cooperation for the Commercialization of Fishing Products in Africa (INFOPECHE).

The officers meeting recommended that ICCAT and COMHAFAT develop a joint project on areas of mutual interest.

Collaboration with ICCAT is also required for the review of the manual on distribution of pelagic species of the Atlantic African coast.

The next meeting of the Conference of Ministers will be held in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in July 2007.

Actions: The ICCAT Secretariat should submit the joint project to the Commission for its approval.

Report availability: The report will be available on the COHMAFAT web site (<http://www.comhafat.org>).

Ninth Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

Location: Rome, Italy, October 24-27, 2006.

Representative: V. Restrepo (ICCAT Secretariat).

Substantive Agenda Items: Review of inter-sessional activities; formulation of advice in fishery management and research; scientific cooperation with ICCAT; workplan for 2007.

Comments: The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) considered ways in which it may collaborate with ICCAT's SCRS. As background, the GFCM Secretariat prepared a document entitled "Preliminary outline for a paper on the assessment of the main results of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Species", which provided information on the work carried out jointly by the two Committees in the past.

One of the areas of potential interaction that was identified was on the collection of fishery data and biological studies for small tuna species. The SAC invited the Secretariats of GFCM and ICCAT to prepare draft terms of reference accordingly so that they could be presented to both Commissions, which should ultimately decide on the desired framework for collaboration.

Actions: Commission: The Commission could consider how the two scientific Committees should interact in the future.

Report Availability: From GFCM (and <http://www.faogfcm.org>)

Meeting on the Presentation of the FADIO Project

Location: Monaco, October 26, 2006

Representative: P. Pallarés (ICCAT)

Substantive Agenda Items: Presentation of the results obtained by the FADIO research project financed by the EC.

Comments: The FADIO Project, financed by the DG XII (Research), was aimed at studying the behaviour of fish species that aggregate around the FADs (Fish Aggregation Devices). For the development of the project, the collaboration of the fishing sector has been fundamental. Thus the presentation was directed, not only at the scientific community, but also to other sectors, particularly, the fishing sector. Representatives from the majority of the RFMOs attended the presentation. Among the results of the project, of note is the development of electronic tags with physiological sensors that allow monitoring of the feeding processes of the fish.

More information on this Project can be found at: <http://www.fadio.ird.fr/>

Lesser Antilles Ad Hoc Working Group on the Sustainable Development of Moored FAD Fishing: Function and Operation

Location: Saintes, Guadeloupe, December 5 to 8, 2006

Representative: P. Kebe (ICCAT)

Participants: Representatives from the following countries participated in the work of this session: Guadeloupe (France), La Reunión (France), Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Lucia, Haiti, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominique. There was also regional representation from FAO, the IFREMER of Nantes (France), and the Rapporteur of the ICCAT SCRS Billfish Species Group.

Substantive Agenda Items:

- Item on the knowledge acquired in moored FAD technologies
- Estimates of catches made, by species and by country
- Plan for biological sampling of the catches
- Standardization of the measures and weight and length units
- Status of the stocks of billfish, yellowfin tuna and Blackfin tuna

Comments:

- Some quite strong recommendations have been adopted for the improvement of catch and effort statistics and sampling of tunas and billfish caught in this new fishery.
- Some improvements in the techniques to use to reduce negative impacts on over-exploited species were reviewed.
- The major species caught by this fishery are blue marlin, yellowfin tuna and Blackfin tuna.
- The conclusions of the SCRS on the state of the stocks of yellowfin, blue marlin and Blackfin tuna were presented by various participants as well as the management measures taken on these species.

Actions: The unofficial, unreported and preliminary estimates of the catches of blue marlin in this fishery for 2006 are about 800 t, a third of the total catch reported to ICCAT. If these figures are confirmed, their impact on the assessment of the stocks of blue marlin and their recovery plan would be significant. It is important that the SCRS monitor this fishery.

Report Availability: The final report of the Working Group will be available soon and will be at ICCAT's disposal.

Summary of 2006 meetings between the ICCAT Chairman and the Executive Secretary

The new Commission Chairman, Dr. William T. Hogarth, and the ICCAT Executive Secretary met on several occasions during the year to discuss matters regarding the Commission, including preparations for the 2006 ICCAT annual meeting. Below is a brief summary of these meetings:

1. *February 9, 2006, Washington, DC:* Issues discussed included the status of the data fund and other budget issues; a possible management review of the Secretariat; ICCAT's participation in the preparatory meeting for the United Nations review conference and the review conference itself; the Secretariat's responsibility with respect to the Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT [Res. 05-10]; ICCAT's potential role at the 2007 joint tuna RFMO meeting in Japan and improving cooperation with other tuna bodies, including CCSBT; ideas to mark ICCAT's 40th anniversary; preparations for the 2006 Chairman's workshops; next steps regarding the PWG and Compliance Committee; structure of the 2006 ICCAT meeting; the Secretariat's responsibility with regard to ICCAT's regional observer program for transshipment vessels [Rec. 05-06]; the possible recruitment of a compliance officer, and scheduling of future meetings.
2. *March 3, 2006, Paris, France:* Issues discussed included several follow-up items from the February meeting and several new issues, including: status of the budget; status of the Chair's workshops, in particular workshop funding and specification of the Morocco workshop; PWG-COC next steps; status of the April inter-sessional meetings; confirmation of Syria's membership; confirmation of Chair's visit to the Secretariat's offices, and other miscellaneous issues.
3. *April 17, 2006, Madrid, Spain:* The primary purpose of this visit was for the Chairman to meet the Secretariat staff. In addition, the Chairman and Executive Secretary visited Spanish Government officials to discuss matters on the Commission, including the pending move of the Secretariat offices. Discussion between the Chairman and the Executive Secretary focused on preparations for the inter-sessional meetings, the proposed Officers Meeting in Palma, and the ICCAT annual meeting.
4. *May 21, 2006, New York, United States:* The primary purpose of this meeting was to finalize preparations for ICCAT's participation in the United Nations review conference.
5. *September 11, 2006, Madrid, Spain:* Issues discussed focused on preparations for the remaining Chairman's workshops, with particular reference to the Ghana workshop. The Chairman and Executive

Secretary took the opportunity to meet again with Spanish Government officials to discuss Commission related issues.

6. *September 19, 2006, Tokyo, Japan:* At the margin of the Distant water workshop, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary met to finalize the annotated agenda, the Timetable and other pending issues of the annual meeting. The issue of scheduling COC and PWG meetings was discussed.
7. *October 25, 2006, Brussels:* On the occasion of the Workshop for the North Atlantic, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary met on October 24, 2006 to focus on the next Commission meeting. In this regard, the agendas of the meeting, as well as those of the different committees, have been revised. The discussion also focused on the points that will be raised at the Meeting of Commission Officers, on November 16, 2006 and the meeting of Head Delegates, which will take place on November 17, 2006, prior to the opening session. The point has been made regarding certain documents that still have to be distributed, in particular, that concerning the Compliance Committees and PWG. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Executive Secretary would hold their meeting in Dubrovnik on November 15, 2006 to finalize matters.

In addition to these planned meetings, the Chairman and Executive Secretary met numerous times throughout the year on an *ad hoc* basis to discuss Commission business, including on the fringes of the five Chairman's workshops (April, July, September (2), and October) and in advance of the 2006 ICCAT meeting in Croatia.

2006 FINANCIAL REPORT¹

Introduction

Fiscal year 2006 has been somewhat difficult for the Secretariat mainly because the Commission, at its 19th Regular Meeting (Seville, 2005), adopted a budget with no increase with respect to 2005. For this reason, the Secretariat has made an extreme effort to control each and every expense, differentiating between the most necessary and essential purchases and postponing those expenditures having lesser priority for the functioning of the Secretariat to future fiscal periods.

It should be also noted that the move to the new Headquarters did not occur in 2006. For that reason, we have not had to confront expenses such as electricity, water, etc. that will have to be met in the near future and which are going to represent a substantial increase in expenses charged to Chapter 6 of the budget (Office Expenses).

On the other hand, we should stress that in the last two years the Commission has closed the fiscal year with a balance in the Working Capital Fund at about 30% of the regular budget. This indicates a trend towards a regularization of the financial situation of the Commission, which is directly related to the actions carried out so that the Contracting Parties in arrears pay their pending debt, in addition to the improvement that the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol will bring about.

1. Auditor's Report – Fiscal Year 2005

In accordance with the decision adopted by the Commission the auditing firm Deloitte & Touch prepared the Independent Auditor's Report corresponding to fiscal year 2005.

The Executive Secretary sent a copy of the Auditor's Report to the Governments of all the Contracting Parties in June 2006 (ICCAT Salida #1059/06). The Auditor's Report includes the Budgetary Statements of ICCAT: General Balance, Composition and Balance of the Working Capital Fund, Budgetary and Extra-budgetary expenses, Status of the Contracting Party Contributions, Budgetary and Extra-budgetary Income Received and the Explanatory Notes of these, corresponding to fiscal year that ended on December 31, 2005. It should be noted that at the close of fiscal year 2005, the General Balance Sheet showed an effective balance in Cash and Banks amounting to €1,080,262.91, corresponding to the available in the Working Capital Fund, €51,589.74 (which represents 39.20% of the Budget), to the advances on future contributions accumulated to the close of fiscal year 2005 amounting to €6,086.33, and to the available in the Commission's trust funds for other Programs, €162,586.84.

The balance of accumulated pending contributions at the close of fiscal year 2005 (corresponding to 2005 and previous years) amounted to a total of €1,717,045.51.

2. Financial status of the first half of the biennial budget – Fiscal year 2006

Following the recommendation made by the new auditing firm, in fiscal year 2006 the bookkeeping entries were carried out applying the income principle, i.e. apply income and expenditures based on the real movement of assets and services that these represent, as opposed to the option of noting the operations based on collection or payment that these generate, as has been done up to now. As a result of this change, there are new items on the General Balance Sheet.

All the Commission's financial operations corresponding to fiscal year 2006 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 2006 regular budget, amounting to €2,172,222.94, was approved by the Commission at its 19th Regular Meeting (Seville, November 2005). The General Balance Sheet (attached as **Statement 1**) shows the assets and liabilities to the close of fiscal year 2006, which are shown in detail in **Tables 1 to 6**, as well as that corresponding to 2005.

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

¹ Information as of December 31, 2006.

The contributions received and distributed by groups, according to the Madrid Protocol, were as follows:

Groups	Contracting Parties				Contributions		
	No.	Total payment	Partial payment	Pending	Budget	Paid	%
A	8	7	1	0	1,314,194.88	1,280,053.59	97.40
B	7	6	1	0	456,166.82	452,570.34	99.21
C	16	11	0	5	347,555.67	163,336.97	47.00
D	10	3	1	6	54,305.57	23,980.25	44.16
TOTAL	41	27	3	11	2,172,222.94	1,919,941.15	88.39

Of the budget approved, income towards 2006 contributions amounted to €1,919,941.15, which represents 88.39% of the budget. Only 27 of the 41 Contracting Parties included in this budget have paid their total contribution: (Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United States and Venezuela). Tunisia paid 90.91% of its 2006 contribution (€35,963.17) and United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) paid 52.45% (€37,653.18). Taking these percentages into account, it is noted that some Contracting Parties pay by bank transfers without taking the bank charges into account. Thus, the bank charges are not taken into consideration in the contribution amounts of some Contracting Parties. Such is the case of Côte d'Ivoire.

The contributions to the 2006 Regular Budget that are pending payment from the Contracting Parties amount to €52,281.79, which represents 11.61% of the budget.

An advance received in 2002 from Libya (€14,537.98) of which there remained a balance of €42,639.75, has been applied towards the total payment of its 2006 contribution. There is still a balance of €32,378.22 in favor of Libya, which will be applied towards the payment of future contributions. The advance received from Angola in 2005 (€20,478) has been applied towards the total payment of its 2006 contribution, and the remaining balance, in favor of Angola (€4,007.63) will be applied towards the payment of future contributions. The advance from Belize (€2,968.58) has been applied towards the partial payment of its 2006 contribution.

The total accumulated debt from budgetary and extra-budgetary contributions amounts to €1,534,722.18, which includes, among others, extra-budgetary contributions from Contracting Parties that have recently joined the Commission: Honduras (€14,937), Nicaragua (€6,387.40) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (€7,544.64), and debts pending from Benin (€50,508.83) and Cuba (€66,317.48), who are no longer Contracting Parties to ICCAT.

Table 2 shows the liquidation of budgetary expenses to the close of fiscal year 2006, as well as the liquidation of 2005, broken down by chapters.

Budgetary expenses

As of the end of the fiscal year, 92.65% of the budget adopted by the Commission was spent. Following herewith are some general comments, by budget chapter.

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 (six months), a Head of Finance and Administration and a Compliance Technician), six staff in the General Services category (four Translators in the Language Department, an Administrative Secretary 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 2006 the United Nations Civil Service Commission published a new pension scale 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.

The amount charged to Chapter 1 represented 93.50% of the amount budgeted.

Chapter 2 – Travel: Chapter 2 – Travel: The amount charged to this chapter of the budget amounted to €24,506.66 (56.86% of the amount budgeted) and corresponded to the trip expenses and *per diem* for Secretariat participation in the meetings of international organizations and those of regional and/or international bodies.

Chapter 3 – Commission Meetings: This chapter included expenses amounting to €120,561.20 (which surpassed the amount budgeted by 4.04% of the amount budgeted), corresponded to trips made by the Secretariat for the preparation of the annual meeting in Dubrovnik and the meeting expenses, which included Secretariat expenses (travel, *per diem*, overtime, etc.), interpreters' expenses (travel, lodging, *per diem*, honoraria and loss of income due to travel, as well as expenses incurred for the transport of material. This increase was due to the extension of the meeting with respect to the duration that was foreseen and adopted at the meeting in 2005.

Chapter 4 – Publications: The expenses charged to this chapter amounted to €6,244.11 (69.08% of the amount budgeted), corresponding to the expenses incurred for the purchase of material for publications, i.e. paper and toner, (€5,774.86), reproduction of documents (€6,975.68), photocopier rental (€13,820.40), printer binding of the following publications: *Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 35, Report for Biennial Period 2004-05, Part II, Vols. 1, 2 and 3* in the three official languages of the Commission, *Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Vol. 59 (Nos. 1, 2 and 3)* (€5,085.13), and payment of the drawings and posters for ICCAT's 40th anniversary (€1,588.04).

Chapter 5 – Office Equipment: Expenses charged to this chapter amounted to €500.01, which represented 6.21% of the amount budgeted, and included the purchase of new furniture for one office.

Chapter 6 – Operating Expenses: The expenses incurred in this chapter amounted to €11,628.69 (99.08% of the amount budgeted), which corresponded to: office material (€9,740.45); communication costs: mailing of official correspondence and ICCAT publications (€18,229.33), phone (€19,683.58), fax (€963.23); bank charges (€5,237.51); audit (€18,730.52); maintenance contracts: insurance, office cleaning, garage rental, etc. (€24,614.59); and representation expenses (€14,429.48).

Chapter 7 – Miscellaneous: This chapter includes various expenses of a minor nature, such as minor purchases for the Secretariat. The amount charged to this chapter amounted to €5,849.52 and represented 90.86% of the amount budgeted.

Chapter 8 – Coordination of Research: The expenses incurred in this chapter amounted to €756,374.55 (94.49% of the amount budgeted), broken down according to 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 (six months), a Head of the Department of Statistics, a Biostatistician, a Publications Coordinator and a Publications 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 scheme in effect in 2006 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*, 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 expenditures in this sub-chapter exceeded the amount budgeted by 8.91%. This excess referred to the salary for the Publications Coordinator that was not budgeted and which was assumed by the Working Capital Fund, in accordance with instructions from the Commission at its 2005 meeting.

- B) Travel to improve statistics:* The amount charged to this sub-chapter was €23,459.08 and corresponds to trip and *per diem* expenses for Secretariat participation in the following meetings: travel to participate in meetings of other organizations (€20,484.23) and ICCAT inter-sessional meetings (€2,974.85).
- C) Statistics-Biology:* Charges to this sub-chapter included the annual cost for maintenance of the ICCAT web page and ICCAT electronic mail (€13,068.00), and the payment of the 2006 ICCAT tagging lottery prizes for tropical tunas and for temperate tunas (€788.00).
- D) Computer-related items:* The amount incurred in this sub-chapter (€16,338.18), corresponded to the purchase of computers, printers, server, software, memory expansion, printer repairs and the purchase of diverse computer material.
- E) Database maintenance:* Expenses of this sub-chapter amounted to €1,523.97, corresponding to the purchase of annual licenses and maintenance of the air conditioning unit where the server is located.
- F) Telephone-Internet domain:* The expense charged for this concept amounted to €5,702.46, corresponding to Internet connection fees and maintenance.
- G) Scientific meetings (including SCRS):* The amount spent in this sub-chapter amounted to €64,355.24 corresponding to part of the expenses for the annual meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) held in Madrid: interpreters' honoraria, simultaneous translation equipment, overtime, Secretariat staff expenses, office material and photocopying, conference room, Secretariat work rooms at the hotel where the meeting was held.
- 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.
- 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.
- J) Miscellaneous:* As of the close of fiscal year 2006, no expenses had been charged to this sub-chapter.

Chapter 9 – Contingencies: The amount spent in this chapter amounted to €12,260.40 (59.52% of the amount budgeted) and corresponded to interpreters' honoraria and overtime, due to the extension of the 2006 Commission meeting.

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

Extra-budgetary expenses

The extra-budgetary expenses incurred corresponded to the meeting held in Palma de Mallorca, which are explained in detail in section 7 of this Report, and to the negative differences in the currency exchange.

Table 3 shows the budgetary and extra-budgetary income received by the Commission in fiscal year 2006.

Budgetary income

Extra-budgetary income received amounted to €1,919,941.15, from Contracting Party contributions paid in 2006 towards the 2006 Budget.

Extra-budgetary income

Extra-budgetary income in fiscal year 2006 amounted to €11,784.68. This income included the contribution from Syria, as a new Contracting Party to ICCAT (€3,514.88), observer fees (Adena, Oceana, CIPS, IGFA, Ocean Conservancy, Chinese Taipei, OPRT, Greenpeace, WIES, Medisamak, Seychelles, NCMC and CARICOM) (€11,947.01), voluntary contribution from Chinese Taipei (€100,950), voluntary contribution from the Japan Data Improvement Project (€12,148.99), bank interest (€2,770.43), reimbursement of Value Added

Tax (VAT) (€4,453.37) and income received from the European Community for the inter-sessional meetings held in Mallorca (€6,000).

Income from accumulated pending contributions

The income from accumulated pending contributions amounted to €442,149.76. This amount corresponds to the contributions towards previous budgets paid by United Kingdom-Overseas Territories (€37,376.98), Côte d'Ivoire (€5.00), Tunisia (€3,597.94), Peoples's Republic of China (€0.22), Ghana (€72,384.71), Uruguay (€29,507.75), Venezuela (€1,105.28), Senegal (€9,665.57), and Vanuatu (€8,506.31).

Table 4 shows the composition and balance of the Working Capital Fund. The Fund is comprised of: the balance at the start of the fiscal year (€351,589.74), and the surplus from fiscal year 2006 (€481,026.90) or the liquidation of income received or applied and from expenditures incurred that will be applied on January 1, 2007 towards the balance of the Fund. Consequently, at the start of fiscal year 2007, the Working Capital Fund will have an available balance of €1,332,616.64 (61.35% of the 2006 Regular Budget).

Table 5 shows Cash Flow in fiscal year 2006 as regards income and expenses.

Table 6 shows the status of Cash and Banks with a balance of €1,681,215.93 which corresponds to the total available in the Working Capital Fund (€1,293,739.50) and the surplus from the fiscal period which will be applied on January 1, 2007 (€38,877.14), as well as the available in the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program on Billfish (€1,343.60), the available in the ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (€17,769.81), the available in the Special Data Fund (€5,438.99), the available in the Separation From Service Fund (€3,440.98), the available in the Regional Workshops Fund (€7,067.46), the available in the Fund to Prohibit Driftnets (€23,708.31), the available in the IEO/ICCAT Memoranda of Understanding Fund (€573.02), the available in the EC Fund for the ICCAT Manual (€12,906.69), the available in the Japan Fund for Tags (€20,457.20), expenses incurred by the Japan Data Improvement Fund that are pending reimbursement (€1,794.48), debts for purchases or services (€69,562.77), the provision of expenses of the fiscal year (€9,792.43), budgetary expenses of fiscal year 2007 paid in advance (€7,154.51), payments pending application (€900) and advances on future contributions (€46,387.02).

3. ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish

<i>ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2006	5,016.83
INCOME	
Financed by ICCAT	11,273.01
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>11,273.01</i>
EXPENSES	
Program expenses	14,861.60
Bank charges	84.64
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>14,946.24</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	1,343.60

4. Bluefin Year Program (BYP)

<i>ICCAT Bluefin Year Program</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2006	13,201.79
INCOME	
Financed by ICCAT	14,588.60
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>14,588.60</i>
EXPENSES	
Program expenses	10,000.00
Bank charges	20.58
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>10,020.58</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	17,769.81

5. Special Data Fund

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 Data Fund. The Fund showed the following balance at the close of fiscal year 2006:

<i>Special Data Fund</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2006	121,827.24
INCOME	
Special contributions	0.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>0.00</i>
EXPENSES	
ICCAT Manual	6,141.50
Travel	16,542.72
Observer Program	3,600.00
Bank charges	104.03
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>26,388.25</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	95,438.99

6. Separation from Service Fund

No expenses were charged to the Separation from Service Fund in 2006. Therefore, the status of the Fund at the close of the fiscal year was as follows:

<i>Separation from Service Fund</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
Balance at start of fiscal year 2006	22,540.98
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 close of fiscal year 2006	53,440.98

7. ICCAT inter-sessional meetings in Palma de Mallorca

The European Community invited the Commission to hold the 4th Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies, and the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs in the city of Palma de Mallorca (April 19 to 21 and April 24 to 26, respectively), and assumed the major part of the expenses for organization (€56,000). The ICCAT Working Capital Fund assumed the remainder of the expenses, which amounted to €5,300.21.

<i>ICCAT Inter-sessional Meetings in Palma de Mallorca</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
INCOME	
Financed by the European Community	56,000.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>56,000.00</i>
EXPENSES	
Meeting expenses	61,300.21
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>61,300.21</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	-5,300.21

8. Japan Data Improvement Project (JDIP)

Since January 2005, the Japan Data Improvement Project (JDIP), a five-year program with an annual budget of US\$308,350 per annum, has maintained independent bookkeeping. Yet, the management and payment of certain Project expenses are made by ICCAT as the administrative entity. For this reason, these concepts are included in the ICCAT accounts and then cancelled when ICCAT is reimbursed.

9. Fund for Regional Workshops

In 2006, the Commission Chairman convened various regional workshops for the ICCAT members. The objective of these Workshops was so that the Contracting Parties could express their opinions and points of view on any subject of importance related to ICCAT and on the Commission's priorities for 2006-2007 and future years. The Chairman sent €65,122 to manage the expenditures through the Secretariat. At the close of fiscal year 2006 the status of the Fund was as follows:

<i>Fund for Regional Workshops</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
INCOME	
Financed by the Chairman	65,122.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>65,122.00</i>
EXPENSES	
Regional Workshop #1 – Agadir, Morocco	4,948.73
Regional Workshop #2 – San Pedro, Belize	20,013.54
Regional Workshop #3 – Accra, Ghana	17,680.62
Regional Workshop #4 – Tokyo, Japan	9,265.53
Regional Workshop #5 – Brussels, Belgium	6,145.83
Bank charges	0.29
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>58,054.54</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	7,067.46

10. Fund to Prohibit Driftnets

In 2006 the Fund to Prohibit Driftnets was created to contribution to compliance of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Relating to Mediterranean Swordfish* [Ref. 03-04]. The Fund is financed by a voluntary contribution from the United States and, at the close of fiscal year 2006, showed the following balance:

<i>Fund to Prohibit Driftnets</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
INCOME	
Voluntary contribution from United States	25,020.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>25,020.00</i>
EXPENSES	
Fund expenses	1,295.25
Bank charges	16.44
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>1,311.69</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	23,708.31

11. IEO/ICCAT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Fund

In June 2006, a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the *Instituto Español de Oceanografía*-IEO (Spanish Institute of Oceanography) and ICCAT to collaborate in research matters of common interest. The objective is to advance in the study of the biology, fishing and sustainable exploitation of the ICCAT-managed species through electronic tagging. The MOU is for a three-year period and is expected to be financed by the IEO in the amount of €70,000 for each year.

<i>Fund for the IEO/ICCAT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
INCOME	
Voluntary contribution from IEO	70,000.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>70,000.00</i>
EXPENSES	
Fund expenses	69,404.28
Bank charges	22.70
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>69,426.98</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	573.02

12. EC Fund for ICCAT Manual

This Fund was created in 2006 to complete the ICCAT Manual. The current balance in this Fund, accredited by the European Community, is as follows:

<i>EC Fund for ICCAT Manual</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
INCOME	
Voluntary contribution from the European Community	20,000.00
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>20,000.00</i>
EXPENSES	
Fund expenses	7,093.31
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>7,093.31</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	12,906.69

13. Japan Fund for Tags

This Fund was established in 2006 for the tag rewards. This current balance of this Fund, accredited by Japan, is as follows:

<i>Japan Fund for Tags</i>	<i>Euros (€)</i>
INCOME	
Voluntary contribution from Japan	20,457.20
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>20,457.20</i>
EXPENSES	
Fund expenses	0.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>0.00</i>
Balance at close of fiscal year 2006	20,457.20

Statement 1. Balance sheet at the close of fiscal period (Euros).

A S S E T S	<i>FISCAL YEAR</i> 2006	<i>FISCAL YEAR</i> 2005	L I A B I L I T I E S	<i>FISCAL YEAR</i> 2006	<i>FISCAL YEAR</i> 2005
A) ASSETS	58,725.96	107,196.24	A) WORKING CAPITAL FUND	1,332,616.64	851,589.74
I. Non-fixed assets	1,911.36	0.00	I. Surplus from previous fiscal years	851,589.74	328,199.06
1. Computer applications	2,335.49	0.00	1. Remainder	851,589.74	328,199.06
2. Depreciation	-424.13	0.00	II. Surplus of fiscal year (Note 3)	481,026.90	523,390.68
II. Fixed assets	56,444.59	106,826.23	1. Surplus of fiscal year	481,026.90	523,390.68
1. Furniture	49,908.47	49,477.43	B) Guarantee deposits	370.01	370.01
2. Other assets	150,870.06	136,373.62	I. Guarantee deposits	370.01	370.01
3. Depreciation	-144,333.94	-79,024.82	1. Guarantee deposits	370.01	370.01
III. Financial assets	370.01	370.01	C) NET ACQUIRED ASSETS	58,355.95	106,826.23
1. Long-term deposits	370.01	370.01	I. Net acquired assets	58,355.95	106,826.23
B) WORKING CAPITAL	3,223,992.62	2,797,308.42	1. Net acquired assets - non-fixed	56,444.59	106,826.23
I. Receivables	1,535,622.18	1,717,045.51	2. Net acquired assets - fixed	1,911.36	0.00
1. Receivables from past due contributions	1,534,722.18	1,717,045.51	D) ACCUMULATED PENDING CONTRIBUTIONS	1,534,722.18	1,717,045.51
Past due budgetary contributions	1,505,853.14	1,672,760.26	I. Budgetary contributions	1,505,853.14	1,672,760.26
Past due extra-budgetary contributions	28,869.04	44,285.25	1. Budgetary -- current fiscal year	252,281.79	480,003.54
2. Payments pending application	900.00	0.00	2. Budgetary -- previous fiscal years	1,253,571.35	1,192,756.72
II. Available	1,681,215.93	1,080,262.91	II. Extra-budgetary contributions	28,869.04	44,285.25
1. Cash on hand	3,435.25	600.00	1. Extra-budgetary -- current fiscal year	7,544.64	19,665.57
Cash on hand (Euros)	800.00	600.00	2. Extra-budgetary -- previous fiscal years	21,324.40	24,619.68
Cash on hand (US\$)	2,635.25	0.00	E) SHORT-TERM CREDITORS	356,653.80	228,673.17
<i>[Fiscal year 2006: US\$3,472 x 0.759 €/US\$ = €2,635.25]</i>			I. Trust Funds	230,911.58	162,586.84
2. Bank checking accounts (Euros)	1,450,878.12	932,331.42	1. Enhanced Research Program for Billfish	1,343.60	5,016.83
BBVA - Acct. 0200176725 (Euros)	35,630.36	52,499.04	2. Bluefin Year Program	17,769.81	13,201.79
BBVA - Acct. 0200173290 (Euros)	349,117.38	461,305.05	3. Special Data Fund	95,438.99	121,827.24
BBVA - Time deposit (Euros)	1,000,000.00	400,000.00	4. Separation from Service Fund	53,440.98	22,540.98
Banco Caixa Geral - Acct. 0150255223 (Euros)	7,662.80	7,698.15	5. Japan Data Improvement Fund	-1,794.48	0.00
Barclays - Acct. 0021000545 (Euros)	58,467.58	10,829.18	6. Fund for Regional Workshops	7,067.46	0.00
3. Bank checking accounts (US\$)	226,902.56	147,331.49	7. Fund to Prohibit Driftnets	23,708.31	0.00
BBVA - Acct. 2010012035 (US\$)	220,303.87	139,898.87	8. IEO/ICCAT MOU Fund	573.02	0.00
<i>[Fiscal year 2006: US\$290,255.43 x 0.759 €/US\$ = €220,303.87]</i>			9. EC Fund for ICCAT Manual	12,906.69	0.00
<i>[Fiscal year 2005: US\$164,586.91 x 0.850 €/US\$ = €139,898.87]</i>			10. Japan Fund for Tags	20,457.20	0.00
Barclays - Acct. 0041000347 (US\$)	6,598.69	7,432.62	II. Creditors	69,562.77	0.00
<i>[Fiscal year 2006: US\$8,693.93 x 0.759 €/US\$ = €6,598.69]</i>			1. Creditors of budgetary expenses	66,544.32	0.00
<i>[Fiscal year 2005: US\$8,744.26 x 0.850 €/US\$ = €7,432.62]</i>			2. Creditors of 2007 Tokyo Meeting expenses	1,790.00	0.00
III. End of period adjustments	7,154.51	0.00	3. Creditors of Japan Data Improvement Project expenses	1,228.45	0.00
1. Advanced budgetary expenses	5,364.51	0.00	III. Accrued expenses pending allocation	9,792.43	0.00
2. Advanced expenses - 2007 Tokyo Meeting	1,790.00	0.00	1. Accrued budgetary expenses pending allocation	9,792.43	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS(A+B)	3,282,718.58	2,904,504.66	IV. End of period adjustments	46,387.02	66,086.33
			1. Advances on future contributions	46,387.02	66,086.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES (A+B+C+D+E)			TOTAL LIABILITIES (A+B+C+D+E)	3,282,718.58	2,904,504.66

Table 1. Status of Contracting Party contributions (at the close of fiscal year 2006) (Euros).

<i>Contracting Party</i>	<i>Balance due at start of fiscal year 2006</i>	<i>2006 Contracting Party contributions</i>	<i>Contributions paid in 2006 or applied to 2006 budget</i>	<i>Contributions paid in 2006 towards previous budgets</i>	<i>Balance due</i>
A) Regular Commission Budget					
Algérie	0.00	17,686.98	17,686.98	0.00	0.00
Angola 1/	0.00	6,470.37	6,470.37	0.00	0.00
Barbados	0.00	3,387.96	3,387.96	0.00	0.00
Belize 2/	0.00	9,433.46	9,433.46	0.00	0.00
Brazil	0.00	169,291.83	169,291.83	0.00	0.00
Canada	0.00	62,127.36	62,127.36	0.00	0.00
Cap-Vert	262,762.99	19,366.84	0.00	0.00	282,129.83
China, People's Rep. Of 3/	0.22	22,498.73	22,498.73	0.22	0.00
Communauté européenne	0.00	757,562.41	757,562.41	0.00	0.00
Côte d'Ivoire	5.00	5,932.55	5,927.55	5.00	5.00
Croatia	0.00	8,079.83	8,079.83	0.00	0.00
France - St. P. & M.	0.00	57,115.36	57,115.36	0.00	0.00
Gabon	112,746.01	10,357.93	0.00	0.00	123,103.94
Ghana	714,028.60	144,764.73	0.00	272,384.71	586,408.62
Guatemala, Rep. of	0.00	3,045.46	3,045.46	0.00	0.00
Guinea Ecuatorial	7,332.23	9,433.46	0.00	0.00	16,765.69
Guinea, Rep. of	84,646.10	1,522.73	0.00	0.00	86,168.83
Honduras	46,361.10	3,045.46	0.00	0.00	49,406.56
Iceland	0.00	28,519.06	28,519.06	0.00	0.00
Japan	0.00	124,791.04	124,791.04	0.00	0.00
Korea, Rep. of	0.00	12,697.83	12,697.83	0.00	0.00
Libya 4/	0.00	10,261.53	10,261.53	0.00	0.00
Maroc	0.00	29,212.29	29,212.29	0.00	0.00
Mexico	0.00	60,482.24	60,482.24	0.00	0.00
Namibia	0.00	20,643.61	20,643.61	0.00	0.00
Nicaragua Rep. de	6,892.86	1,522.73	0.00	0.00	8,415.59
Norway	0.00	31,195.19	31,195.19	0.00	0.00
Panama	63,147.03	11,197.13	0.00	0.00	74,344.16
Philippines, Rep. of	0.00	8,536.87	8,536.87	0.00	0.00
Russia	0.00	9,110.59	9,110.59	0.00	0.00
São Tomé e Príncipe	88,876.87	3,339.84	0.00	0.00	92,216.71
Senegal	0.00	20,324.16	20,324.16	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.00	45,423.64	45,423.64	0.00	0.00
Trinidad & Tobago	0.00	31,857.46	31,857.46	0.00	0.00
Tunisie	3,597.94	39,559.65	35,963.17	3,597.94	3,596.48
Turkey	0.00	48,096.02	48,096.02	0.00	0.00
United Kingdom (O.T.)	37,376.98	71,794.47	37,653.18	37,376.98	34,141.29
United States	0.00	181,089.99	181,089.99	0.00	0.00
Uruguay	43,721.57	8,465.44	0.00	29,507.75	22,679.26
Vanuatu	13,333.17	1,522.73	0.00	5,211.03	9,644.87
Venezuela	71,105.28	61,455.98	61,455.98	71,105.28	0.00
Sub-total A)	1,555,933.95	2,172,222.94	1,919,941.15	419,188.91	1,389,026.83
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	3,295.28	0.00
Nicaragua Rep. (11-03-04)	6,387.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,387.40
Senegal (21-12-04)	19,665.57	0.00	0.00	19,665.57	0.00
Syria (02-09-05) 5/	0.00	3,514.88	3,514.88	0.00	0.00
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (20-11-06)	0.00	7,544.64	0.00	0.00	7,544.64
Sub-total B)	44,285.25	11,059.52	3,514.88	22,960.85	28,869.04
C) Withdrawals of Contracting Parties					
Cuba (Efectivo:31-12-91)	66,317.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	66,317.48
Benin (Efectivo: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)	1,717,045.51	2,183,282.46	1,923,456.03	442,149.76	1,534,722.18

1/ The advance from Angola received in 2005 (€20,478.00) was applied towards full payment of its 2006 contributions. There is a balance of €14,007.63 in favor of Angola, which will be applied towards future contributions.

2/ The advance from Belize (€2,968.58) was been applied in its entirety towards the partial payment of its 2006 contribution

3/ The advance from the People's Republic of China (€1.05) will be applied towards the payment of future contributions.

4/ Of the advance from Libya received in 2002 (€114,537.98), the amount of €12,639.75 was applied towards the full payment of its 2006 contribution. There is a balance of €32,378.22 in favor of Libya that will be applied towards payment of future contributor

5/ The advance from Syria (€0.12) will be applied towards payment of future contributions.

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

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Fiscal year 2006</i>	<i>Fiscal year 2005</i>
1. Budget and budgetary expenses			
Chapter 1. Salaries	981,663.78	917,851.70	898,706.71
Chapter 2. Travel	43,102.69	24,506.66	28,088.04
Chapter 3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	115,884.75	120,561.20	83,695.08
Chapter 4. Publications	52,470.04	36,244.11	48,491.25
Chapter 5. Office Equipment	8,047.55	500.01	6,456.65
Chapter 6. Operating Expenses	112,665.73	111,628.69	110,041.77
Chapter 7. Miscellaneous	6,438.05	5,849.52	5,169.79
Chapter 8. Coordination of Research:			
a) Salaries	555,762.73	605,278.01	495,737.60
b) Travel to improve statistics	36,471.51	23,459.08	19,200.32
c) Statistics - Biology	46,032.00	13,856.00	19,500.48
d) Computer-related items	25,750.00	16,338.18	25,404.24
e) Database maintenance	16,899.86	1,523.97	3,660.25
f) Telephone line - Internet domain	10,300.00	5,702.46	3,940.57
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	77,256.50	64,355.24	51,315.32
h) ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	14,588.60	14,588.60	14,588.60
i) ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program	11,273.01	11,273.01	11,273.01
j) Miscellaneous	6,116.14	0.00	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>800,450.35</i>	<i>756,374.55</i>	<i>644,620.39</i>
Chapter 9. Contingencies	20,600.00	12,260.40	2,958.00
Chapter 10. Separation from Service Fund	30,900.00	30,900.00	30,900.00
TOTAL BUDGETARY EXPENSES (Chapters 1 to 10)	2,172,222.94	2,016,676.84	1,859,127.68
2. Extra-budgetary expenses			
Expenses 2005 Fukuoka Meeting		0.00	46,892.53
Expenses 2006 Palma de Mallorca Meeting		61,300.21	0.00
Negative differences in exchange rate		14,871.64	0.00
TOTAL EXTRA-BUDGETARY EXPENSES		76,171.85	46,892.53
TOTAL EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE FISCAL PERIOD		2,092,848.69	1,906,020.21

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

<i>Income</i>	<i>Fiscal year 2006</i>	<i>Fiscal year 2005</i>
1. Budgetary income		
Contributions from Contracting Parties		
Contributions paid or applied to the current budget	1,919,941.15	1,640,245.18
TOTAL BUDGETARY INCOME	1,919,941.15	1,640,245.18
2. Extra-budgetary income		
Contributions from new Contracting Parties:		
Contributions received from new Contracting Parties towards the fiscal period	3,514.88	3,418.82
Voluntary contributions:		
From observer fees at ICCAT meetings	11,947.01	7,347.35
From ICCAT/Japan Data Improvement Project	12,148.99	12,118.16
From Bigeye Program for Secretariat work	0.00	16,892.20
From Chinese Taipei to ICCAT	100,950.00	0.00
Bank interest	22,770.43	11,851.75
Reimbursement of VAT	4,453.37	4,998.74
Miscellaneous income		
Miscellaneous income	0.00	325.66
Positive differences in exchange rate	0.00	16,943.71
Income Commission meeting:		
Income 2005 Fukuoka Meeting	0.00	46,652.20
Income 2006 Palma de Mallorca Meeting	56,000.00	0.00
TOTAL EXTRA-BUDGETARY INCOME	211,784.68	120,548.59
3. Income from accumulated pending contributions		
Contributions from Contracting Parties		
Contributions paid or applied towards previous budgets	419,188.91	604,558.53
Contributions from new Contracting Parties:		
Contributions received from new Contracting Parties towards previous budget:	22,960.85	12,084.36
TOTAL INCOME FROM PENDING CONTRIBUTIONS	442,149.76	616,642.89
TOTAL INCOME IN THE FISCAL PERIOD	2,573,875.59	2,377,436.66

Table 4. Composition and balance in the Working Capital Fund (at the close of fiscal year 2006) (Euros).

Balance available in the Working Capital Fund (at the start of fiscal year 2006)		851,589.74
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Surplus from fiscal year 2006		481,026.90
a) Liquidation of Income and Expenses to the budget of the fiscal year		-96,735.69
<i>Budgetary income</i>	1,919,941.15	
<i>Budgetary expenses (Chapters 1 to 10)</i>	2,016,676.84	
b) Liquidation of other Income and Expenses not included in the budget of the fiscal period		135,612.83
<i>Extra-budgetary income</i>	211,784.68	
<i>Extra-budgetary expenses</i>	76,171.85	
c) Contributions paid in the fiscal period towards previous budgets		442,149.76
<i>Contributions to Regular Budgets</i>	419,188.91	
<i>Contributions from new Contracting Parties</i>	22,960.85	
Balance available at the start of fiscal year 2007		1,332,616.64
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Table 5. Cash flow (at the close of fiscal year 2006) (Euros).

<i>Income and Origin</i>		<i>Expenses and Application</i>	
Balance in Cash and Bank (at the start of fiscal year 2006)	1,080,262.91	Available in Trust Funds at the close of fiscal year 2005 applied in fiscal year 2006	162,586.84
Income:		Advances on contributions at the close of fiscal year 2005 applied in fiscal year 2006	19,700.48
Contributions paid in 2006 to the 2006 Budget	1,919,941.15	Expenses:	
Extra-budgetary contributions from new Contracting Parties paid towards the 2006 Budget	3,514.88	Budgetary expenses of fiscal year 2006 (Chapters 1 to 10)	2,016,676.84
Other extra-budgetary income received in 2006	208,269.80	Extra-budgetary expenses	76,171.85
Contributions paid in fiscal year 2006 towards previous budgets:		Advances received pending application to future contributions at the close of fiscal year (Angola, Libya, People's Rep. of China, and Syria)	46,387.02
Contributions to Regular Budgets	419,188.91	Working Capital Fund	851,589.74
Contributions from new Contracting Parties	22,960.85	Surplus of fiscal year	481,026.90
Advances on future contributions received in 2006 (People's Rep. of China and Syria)	1.17	Available in ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish	1,343.60
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish	1,343.60	Available in ICCAT Bluefin Year Program	17,769.81
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of Bluefin Year Program	17,769.81	Available in Special Data Fund	95,438.99
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of Special Data Fund	95,438.99	Available in Separation from Service Fund	53,440.98
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of Separation from Service Fund	53,440.98	Available in Japan Data Improvement Project	-1,794.48
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of Japan Data Improvement Project	-1,794.48	Available in Fund for Regional Workshops	7,067.46
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of Fund for Regional Workshops	7,067.46	Available in Fund to Prohibit Driftnets	23,708.31
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of Fund to Prohibit Driftnets	23,708.31	Available in IEO/ICCAT MOU Fund	573.02
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of IEO/ICCAT MOU Fund	573.02	Available in EC Fund for ICCAT Manual	12,906.69
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of EC Fund for ICCAT Manual	12,906.69	Available in Japan Fund for Tags	20,457.20
Balance at the close of fiscal year 2006 of Japan Fund for Tags	20,457.20		
TOTAL INCOME AND ORIGIN	3,885,051.25	TOTAL EXPENSES AND APPLICATION	3,885,051.25

Table 6. Status of cash and banks (at the close of fiscal year 2006) (Euros)

<i>Summary</i>		<i>Breakdown</i>	
Balance in Cash and Banks	1,681,215.93	Available in Working Capital Fund	851,589.74
		Surplus from fiscal period (application on January 1, 2007)	481,026.90
		Available in ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish	1,343.60
		Available in ICCAT Bluefin Year Program	17,769.81
		Available in Special Data Fund	95,438.99
		Available in Separation from Service Fund	53,440.98
		Available in Japan Data Improvement Project	-1,794.48
		Available in Fund for Regional Workshops	7,067.46
		Available in Fund to Prohibit Driftnets	23,708.31
		Available in IEO/ICCAT MOU Fund	573.02
		Available in EC Fund for ICCAT Manual	12,906.69
		Available in Japan Tag Fund	20,457.20
		Debts for purchases or services	69,562.77
		Allocation of extra-budgetary expenses	9,792.43
		Total of advances received for their application towards future contributions	46,387.02
		Payments pending application	-900.00
		Budgetary expenses advanced	-7,154.51
TOTAL CASH IN CASH AND BANKS	1,681,215.93	TOTAL AVAILABLE	1,681,215.93

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 15TH SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS**
(Dubrovnik, Croatia –November 17 to 26, 2006)

1. Opening of the meeting

The 15th Special Meeting of the Commission was opened on Friday, November 17, 2006 by the Commission Chairman, Dr. William Hogarth, who expressed his gratitude to the Government of Croatia for hosting the meeting. Dr. Hogarth welcomed the delegates, in particular, those from the Syrian Arab Republic, which had become a Contracting Party to the Commission this year.

Dr. Hogarth reminded the delegates of the objectives outlined in the ICCAT Convention to maintain the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic at levels of maximum sustainable yield and emphasized the importance of this meeting, taking into account that, in 2006, assessment of important stocks such as west Atlantic and east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, north and south stocks of Atlantic swordfish, and blue marlin and white marlin. The Chairman also pointed out that the Commission would have a commemorative session to mark the 40th anniversary of ICCAT. Dr. Hogarth recognized the hard work that the Commission should carry out during this session and encouraged the delegates to work together to achieve the objectives anticipated.

Dr. Hogarth thanked Mr. Zdenko Krmek, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Croatia, Mr. Šime Vidulin, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce of Croatia, and Mr. Djuro Market, the Deputy Mayor of Dubrovnik, and the for their presence at the inaugural ceremony. He then gave the floor to the Deputy Mayor who, on behalf of the City of Dubrovnik, welcomed the delegates and recalled the close relationship between the city and the sea and fishing throughout its history. Mr. Vidulin then spoke and, on behalf of the members of the Chamber of Commerce, welcomed participants and recalled the importance of fishing for the Croatian economy. Lastly, the Secretary of State, on behalf of the Government of Croatia, thanked the Commission for having accepted Croatia's invitation to hold this important meeting and pointed out the role of fishing and bluefin tuna farming in the industrial development of his country, and declared open the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

The Opening Addresses are attached as **ANNEX 3.1**.

The Delegate of Canada took the floor to announce the death of Mr. Nelson Beideman, a member of the Blue Water Fishermen's Association and a participant at numerous Commission meetings as part of the delegation of the United States.

2. Adoption of Agenda and arrangements

The Agenda was reviewed and adopted without change and is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

The Chairman also reviewed the work schedule, which is included in **ANNEX 1**. The Executive Secretary commented on the arrangements for the meeting.

The ICCAT Secretariat served as rapporteur of the Plenary Sessions.

3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations

The following 38 Contracting Parties attended the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Republic), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, St. Tome & Principe, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, 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**.

It was noted that St. Vincent and the Grenadines became a Contracting Party to ICCAT as of November 20, 2006.

4. Introduction and admission of Observers

The Executive Secretary listed the observers present that had been admitted by the Commission. A Representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), depository of the ICCAT Convention, attended the meeting. Also in attendance were Delegates from Chinese Taipei, as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, and an observer from Seychelles. The following inter-governmental organizations also attended: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Ministerial Conference on Fishing Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic (COMHAFAT), and Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO). The following non-governmental organizations were admitted as observers: Association of Professional Organizations of the Fishing Sector of Mediterranean Coastal Countries (MEDISAMAK), International Game Fishing Association (IGFA), National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC), International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS), GREENPEACE, Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Wrigley Institute of Environmental Studies (WIES) and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). The opening statements, presented in writing by the observers are attached to this report (see ANNEXES 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5). The list of observers is included on the List of Participants (ANNEX 2).

5. Decisions for improving the organization of Commission meetings

In order to create fora for communication in which the Contracting Parties could share their points of view on issues related to ICCAT, from the functioning of the Commission meetings to the identification of key issues and priorities for 2006-2007, the Chairman organized five Regional Workshops in 2006. The Workshops, organized based on the geographic diversity and the large number of ICCAT members, were as follows:

- Chairman’s Workshop for North Africa and Northern Mediterranean (Agadir, Morocco, April 13 & 14, 2006).
- Chairman’s Workshop for the Caribbean and Latin America (Belize, July 11 & 12, 2006).
- Chairman’s Workshop for West and Southern Africa (Accra, Ghana, September 13 & 14, 2006).
- Chairman’s Workshop for Distant Water Interests (Tokyo, Japan, September 19, 2006).
- Chairman’s Workshop for the North Atlantic (Brussels, Belgium, October 25, 2006).

The Chairman noted that the points of view expressed at the Workshops had been very useful for the scheduling of this year’s annual meeting as well as for establishing priority items for discussion. In this regard he reminded the Parties of the contents of his October 16 letter concerning the 2006 meeting arrangements, priorities and deadlines. He also noted that the Secretariat circulated the reports of the Workshops to the Contracting Parties and urged the CPCs to read these if they had not done so.

6. Matters pending from the 2005 meeting

6.1 Possible restructuring of the PWG and COC

The Chairman referred to the “Information Paper on a Possible Restructuring of the PWG and COC”^{*}, prepared by the Secretariat following the Chairman’s instructions, as a result of the inter-sessional work on this matter that the Commission recommended at its 2005 meeting. The document covers three possible options: (a) maintain the *status quo*; (b) merge the two bodies into one; and (c) maintain the two bodies and define new terms of reference. Other options, however, could be considered.

The merging of the two bodies would involve considerable work to adapt the numerous texts, including Recommendations and Resolutions that refer to the PWG. Furthermore, redefining the terms of reference of the two bodies would involve considerable additional work. Taking into account the tight work schedule of this

^{*} Available at the Secretariat.

meeting and the proposal to establish a Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, the Chairman proposed referring this matter to the Working Group and that a Chair should be elected in 2007-2008. The Commission concurred with these suggestions. At a later session, the Commission established the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT and confirmed that the restructuring issue would be referred to this body for consideration.

Various delegations expressed opinions on the future of the PWG and COC. The position on the future PWG was not unanimous, although the majority of the delegations that intervened were more in favor of maintaining the two bodies, redefining the terms of reference to avoid duplicity. In this sense, some delegations pointed out proposals to consider for such definition.

At the end of the discussion, Mrs. Sylvie Lapointe, a member of the Delegation of Canada, was elected PWG Chair for this meeting.

6.2 Issues contained in Annex 11 of the 2005 ICCAT Proceedings

Of the issues that the Commission decided to postpone in its 2005 meeting, for discussion in 2006, most were discussed in the meetings of the subsidiary bodies (Compliance Committee and STACFAD). Thus, under this Agenda item, discussions centered on matters regarding the interpretation and definition of terms and formats of communication and distribution of information. As a starting point, the document on “Proposals by the Chairman in Relation to Interpretative Issues, Definition of Terms and Dissemination of Information” was considered.

With regard to interpretative issues concerning the ICCAT conservation and management measures, it was considered that the Panels were the appropriate bodies for discussion.

As concerns the other issues, discussion advanced only on the Guidelines for the Dissemination of Information Submitted by the CPCs. For its adoption, the Chairman proposed the approaches included in section 4 of document on “Proposals by the Chairman in Relation to Interpretative Issues, Definition of Terms and Dissemination of Information”. The *Guidelines for the Dissemination of Information Submitted by CPCs* were adopted and are attached as **ANNEX 7.3**. No decision was taken concerning a proposal for a reporting format working group, or the need to further work to develop definitions, which would require agreement on a workplan or methods.

7. Consideration for the adoption of the revised Compendium of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the revised Compendium, allowing a two-year period for adaptation (2008-2009). In view of the Chairman’s proposal, some delegations pointed out the difficulty of updating the Compendium once adopted. Several possibilities were considered. Some suggested that changes which might be necessary in the future be adopted as specific documents whilst other options proposed their adoption as a form of reference maintaining the validity of the original Compendium.

The elimination of preambular paragraphs from the original texts was also a matter of discussion since, according to some delegates, this could decontextualize the measure.

Since no consensus could be reached on this matter during the meeting, the Chairman proposed postponing discussion to the 2007 Commission meeting.

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

The 2006 SCRS Meeting was held in Madrid, Spain, October 2 to 6, immediately after the meetings of the Species Groups. The SCRS Chairman, Dr. Gerald Scott, presented a summary of the Report on the first day of the Plenary Sessions. The discussions on the individual stocks were postponed until the meetings of the pertinent Panels.

Dr. Scott gave a general introduction on the catch trends of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic and the criteria used by the Committee to establish its diagnosis on the state of the stocks. Then the SCRS Chairman presented the changes that had been made concerning the structure of the SCRS. The major change was the

integration of the Sub-Committees on the Environment and By-Catches into a Sub-Committee on Ecosystems, as the most appropriate formula to respond to the growing demand for advice on the impact of fishing on the ecosystem. Other changes concerned the separation of the Atlantic Swordfish Species Group into two Groups (North and South) and the creation of a Sharks Species Group.

The SCRS Chairman also summarized the various intersessional meetings held in 2006, including the Workshop on Stock Structure of Swordfish (Heraklion, Greece, March 13 to 15, 2006), the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Tropical Species Group (Sète, France, April 24 to 28, 2006), the Marlin Stock Assessment Session (Madrid, Spain, May 15 to 19, 2006) and the Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session (Madrid, Spain, June 12 to 18, 2006), a Data Preparatory Meeting for Atlantic Albacore (Madrid, Spain, July 3 to 6, 2006), and the Atlantic Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (Madrid, Spain, September 4 to 8, 2006).

He also presented the plan of activities for 2007. For next year, the SCRS has proposed various assessments and diverse intersessional meetings, as are indicated in detail in Item 13 of the 2006 SCRS Report. These proposals include stock assessments on bigeye tuna, Atlantic albacore (North and South stocks), Mediterranean swordfish, a data preparatory meeting of the Sharks Species Group, and a meeting to update and monitor the various indicators of the skipjack and yellowfin fisheries. In addition, a meeting of the Methods Working Group has been scheduled, whose objective is to develop procedures to resolve the current gaps in the data series used in the assessments.

Dr. Scott also informed that in 2007 the SCRS will start work to assess the mortality of sea birds, in collaboration with outside experts.

The SCRS Chairman explained that the Committee's recommendations that have direct implications for the Commission can be found under Item 14 of the 2006 SCRS Report. Of the recommendations made by the SCRS, Dr. Scott highlighted the request for support for the improvement of statistics, including strengthening of the observer programs, which are fundamental to the improvement of data on target species and by-catches. Within the process for improvement, the SCRS considered it essential to increase the number of Secretariat staff that works on data management. Another group of recommendations referred to support for training of scientific staff, specifically in maintaining assistance to developing countries and the creation of a peer-reviewed journal. The SCRS Chairman also insisted on the need to maintain support for the BYP and the Enhanced Research Program on Billfish, which are currently on-going research programs.

Finally, Dr. Scott spoke of the commemorative session for the 40th anniversary of ICCAT that had taken place during the SCRS meeting. Eight of the 10 former SCRS Chairmen and two of the three former ICCAT Executive Secretaries since ICCAT's founding participated in this special session and presented the historical overview of the work and advice developed throughout these years.

The Commission Chairman congratulated Dr. Scott for the huge amount of work carried out and the excellent quality of this work and he asked each Panel to review the specific results of the SCRS.

After lauding the excellent quality of the work carried out by the SCRS and congratulating Dr. Scott for his presentation, various delegates intervened, who coincided in praising the quality of the work carried out by the SCRS and congratulated the SCRS Chairman for his presentation, and asked questions related mainly to the statistics, the base of the assessments. Once again, the discussion centered on the quantity and quality of the data utilized in the assessments. Several delegations insisted on the need for the Compliance Committee to take measures in this respect, given that the submission of statistics is mandatory, according to the rules adopted by the Commission. Dr. Scott confirmed that the uncertainties in the data used in the assessments affect the results, which obstructs the advice. Furthermore, he pointed out the need to maintain the programs to support data improvement as the best means to obtain statistics on the fisheries, such as the artisanal fisheries which, given their characteristics, require intensive sampling programs which are difficult for the countries that conduct these fisheries to carry out.

The 2006 SCRS Report was adopted by the Commission.

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

The Chairman of STACFAD presented the report of the Committee. Mr. Jones noted the adoption of the 2006 Administrative Report, the 2006 Financial Report and the document on the "Functioning of the ICCAT

Secretariat” (attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**), presented by the Secretariat. He pointed out the major points of the Committee’s discussion, and stressed the need for the Secretariat to continue its contacts with the United Nations as regards joining the UN Pension Fund.

Mr. Jones pointed out that the Committee had provisionally approved the budget prepared for 2007, including the proposals contained therein, pending the inclusion of possible financial repercussions that could result from the work of Panel 2. The budget approved foresees an increase of 6.94% with respect to 2006.

The Secretariat presented an estimate of the costs that would be involved in the management of VMS data (STF-137) foreseen in the proposal by Algeria, Croatia, European Community, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey for a *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-05]**), adopted by Panel 2.

The STACFAD Chairman also informed on the adoption of the amendment of the ICCAT Rules of Procedure on Mail Voting and the payment plans for past due contributions presented in the document on the “Review of Payment Plans of Arrears”. With regard to the payment of past due contributions, Mr. Jones indicated that the delegation of Libya had presented a proposal (STF-108) on the cancellation of the debts of developing countries, on occasion of ICCAT’s 40th anniversary and that no consensus was reached by the Committee on this proposal.

The Commission adopted the amendment of the ICCAT Rules of Procedure (attached as **ANNEX 7.1**) and the payment plans of the past due contributions (attached as **ANNEX 7.2**), presented by the Committee. As concerns Libya’s proposal, the Chairman together with various delegations, considered that the cancellation of debts was not foreseen in the ICCAT Convention and that, under the current circumstances, discussion of this matter was not warranted. There was a similar response to the proposal submitted by the Delegation of Libya to adopt the Arabic language as an official language of ICCAT. It was explained that this adoption would have to be done by a change to the Convention, would involve high costs, and that given views of Parties and time remaining in the meeting, the issue could not be resolved at the 2006 meeting.

In relation to the budget, the Delegate of the EC pointed out that the data which, in accordance with the adopted *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (**ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-05]**), should be managed by the Secretariat would not be available until 2008. Therefore, it was not necessary to include this expense in the 2007 budget. The Commission adopted the budget and the Contracting Party contributions for 2007 (see **Tables 1 to 5 of ANNEX 8**).

The STACFAD Report was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 8**.

Prior to closing this plenary session, the Chairman informed that, after consulting with the Heads of Delegations and taking into account the encouraging results obtained by Mr. Driss Meski’s management since his appointment as Executive Secretary, it is proposed that his contract be extended for a second five-year term, upon completion of his current term.

This proposal was unanimously accepted and adopted

Mr. Meski appreciated the Commission’s confidence and recalled that his work was possible thanks to the excellent team he has behind him at the Secretariat.

10. 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 their respective Chairpersons 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

Panel 1 did not propose any management measures to the Commission.

The Panel supported the SCRS Work Plan, including the meeting to assess bigeye tuna and a meeting to update and monitor the various skipjack and yellowfin fishery indicators.

Brazil expressed its wish to host the meeting to monitor skipjack and yellowfin tuna fishery indicators. The Chairman thanked Brazil for its invitation.

The Report of Panel 1 was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

Panel 2

The Chairman of Panel 2, Mr. Julien Turenne, presented the measures adopted by the Panel:

- *Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean (ANNEX 6 [Res. 06-08]).*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-05]).*
- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-06]).*

The Panel approved [Rec. 06-05]. The Delegation of the United States asked that the Panel Report reflect the result of the vote and presented a statement with an explanation of its vote (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**).

In this same sense, the Delegates of France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) and Mexico presented statements that are attached as **Appendices 2 and 3 to ANNEX 9**.

The observers also made statements that are included as **Appendices 5 to 7 to ANNEX 9**.

Norway intervened to express its intention to request a bluefin tuna quota, as a coastal nation, announcing that it would not implement the quota as a measure in support of the recovery of the stock.

After the discussion that followed the presentation, the Commission adopted the proposals for resolution and recommendations.

The United States noted that the northern albacore recommendation would expire at the end of 2006 and that the Panel did not discuss any new measures for the stock. A proposal was made to extend the current recommendation through 2007 and the following recommendation was presented to the Plenary.

- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2004-2006 (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-04]).*

The Recommendation was adopted by the Commission.

The Panel Chairman also informed that a proposed “Recommendation by ICCAT on Capping of Bluefin Tuna Farming Capacity” which the Panel had decided to postpone, for review in the inter-sessional period, taking advantage of the meetings scheduled for 2007. In this sense, Mr. Turenne announced that the Panel had decided to hold an inter-sessional meeting for the allocation of quotas of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, as foreseen in the adopted *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-05])*.

Japan expressed its wish to host this meeting, and proposed holding it immediately after the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs to be held in Kobe, Japan, January 22 to 26, 2007.

The Panel supported the Work Plan proposed by the SCRS, including holding an assessment meeting on the North and South Atlantic albacore stocks in 2007.

The Report of Panel 2 was adopted by correspondence and is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

Panel 3

The Panel did not submit any proposal.

The Report of Panel 3 was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

Panel 4

The Chair of Panel 4 presented the measures approved by the Panel:

- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish (ANNEX 5, [Rec. 06-02]).*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-03]).*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-09]).*
- *Supplementary Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-10]).*

Dr. Hogarth thanked the Panel Chair for the effort put forth to reach consensus on these important recommendations.

The Delegate of the EC expressed his concern because the breakdown of quotas made could mean an increase in capacity, by the possible development of new fisheries, or it could promote chartering agreements, since countries that did not have a fleet could obtain quotas. In order to avoid this last item, the EC proposed that future regulations should establish measures to control chartering arrangements, similar to the current ones for bluefin tuna.

The delegations that had obtained swordfish quotas for the first time expressed their disagreement with the EC reservations and insisted on their right to participate in these fisheries.

For their part, the Contracting Parties with historical participation in the fisheries expressed their concern since the effort made in years past for the recovery of the stocks could be jeopardized with the increase in the number of Contracting Parties involved.

The Delegate of Mexico expressed his appreciation for the work carried out by the Panel Chair, considering that it was an example of good application of the allocation criteria, and agreed with the EC in considering the chartering arrangements as a potential problem.

The Recommendations were adopted.

The Commission supported the Work Plan proposed by the SCRS, including holding a meeting to assess the stock of Mediterranean swordfish, a shark data preparatory meeting, and the postponement of the sharks assessment to 2008, the last two proposals included in the *Supplementary Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-10])*.

Uruguay expressed its wish to host the data preparatory meeting on sharks. The Chair thanked Uruguay for its invitation.

The Report of Panel 4 was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

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

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Friedrich Wieland, informed that the Compliance Committee had reviewed and adopted the Compliance Tables, with the exception of those corresponding to bluefin tuna, the

south stocks of albacore and swordfish. After some changes, the Commission adopted the Tables. Japan disagreed with Belize's catch limits for the southern albacore stock, since it considered there was no information to justify those limits. The Compliance Tables are attached to the Report of the Compliance Committee as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

After welcoming St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a new member and announcing that a letter would be sent notifying them of the revocation of their identification, Mr. Wieland called attention to the Committee's extremely tight agenda that would not allow adequate response to several issues raised. The Chair of the Committee pointed out that it would be necessary to reconsider the functioning of the Committee. Mr. Wieland also stressed the Committee's concern for the deterioration of the data and the lack of compliance by the Contracting Parties as regards their statistical requirements.

Dr. Hogarth pointed out the possibility of separating the meetings of the Compliance Committee from the Commission meetings, as an alternative to improve the functioning of the Committee. The Commission agreed.

The Compliance Committee proposed the following recommendations for adoption by the Commission:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Promote Compliance by Nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-14]).*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-07]).*

The Recommendations were adopted by the Commission.

Other proposals for which no consensus had been reached by the Committee were referred to the Commission:

- *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Capacity Working Group (ANNEX 6 [Res. 06-19]).*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Additional Measures for Compliance of the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-15]).*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-13]).*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Programme for Transshipment (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-11]).*

After some modifications, the proposed Recommendations and Resolution were adopted by the Commission.

The United States expressed its wish to host the meeting of the Working Group on Capacity.

The Chair also informed on other proposals that were the subject of discussion in the Compliance Committee, two of which had been deferred from the 2005 meeting which, due to time constraints, were postponed for review in 2007:

- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Management and Application of Underages and/or Overages of the Quotas/Catch Limits. Proposed in 2005.
- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance of Quotas and Catch Limits. Proposed by the United States in 2006.
- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Definition of Large-Scale Fishing Vessels. Proposed in 2005.
- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Measures Pertaining to Large-Scale Fishing Vessels. Proposed by the United States in 2006.
- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonize the Measurement of Length of the Vessels Authorized to Fish in the Area of the Convention. Proposed by the European Community in 2006.

The texts of the above Draft Recommendations that have been postponed for review in 2007 are attached as **ANNEX 12**.

The Report of the Compliance Committee was adopted by correspondence and is attached as **ANNEX 10**.

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

Ms. Sylvie Lapointe, PWG Chair, informed the Plenary Session of the Commission on the following measures adopted by the Group:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Statistical Document Pilot Program (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-16]).*
- *Amending 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 (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-12]).*

The Recommendations were adopted by the Commission.

The PWG Chair also informed the Commission Plenary of the following measure for which no consensus was reached and which was submitted to the Commission for discussion:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Chinese Taipei (ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-01]).*

Various delegations thanked Chinese Taipei for the effort made to comply with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery* [Rec. 05-02] adopted at the 2005 Commission meeting and supported the re-establishment of its bigeye quota. However, they expressed the need to maintain monitoring measures on the activities of the Chinese Taipei fleet, measures which should be extended to the activities of Chinese Taipei vessels that operate with flags of convenience.

The Recommendation was adopted by the Commission after some modification.

Chinese Taipei appreciated the Commission's recognition for its efforts and declared its willingness to continue collaborating and to continue with the monitoring work that has been initiated.

Ms. Lapointe also informed that the PWG had discussed the revision of the Statistical Documents, based on the results of the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs (Mallorca, April 24 to 26, 2006) (see **ANNEX 4.2**), created for that purpose, and two proposed recommendations submitted to the PWG: the "Draft Consolidated Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program" and the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program" (see **ANNEX 12.6**). Notwithstanding, it was not possible to finalize the work and so it is recommended that this work be continued in the inter-sessional period within the framework of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures.

The PWG agreed with the "List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Convention Area" (attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**). 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], for electronic publication on the ICCAT web site.

Ms. Lapointe indicated that the Working Group carried out a case-by-case review of the cooperation of the non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, which is summarized in the table on the "Actions to be Taken in Relation to non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities in 2006" (attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**). These actions were adopted by the Commission.

The PWG agreed to send letters, 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 on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], as follows:

- Letters to Bolivia and Georgia in relation to maintaining bigeye tuna trade sanctions.
- Letter of identification to Cambodia, in accordance with the trade measures Resolution.
- Letters to Cuba and Costa Rica revoking identification, in accordance with the trade measures Resolution, and requesting information on their fishing activities in the Convention area and their monitoring, control and surveillance methods.
- Letter to Ecuador requesting further information on its fleet and on its monitoring, control and surveillance methods.
- Letter to Maldives seeking information on its catches made in the Convention area.
- Letter to Singapore revoking identification, in accordance with the trade measures Resolution.
- Letter to Sri Lanka requesting further information on its fishing activities in the Convention area.
- Letter of identification to Sierra Leone, in accordance with the trade measures Resolution.
- Letter to Togo requesting further information on its fleet and its monitoring, control and surveillance methods, and informing them of possible identification.
- Letter to Netherlands Antilles revoking their Cooperating Status.

The special letters were adopted by the Commission and are attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**.

It was agreed to continue Cooperating Status for Guyana and Chinese Taipei. The Secretariat will send letters to these parties to inform them. On the other hand, Cooperating Status for Netherlands Antilles will be revoked as commitments made by that country had not been fulfilled.

The PWG Report was adopted by correspondence and is attached as **ANNEX 11**.

13. Discussion of ICCAT Review [Res. 05-10]

The Executive Secretary presented the document on the strengthening of ICCAT, prepared by the Secretariat and based on the 2005 *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 05-10]. This document includes the provisions of pertinent international fishery instruments (UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, UNFSA, and FAO Action Plans) and highlights the articles of the ICCAT Convention appropriate to these provisions. The provisions for which there are no measures adopted by ICCAT are also included in the summary.

Supplemental to the report presented by the Secretariat, Canada presented a draft resolution for the strengthening of ICCAT. This draft contemplates, as immediate actions, including the work of the Working Group on Capacity and the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Management Measures, which should meet in 2007, as a part of the process to strengthen ICCAT. In the short-term, Canada proposed creating a new Working Group on the future of ICCAT which should, *inter alia*, review the Convention and evaluate its compatibility with the development in international legislation. This group could meet in 2008 and present its conclusions to the Commission in 2009.

The various delegations that intervened congratulated the Secretariat for the document prepared and agreed with incorporating the work of the Working Group on Capacity and the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Management Measures within the exercise to strengthen ICCAT. However, they considered that the date of the meeting of the second group should be established once the schedule of meetings for 2007 is known. With regard to the creation of a new group on the future of ICCAT, the delegates agreed that the terms of reference of such a group should be clearly specified and should be coherent with the agreements reached at the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs that will be held in 2007 in Kobe.

The proposal was adopted as the *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* (attached as **ANNEX 6 [Res. 06-18]**).

The Commission also adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Working Group on Sport and Recreational Fisheries* (attached as **ANNEX 6 [Res. 06-17]**).

14. Preparations for the 2007 Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs

As the organizing country, Japan explained the objectives of the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs which will be held in Kobe in 2007, following the recommendation made by COFI in 2005. The objective of this meeting is to

review the current status of the RFMOs and define the actions necessary to improve the management of tuna in a coordinated manner.

Further to this explanation, the Executive Secretary informed that the Kobe meeting is part of the work already initiated on the coordination of the activities of the various tunas RFMOs and which has results, such as the recently-created joint web page (www.tuna-org.org), which gives access to the various positive lists of vessels and the IUU lists, as well as information of interest on the activities of the regional organizations. The creation and management of this web page has been assumed by the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the cooperative work among organizations.

Mr. Meski also informed that the Secretariat had prepared a draft document for the meeting and encouraged the Contracting Parties to submit comments. The Executive Secretary indicated that the document was limited to a historical review of the work carried out by ICCAT, within the framework of the SCRS as well as the development and application of management measures, while it does not present any perspective for future development. Mr. Meski also informed on the "Discussion Document on the Possibility of a Performance Evaluation of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations" prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman on the possibility of a performance evaluation of the RFMOs.

Various delegations expressed their appreciation to the Secretariat for the work done in preparing the documents and considered that the Kobe meeting is a good opportunity for an exchange of experiences and points of view on the role that the RFMOs should carry out in the future. Some delegations indicated it would be convenient if, from this meeting, some proposals emerged on models for the functioning of the tuna RFMOs which respond to future management needs and which could be shared by the various organizations. In the same sense, a suggestion was made on the need to define transparent processes of performance evaluation of the regional organizations, while recognizing the difficulty this involves given the differences there are in the functioning of these organizations.

The Chair proposed that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee attend the meeting and also encouraged the Contracting Parties to participate.

15. Assistance to developing coastal States

The Executive Secretary presented a document on a "Summary of Assistance Provided in 2006 to Developing Coastal States" which contains a summary of the activities on the capacity development carried out in 2006 and in which the Secretariat has been involved, mainly as concerns the management of the available funds.

In 2006, the funds for assistance were destined mainly for the training of personnel to assist in participation at scientific meetings and the development of the revised *ICCAT Manual*.

Training courses were financed in Brazil, Senegal and Ghana and activities for the recovery and improvement of data were financed in Ghana, Uruguay and Venezuela. Assistance was also rendered to scientists of coastal developing States to participate in the scientific inter-sessional meetings and the SCRS meeting.

With regard to the revised *ICCAT Manual*, in 2006 Chapter 4 was translated to French and Spanish and Chapter 2 has been developed.

Together with the activities carried out that were charged to the funds for assistance, the document identified other current sources of financing in the fishing field for which coastal developing States can have access. Specifically, the document mentioned the trust fund, established by the UN in 2004, to assist developing States to implement the UNFSA. Further, the EC Delegate mentioned a document prepared by SEAFO which identified various sources of financing, presented and discussed last October, by that organization. The Secretariat was asked to compile the information relative to this document and distribute it among the ICCAT member.

The delegations of the countries that had received funds for assistance expressed their appreciation and valued the results obtained very positively.

Japan, as one of the contributors of funds through the JDIP, asked for support from the countries receiving funds to identify the major needs as regards statistics, so as to adapt its program to these needs.

In response to comments received at the 2006 Chairman's Regional Workshops, the Chair noted his interest in funding data workshops in key regions in 2007. He noted more information would be forthcoming.

Canada announced its contribution of CAN\$ 500,000 to the United Nations for the implementation of Part VII of the UNFSA.

16. Other matters

16.1 40th Anniversary of ICCAT

In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the ICCAT Convention, a special session was held in which Dr. Alain Fonteneau, a scientist who has been closely involved with the Commission's work since its beginning, gave a thorough review of ICCAT's history and pointed out the challenges that the Commission has faced and the development ICCAT has had to carry out to meet these challenges.

This presentation, together with those made during the special 40th anniversary session held during the 2006 SCRS meeting, will be presented in a special ICCAT publication.

16.2 Observer Program

The Executive Secretary informed that, in response to the call for tenders to carry out the management of the observer program (Rec. [05-06]), four offers had been received. Following an initial assessment by the Secretariat, the Commission Officers and the Secretariat created a selection committee, comprised of five experts in this area, who carried out a second review. Both reviews coincided in considering the joint proposal from the Marine Resources Assessment Group-MRAG (of the United Kingdom) and the Capricorn Fish Monitoring-CAPFISH (a South African company) as the offer that best fit the specifications of the proposal. The Executive Secretary asked the parties involved to provide the necessary funds so as to be able to sign the contract.

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

The Executive Secretary informed the delegations that the Secretariat had received an invitation from Turkey to host the 20th Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

The Delegate of Turkey intervened to reiterate his country's willingness to host the 20th Regular Meeting of ICCAT in Istanbul. The Commission accepted and appreciated this invitation.

It was decided to hold the 20th Regular Meeting of the Commission from November 12 to 18, 2007, with the possibility of adding two extra days at the start of the meeting to begin Compliance Committee discussions.

18. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chairman reiterated his appreciation to the Government of Croatia for the organization of the meeting and summarized the work carried out during this meeting. Dr. Hogarth thanked the delegates for their great efforts and expressed recognition of the work carried out by Chinese Taipei.

The Executive Secretary congratulated the Commission for the work done at this difficult meeting and thanked the Government of Croatia and the team that contributed to organizing the meeting for the excellent work done, as well as for the constant support provided to the Secretariat throughout the meeting. He also thanked the interpreters and the Secretariat staff for their work. He reiterated his appreciation to all the delegations for the confidence invested in him and which is expressed through the renewal of his mandate.

The 2006 Commission meeting was adjourned on November 26, 2006.

The report of the final Plenary Sessions was adopted by correspondence.

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. Decisions for Improving the Organization of Commission Meetings
6. Matters pending from the 2005 Meeting
 - 6.1 Possible Restructuring of the PWG and COC
 - 6.2 Issues contained in Annex 11 of the 2005 ICCAT Proceedings
7. Consideration of the adoption of a revised Compendium of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures
8. Summary Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
9. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
10. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
11. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Discussion of ICCAT review [Res. 05-10]
14. Preparations for the 2007 Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs
15. Assistance to developing coastal states
16. Other matters
17. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
18. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Commission Timetable

Day	8:30-9:00	9:00-10:30	10:30-11:00	11:00-13:00	13:00-14:30	14:30 16:00	16:00-16:30	16:30-18:00
Thursday 16								OFC
Friday 17	HD	PLE	COFFEE BREAK	PLE	LUNCH	PA1/PA3	COFFEE BREAK	PA2
Saturday 18		PA2		PA4		STF		PWG/PLE
Sunday 19		--		--		--		--
Monday 20	-	PA2		COC		PA4		40 th Anniversary
Tuesday 21	-	COC		PA2		STF/PA3		PA1/PA4
Wednesday 22	HD	PWG		COC		--		--
Thursday 23	-	-		PWG		COC		PA2
Friday 24	-	PWG		PA4		COC		PA4/PA2
Saturday 25	HD	PA2		PA2		PLE		PLE
Sunday 26	-	PLE		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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Pallarés, Pilar
Moreno, Juan Antonio
Palma, Carlos
Seidita, Philomena
Cheatle, Jenny
Wazawa, Miho
de Andrés, Marisa
Gallego Sanz, Juan Luis
García-Orad, Maria José
García Piña, Cristobal
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OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

3.1 OPENING ADDRESSES

By Dr. William T. Hogarth, Commission Chairman

First of all, I want to take this opportunity to thank our Croatian hosts for selecting such a wonderful location for our meeting. Dubrovnik is a spectacular city. I also want to thank Croatia and our Secretariat staff for the excellent meeting arrangements.

I would like to offer a special welcome to our newest Contracting Party, Syria. You represent our 42nd member, and we look forward to having you as a member.

Since I have asked my fellow Commissioners not to give oral opening statements, I will make mine as brief as possible. However, as Mr. Miyahara used to say, please be patient.

This is a very special year since it is the 40th Anniversary of the Commission. ICCAT has a long-standing history in fisheries management and we will be truly tested this year because of all the important stocks we will be discussing. I do not say this lightly. ICCAT's credibility as a fisheries management organization is on the line this year, particularly because of the critical situation facing eastern bluefin tuna.

There has been unprecedented media and other attention on the Mediterranean bluefin situation, and the world will be watching for the outcome of this meeting. I recognize that this will be a very difficult and sometimes contentious meeting, but I implore all Parties to work together to deal with these issues. I hope we can build on the efforts of the previous Chairman and the Regional Workshops I conducted to improve the functioning and transparency of the Commission. We will discuss the regional workshops later in the agenda, but I would like to express my gratitude to all those that participated in these meetings.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone that this Commission was formed, and I quote from the Convention, "to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch". This is a very important point to remember as we progress through the meeting.

This Commission has shown that it can meet stock management challenges. A rebuilding program was adopted in 1999 for northern swordfish, and, now with still three years remaining swordfish is nearly rebuilt. This is a significant accomplishment for the Commission and clearly shows what we can accomplish when we work together. I hope, in fact, I expect that we will do the same thing for bluefin tuna, a truly magnificent fish. Make no mistake, this will require sacrifices by all Parties involved, but we must take strong action to address this severe situation.

The conservation and management measures for both stocks of swordfish and blue and white marlins will also be discussed. While news from the SCRS is generally positive for these stocks, data reporting continues to be a problem. Lack of data in all ICCAT fisheries has been and continues to be a major concern for this Commission. The situation is reaching a crisis point. We must thoroughly discuss this problem and identify effective solutions at this meeting.

Other important issues that need to be addressed this year include the strengthening of ICCAT, adoption of the Compendium, and assistance to developing states.

RFMOs are being subjected to increasing scrutiny at the international level. Therefore, we must work together to ensure that decision-making at ICCAT is efficient, transparent, and inclusive and that the decisions taken are effective for meeting the objectives of the Convention.

To conclude, I look forward to a productive meeting. Having said that, I do hope that you find some time to enjoy this gorgeous city. Thank you.

By Mr. Zdenko Krmek, Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Water Management of Croatia

It is a great pleasure for me to greet you in the name of the Croatian government and to wish you a warm welcome to the 15th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas.

We are honored by the fact that you have decided to hold this conference in the city of Dubrovnik in Croatia. I am convinced that decisions that will be taken during this meeting will be of high importance for this extremely sensitive part of the fishing industry. At the same time, I'm hoping that you will find some spare time to discover and enjoy the beauties of this Croatian region of which we are so proud.

At the very beginning I would like to express my compliments to Dr. Bill Hogarth as this is the first Conference under his chairmanship. To him and to his colleagues I wish lots of success in times to come. Since Commission meetings tend to be long and demanding, I have no doubt that this one will be much the same. I am certain that under the chairmanship of Dr. Hogarth we can expect a successful meeting. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate Mr. Driss Meski on his engagement without which the organization of this meeting and the overall work of the Commission would not be the same. Last but not least, I would like to thank Dr. Ivan Katavic and his co-workers for the successful organization of this meeting.

By coming here, I believe that you got the chance to perceive the importance of the Adriatic Sea for Croatia as well as the impact of the fisheries which surpasses its commercial dimension. The sea and the life of people by its coast have produced our national specificities and have marked our history. Probably one of the most significant relations between men and the sea was determined by tunas, a species that has always been close to our coast and to our hearts.

Fishery in Croatia shares a long tradition and we are proud of Croatian contributions to this activity. Croatian fishermen have been one of the pioneers in development of fishery techniques used in both farming and catching fish. I'm hoping that the generations to come will continue to cherish our legacy and will carry on with developments in this activity. Hereby, I am especially referring to tuna farming and fishing due to social and commercial importance that these activities have.

We in Croatia have chosen to have and to promote ecologically, socially and economically sustainable fisheries and these decisions have also been incorporated into our national strategy for fishery development. Our fisheries policy is aiming at creating measures that will both protect our natural resources and will ensure preservation of our environment. Nevertheless, we have to keep in mind that the focus of this effort should primarily be set on those who depend on fishing and farming activities.

Now, allow me to get back to the issue of tuna management measures, especially those for Atlantic bluefin tuna although similar considerations may be applied to the rest of the species that are covered by ICCAT.

Tuna farming is particularly important and delicate issue in Croatia due to our specificities concerning tuna fishing and tuna farming which can not easily be applied elsewhere in the world. The Adriatic Sea, as the northernmost Mediterranean bay, according to the recent scientific basis, is a place where tuna grows but does not spawn. These biological characteristics of the Adriatic Sea were crucial in the development of a management system used in Croatia today. Nowadays, tuna farming forms the most important segment of our country's fishery industry. At the same time we mustn't forget that this activity is linked with a series of other activities such as capture fisheries, processing industry and above all the overall organization of the tuna market. I believe you will all agree that tuna fishing and tuna farming imply the source of life and livelihood for a considerably larger number of people apart from those directly involved in these activities.

I am aware of the fact that sometimes politicians need to choose between two types of solutions: the best ones and the possible ones. This is not an easy task. On the other hand, if we agree to mutually sacrifice somewhat we can all gain benefit. Yet, with the help of a good scientific backup and constructive dialog, this choice can be made easier. This year, as in previous times, within the framework of the Scientific Committee of ICCAT, scientists have made firm basis which have to serve as ground foundations for further discussions. All of us who are monitoring developments in fisheries are familiar with potential damages caused on fish stocks by introducing measures not based on scientific advice. Up to this moment, the most severe damage has been made by overlooking the protection of the spawning population. Subsequently, I honestly believe that your future work

will be led by the scientific advice since it is the only possible guarantee for the continuation of tuna fishing and tuna farming.

But, all member States of this Commission need to acknowledge their mistakes. Honest dialog and dedication to the implementation of management and monitoring measures represent our strongest tools. Experiences from the past tell us that problems are not generated by the decisions made at conferences like this one, but mostly arise from their practical application. Catch statistics, adequate monitoring and control, prevention of illegal and unreported catch are some of the mechanisms that seek our mutual cooperation. Therefore, I am asking all of you to keep in mind these attitudes in your future work, and to approach the issues at hand in a constructive environment.

Due to all that has been said, I consider the work of this Commission highly important and would personally like to encourage you to face the challenges of the present time. I thank you very much for your attention and once again I would like to wish you a successful meeting.

Finally, allow me to proclaim the 15th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas inaugurated.

By Mr. Šime Vidulin, Vice-President, Croatian Chamber of Economy

It is my great pleasure to greet you all on behalf of Croatian Chamber of Economy and our members from the fisheries sector, as well as to wish you successful work on defining measures which will mark out the future of this extremely important economic activity, for both Croatia and many other countries in the world.

I am hoping that your stay in Dubrovnik will be pleasant, and that the results of your work will ensure the sustainable management of natural resources, taking into account the sensibility for those who live from this kind of activity, the fishermen, which I believe is possible and is our mutual goal.

All of us, who participate in this conference today, are witnesses of a time in which the fisheries sector as a whole throughout the world is passing through very difficult moments. Data indicate that the stocks of many fish species are threatened, which is why setting up measures that will ensure long-term sustainability in this sector are becoming more important. Concerning this, tuna doesn't differ from other fish species; furthermore, tuna is one of the most important fish species in the fisheries sector at the world economic level. That is the reason why this conference and its work have additional value and importance.

Tuna fishing and farming, particularly in the Mediterranean don't represent economic activity only, but also imply survival and the continuation of tradition for many coastal and insular communities, providing that the Mediterranean stays as it was during its history. Concerning this, Croatia shares the destiny of other Mediterranean countries.

Tuna fishing and multi-annual tuna farming in Croatia have extremely high importance. We were among the pioneers in tuna farming and we believe that we have found out the model which can ensure the sustainable and healthy production branch. The multi-annual farming cycle ensures higher productivity and concurrent mortality decrease, while spawning stock remain unaffected.

This exact model, which began its development in the middle of the nineties of the last century in Croatia, has built, after years of development, an important segment of the national food industry. Today, in the structure of total food products export tuna participates is more than 7%, while this percentage in fisheries products for export is higher than 60%, contributing considerably to the positive trade balance of the entire fisheries sector. Due to this, this activity is extremely important within common economic movements in the Republic of Croatia. However, in bringing measures for tuna management, which will surely result with far-reaching effects on this activity in the Mediterranean and the East Atlantic, the specificity and the tradition must not be forgotten.

For the last management period, ICCAT set up a number of measures which aimed at the sustainable management of tuna stocks. We believe that such measures can bring about results if all participants really apply the mechanisms and particularly strengthen the surveillance and control in this area.

Croatian economy shares the concern of all countries regarding the future of tuna fishing and farming and we wish to believe that it is possible to find an acceptable solution of management measures for the forthcoming

period. Those measures must surely aim at providing the future for both, tuna stocks and fishermen. If adequate protection mechanisms, based on scientific grounds and recommendations, are not found, the future of this activity and people who live from it will be at stake.

Now, with this year's new pack of management measures, ICCAT is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. I would therefore like to congratulate the Commission on the successful work carried out so far and hope to see many more anniversaries. I hope that this 40th Anniversary will be celebrated in atmosphere of constructive dialogue and of sound and efficient management measures put forward. Thank you.

By Mr. Djuro Market, Vice-Mayor of the City of Dubrovnik

It is an honor to greet you all on behalf of the city council and wish you a warm welcome to Croatia and this marvellous city of ours. I truly hope that you will have a pleasant stay in Dubrovnik and that you will find time to enjoy its beauties and get an insight into its tradition and culture regardless of the busy meeting schedule.

I also hope that Dubrovnik will justify its historical significance of an economic and trade centre in the Mediterranean and confirm itself as the place where significant and long term important decisions are brought.

We as the citizens of Dubrovnik are extremely proud of our rich history that gave us the name "the pearl of Mediterranean", known worldwide. Namely, this town, founded during the first half of the 7th century, and proclaimed an independent Republic in the 13th century, had an important role in development of navigation and trade in the Mediterranean region.

Throughout the history the city has maintained diplomatic relations with numerous countries and hence became the link between the eastern and western Mediterranean. We gave a significant contribution to medicine development – we established the first quarantine in the world, situated in port of Dubrovnik during the 13th century.

The fishery also played an important role in Dubrovnik history and nowadays represents a fast growing industry throughout our country, suburban areas, as well as on numerous islands.

Due to its position and coast length, Croatia is dedicated to fisheries, which, in my belief, made a huge progress in tuna farming and became exceptionally important in overall Croatian industry. I am aware that you are here to bring some important decisions regarding tunas and tuna-like species that will be acceptable for all. That's not an easy task and we will try to help you by doing what we know best, to host you.

I also have to express my gratitude for choosing our town for this years' Commission Meeting and at the same time the place for celebration of the Commission's 40th Anniversary.

People have been coming to Dubrovnik for many years and all have felt at home. Hopefully it will be the same for you. I also hope that this visit to Dubrovnik will not be the last one.

Once more, I wish you all a pleasant stay and fruitful meeting. Thank you.

3.2 OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

Algeria

Algeria wholeheartedly thanks the Government of Croatia for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT in the beautiful city of Dubrovnik, a city of such rich cultural heritage and we hope that the work of this session is carried out successfully.

Algeria is also much honored to welcome Syria, who recently joined the large ICCAT family, which this year is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of its Convention. On this honorable occasion, Algeria wishes to extend its wishes for long life and success of our Commission.

Precisely, the future of the Commission depends on the fishing resources, whose conservation is the responsibility of this Commission. In this respect, Algeria would like to express its concerns on the point of convergence of the scientific advice as it concerns the serious risks of decline of the tuna stocks.

This situation is even more disturbing than the management and conservation measures that ICCAT will adopt, which are more and more severe, particularly for our professionals, who are subject to more constraints in the exercise of their activities and who find themselves more at a disadvantage than the illegal fishers.

For our part, Algeria is convinced that IUU activities, in all its origins and forms, are one of the major causes of the problems of sustainable exploitation with which we are faced, and insofar as these practices persist they will continue to undermine the efforts deployed by our States and render in vain the sacrifices made by our fishers.

In the course of the work at this session, Algeria considers that the Commission has to face a double challenge: one in the short-term to urgently respond to the alert given by the scientists, and the other, in the long-term, to slow down the scale of conservation and management measures and to redirect our efforts and discussions to matters concerning implementation and IUU fishing.

In this respect, Algeria considers that the implementation and, thus, the effectiveness of measures that will be adopted at this meeting should not fail to be reinforced by taking into consideration the situation of developing countries that are devoted to consolidating, in the framework of a concerted, responsible and sustainable approach, emerging tuna industries, next to ancient artisanal fisheries.

In closing, Algeria congratulates the Secretariat for the quality of its work and expresses its complete availability to cooperate in a constructive manner with all the delegations, who we wish an enjoyable stay in this magnificent city of Dubrovnik.

Brazil

It is a great pleasure for the Brazilian delegation to be here in this beautiful city of Dubrovnik. We are convinced that the ancient wisdom that emanates from this old city will inspire us all during this meeting, which is certainly one of the most important in the history of this Commission. First of all, we would like to thank the Government and the people of Croatia for the warm hospitality and praise the Secretariat for the usual hard work and the efficient organization of such an important event. We also would like to express our appreciation for your firm leadership, which has been crucial for the strengthening of ICCAT. Under your wise stewardship, we are assured that during this meeting ICCAT will not fall short in fulfilling its obligations in relation to the conservation of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species. The challenges we are facing this year are indeed great, but much greater, we are certain, is our capacity and determination to overcome them.

The Regional Workshops, an innovative idea you have put forward, were already an important step towards a successful meeting this week. During those workshops, held for the first time in the history of the Commission, a lot of progress could already be achieved in relation to the definition of priorities, meeting arrangements and exchange of ideas. Above all, however, the Regional Workshops helped to build mutual confidence and trust, ingredients that will be essential for a positive outcome along the next days. It will not be an exaggeration to state that ICCAT future is at stake. Its capacity to properly manage the tuna stocks under its mandate is being challenged by catches of eastern bluefin tuna that go well beyond the maximum sustainable yield. The stock is so heavily overfished that the possibility of a collapse is already getting dangerously close. Either the Commission acts now, in a firm and unequivocal way, or might very well see this task being taken out of its hands, a failure it simply can't afford to let happen. In this regard, Brazil is getting more and more concerned with the progressive deterioration of the data submitted by the several Contracting Parties. In our view, the obligation to supply accurate data in a timely manner surpasses all others under ICCAT provisions. Without accurate data, sound scientific advice becomes impossible, and so becomes the proper management of the exploited stocks. We fear that failure to fulfill this primary obligation has not been dealt with in the compliance committee with the seriousness and firmness it needs to, a shortcoming we hope to see resolved during the meeting.

Another issue of great importance will be the exercise of quota allocation for both bluefin tuna and swordfish stocks. It is clear to us that time has come for ICCAT to fully apply the criteria it has upon for the allocation of fishing possibilities. We realize, with satisfaction, that the application of the new criteria has been even included as a specific item in the Agenda of all four panels. Let's hope that, more than mere intentions, they will translate into action, towards a more balanced and equitable share of the tuna resources of the Atlantic Ocean.

Another issue of great concern to Brazil has been the application of ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions in a way that go beyond the scope of what has been agreed upon. This is particularly worrisome, when it involves trade restrictive measures. It is our understanding that a due process for the imposition of sanctions has been established by Resolution 03-15. We sincerely hope all contracting parties to respect what they have agreed upon, refraining from adopting unilateral measures, that could seriously erode trust and irreversibly jeopardize the future of this Commission.

This year ICCAT is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. We are proud to have hosted its foundation 40 years ago in Rio de Janeiro and to have been an active member of this Commission since then. We are convinced that greater and more effective cooperation among parties is the only way to achieve the objectives we share as members of ICCAT and as always, we are ready to work with a constructive spirit in this end. Thank you.

Canada

Canada is very pleased to be in the historic city of Dubrovnik for this year's annual ICCAT meeting. We thank the Government of Croatia for its gracious offer to host this important meeting. As we have all seen, Dubrovnik is a city that has shown the world how to overcome adversity, and its recovery has been remarkable.

We too must find the means and will to overcome difficult circumstances and show the world that we can reinvent this organization and put in place the measures necessary to protect some of the world's most precious aquatic resources. This is no less than an obligation we have to our future generations. We must do the right thing.

ICCAT is somewhat of an enigma. It has notable successes, but it also has some glaring failures that threaten its very existence. ICCAT has developed a model for the world on the use of trade measures to combat over-fishing by vessels using flags of convenience. Yet we also have compliance rules that are routinely ignored by members and for which there is little or no accountability.

We all understand the importance of basing decisions on sound science, yet many of our Parties do not even provide basic catch statistics. As a result, our scientists are faced with the challenging task of providing advice without up to date and complete information.

This doesn't make sense. ICCAT has shown the world that by following scientific advice, establishing a rebuilding plan and sticking to catch limits, fish stocks can recover. North Atlantic swordfish is a testament to this, and something of which we should be proud.

The SCRS assessment of east Atlantic bluefin is an indictment of our management. It is also a warning that if we don't act now, we could very well see this stock collapse. There is simply too much fishing in relation to the productive potential of this stock. We must reduce the number of vessels fishing or the fishing effort that they exert. Many believe we are incapable of providing reasonable management oversight. It's up to us to prove them wrong.

We have increasing evidence of the interrelatedness of the east and west components, and such linkages imply that management actions taken in the east and west must be consistent and coordinated.

In Canada's view, ICCAT needs to achieve three goals at this meeting.

First we have a fundamental duty as per the ICCAT Convention to restore stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

Second, we need to agree upon a set of measures that will strengthen compliance and allow us to establish a solid rebuilding plan for east Atlantic bluefin. Without this basic step, we will run the risk of having others, such as CITES, step in and do what we cannot or will not.

The third goal for ICCAT is to put in place the foundation for a long-term solution to overcome the chronic weaknesses that plague us. To achieve this, we must commit ourselves to the process of reforming and strengthening ICCAT.

Last year Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, European Community and the United States introduced a resolution to this effect and while many Parties supported it, there was some resistance to our proposal. Given the SCRS report,

we trust that all members will commit to a process that will see us review each and every aspect of ICCAT and its functioning; compare it against the framework intended in UNCLOS and expressed clearly in UNFSA and other relevant international instruments, and develop an implementation plan to get us there.

Canada is committed to the reform and strengthening of regional fisheries management organizations across the globe. At this meeting, Canada will introduce a recommendation for ICCAT to establish a Working Group to meet inter-sessionally, review the document prepared by the Secretariat, and to bring forward to the Commission the changes necessary to ensure effective and sustainable management of Atlantic tunas and tuna-like species.

Canada believes that while we need to implement measures this year to establish some basic control on the activity of members, it is only by reforming our practices and mandate that we can achieve success in the longer term. We no longer have the luxury of time to do this in a piecemeal manner. Our collective behaviour of the past 10 years clearly shows this.

We need a sustained and comprehensive approach to re-establish control, hold members accountable, re-build stocks and regain the trust of the world.

Several years ago, Canada outlined its motto for ICCAT: conservation, compliance, consistency and clarity.

We now need a commitment to get us there.

Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire would like to congratulate the Government of Croatia for having accepted to host the 15th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in this beautiful and bewitching city of Dubrovnik, for the hospitality extended to the participants and for all the facilities put at our disposal. Please extend to the local Authorities of Dubrovnik our sincere recognition.

Côte d'Ivoire would also like to express its appreciation and congratulations to the ICCAT Executive Secretary for the excellent organization of this meeting.

Côte d'Ivoire cannot stress enough the nutritional and socio-economic importance of the fishing resources to our country. In effect, the fishing products, with a per capita consumption of 18 kg, represent the most important source of animal protein for the Ivorian population. It is for this reason that Côte d'Ivoire attaches great importance and accords significant interest in all matters concerning the management of these resources whose exploitation should be responsible and sustainable.

For its part, Côte d'Ivoire is committed to implement and respect ICCAT's conservation and management measures as well as all other pertinent measures, such as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

It is no secret that the world fishing production is dropping, after being stable for more than a decade. This is the case for many fisheries, and especially the tuna fisheries. A lot of sacrifice, discipline and moderation are needed on the part of the ICCAT Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties to rebuild the stocks in poor condition and to maintain them at levels that again permit their sustainable exploitation.

The Commission should be vigilant that the measures that are envisaged are fair, equitable and non-discriminatory. In this sense, it is essential that the quotas allocated to the various parties are based on the application of the allocation criteria adopted with difficulty by ICCAT.

Croatia

We would like to reiterate our appreciation to the Executive Secretary for his continuous cooperation and assistance in organization of this Meeting.

The Tentative Agenda for this year's Commission Meeting indicates some tough and difficult discussions. This is the year of the stock re-assessment and the new multi-year managing decisions that need to be taken. We believe that the discussions shall be fruitful, although the Commission is going to face some stormy seas. But hopefully, a safe harbour for both the tuna and the industry will be found.

This Commission has thus far reached important decisions, and has managed to work out the most difficult negotiations, but we never the less believe that there is still space for some improvements. Timely tabling of the proposals and focused discussions are, by all means, the steps in the right direction. This is the track that we would strongly encourage and support.

Concerning the issues at hand, we have all recently closely followed the discussions regards the status of the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic bluefin stocks. The SCRS has done enormous and complex work this year on bluefin tuna stock assessment, giving us a significant number of alternative management scenarios, that have been labelled red, yellow and green, where several of them might be used to begin recovery of the stock, giving possibilities to reduce fishing mortalities and to rebuild the spawning stock biomass up to levels that are considered safe enough to avoid fishery and stock collapse. We believe that this advice is invaluable and that it will make the difference. The issues of minimum landing sizes, length at first maturity, spawning areas and seasons may not be overlooked when considering the protection of the stocks. We strongly believe that responsible scientific advice should be the basis for all our decisions, and that with the given options in mind we can truly move to the levels of decisions. Provisional decisions on any of these issues, reached without a strong support from the scientific community may, in the end, not only be wrong but to some extent disastrous, both for the stocks and for those living off 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, as well as currently working on further installations. The Croatian Government is strongly supporting sustainable development of this activity, giving support to all additional control mechanisms, including monitoring and observers on farms, as well as more specific and more detailed farming reports. We do not expect that future development of tuna farming in Croatia is going to be represented in increasing production, but in developing of all the mechanisms that could improve quality of production, especially regarding environmental and control issues.

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 we can truly control what goes on in the field. The fish can be caught by any vessel in any 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 and at market level. Just as well, market-related mechanisms can be the only one truly effective when it comes to the issues of the IUU. Following the FAO resolutions, all regional fisheries management organizations are called upon to discuss and take measures to prevent, deter and eliminate the IUU fishing. This has in the past shown to be the most difficult issue, and the white and black lists have not had true effect so far. Perhaps it is now time to consider the actual mechanisms that could be employed to this end.

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

France (St. Pierre & Miquelon)

On behalf of the France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), I would like to thank Croatia for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. On this occasion I would like to express our satisfaction with the increase in Contracting Parties to this Commission which this year welcomed two new members to whom I extend a warm welcome.

France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) shares the concerns of the parties here present concerning the conservation of the stocks of tunas in the Atlantic, which is a matter of fishing in a sustainable manner, particularly so that future generations and their populations dependent on fishing will develop great respect of our environment and its resources.

France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) was allocated in 1998 a fixed quota of 4 t annually of west Atlantic bluefin tuna, whose overages or underages should be added to or deducted from the following year's catch. Similarly, as concerns North Atlantic swordfish, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) was allocated a fixed quota of 35 t per year, whose overages or underages should be added to or deducted from the two years following the year of the catch.

Since these implementations have been carried out, the reports of underages have permitted to increase the annual possibilities of catches. These initial quotas are insufficient for our islands, whose population of 7,000 depends on fishing.

Similarly, the matter of the stock assessments scheduled this year by ICCAT Recommendations [Rec. 04-05] and [Rec. 03-03], France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) requests, in order to respond to the needs of the population of St. Pierre & Miquelon, a significantly higher catch quota than that currently allocated to it.

We wish this meeting to be very successful in all its work and that during the course of responsible and constructive discussions together we can continue the path towards the sustainable management that we have all established.

Japan

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I wish to make some opening remarks at the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

First of all, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Croatia for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to mention the following points in which Japan has grave concerns.

This year's meeting is quite important since the Commission needs to adopt conservation and management measures for many major stocks. In addition to this, there are many other important issues, such as an appropriate input to the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs next January, strengthening of the organization, fishing capacity, and IUU fisheries.

Having said this, eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna is the most important and urgent matter to be addressed at this meeting. The SCRS reported very serious stock status as a result of the uncontrolled expansion of bluefin tuna farming. Urgent and strict conservation and management measures are needed to avoid the collapse of this stock. The Commission should give highest priority at this meeting to the adoption of effective conservation and management measures on this stock.

The Commission should pay serious attention to the SCRS Report. It indicates that the current catches of eastern bluefin tuna reach almost 50,000 t, considerably exceeding the 32,000 t of TAC, fishing mortality is more than three times the level that would permit the stocks to stabilize at the MSY level, current fishing would drive the spawning stock biomass to a very low level, and the combination of high F and low SPR is considered to result in a high risk of fisheries and stock collapse. The main reason that caused this situation is the rapid expansion of bluefin tuna farming. The lack of effective control and monitoring of farming activities is hiding the unreported fishing for bluefin tuna. To rebuild the stock, emergency measures are essential to change the current farming practice. Mixing bluefin tuna of various resources in one cage makes it impossible to trace the farmed products back to the original catch amount. In addition, the growth rate and mortality rate during transportation and farming has yet to be obtained. These problems disable the Commission to review compliance by each flag state with its national allocation that catches bluefin tuna for farming. Japan has no intention, as the biggest bluefin tuna market country, to continue to accept fish caught inconsistent with the Commission regulation. Japan will present proposals to address these issues.

Along with the establishment of the TAC and its national allocation, extension of closure periods and an increase in minimum size to be agreed based on scientific advice from SCRS are also needed.

I understand that since various countries and business entities are involved in bluefin tuna farming it is not an easy task to reach an agreement. However, we should bear in mind that if the Commission fails to adopt effective management measures, the credibility of ICCAT, which has been the leading regional tuna management organization for over four decades, will be damaged irremediably. It would also cause general doubt on the competence and ability of fisheries management as regard to the all tuna regional management organizations.

Under these circumstances, we should make our best effort to reach a consensus and adopt the conservation and of management measures on eastern bluefin tuna for the next management period. Decisions by voting might

lead to a number of objections and could jeopardize the integrity of the Commission. Even in the case of no agreement on eastern bluefin conservation and management measures including TAC and national allocation, it should be regarded as not non-restrictive fishing conditions but no fishing opportunity at all next year, i.e. we can neither fish bluefin tuna nor sell or buy it.

Finally, we express our sincere commitment to contribute positively to this meeting to bring about fruitful results. Thank you.

Mexico

The Mexican Delegation wishes to thank the Authorities of Croatia for the excellent facilities provided to carry out the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

At the same time, we express appreciation for the work carried out by the Secretariat to organize this meeting, and we wish every success to our Chairman, Dr. William Hogarth, who initiates his work before this Commission.

We would like to express special recognition for the work carried out through the Regional Workshops, and in particular, that carried out in Belize where diverse interests and concerns of the ICCAT members from the American Continent were expressed and discussed. This exercise is, without a doubt, a good means to channel our work and to achieve overall satisfactory results.

For this meeting, the Mexican Delegation recognizes the need and importance of cooperation and coordination in order to work towards sustained fishing and the agreement of actions to confront our major problems. In this sense, we insist on the need to take urgent measures for the protection of the species that require special attention in this forum.

In this respect, the status of the stock of eastern bluefin tuna is urgent and worrying and, without a doubt, requires additional measures for its protection. In the case of the western bluefin tuna stock, the situation is different since this stock is showing signs of recovery and this responds to the measures adopted in ICCAT which have been implemented by the coastal countries in that area.

For this reason, the Government of Mexico considers it necessary to implement additional conservation measures and compliance actions urgently for bluefin tuna. Further, it considers it essential that these measures be applied especially in the eastern Atlantic area where this resource is in a particularly critical situation, which affects the entire stock.

Likewise, the Mexican Delegation will insist on the implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* for the allocation of match quotas, in which the various elements contained in these Criteria should be recognized and, particularly, the right of the coastal State to develop their fisheries, should be a fundamental element that governs such allocation.

In this sense, we will insist on Mexico's interest in counting on larger match quota for species such as swordfish and bluefin tuna. This, in the understanding that we are a coastal State that is highly committed to the ideals of this Commission which recognizes the efforts our country has made to achieve the responsible fishing of these species.

We will also insist on the establishment of clear and transparent rules for the transfer of catch quotas, since this is an allocation method which can affect the conservation of the resources; a review of the mechanisms for quota underages and overages, which can also jeopardize the stability of the stocks by not taking the natural mortality of the species into account.

As a priority item, we will support initiatives aimed at strengthening research work and the collection of data that reinforce our knowledge on the marine resources under ICCAT mandate, and that these initiatives strengthen national capacities for scientific research and management.

We will also support measures of an administrative nature that are aimed at improving the efficiency of the Commission, and mechanisms that result in improving the current financial situation.

As regards the implementation of trade restrictions, we are interested that these be applied in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner, so that these are the last resort to promote the conservation of the resources under ICCAT competence.

Finally, we would like to express our confidence that this is an excellent opportunity to reach a consensus on these and other issues of interest for our countries, and we hope the results of our work are also successful.

Namibia

The majestic scenery of Dubrovnik and the serenity of its ancestral beauty set the scene for pragmatic deliberations and portend successful outcome of this august meeting. Namibia is pleased to once again come together with the broad membership of the ICCAT family. The Namibian delegation expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Croatia for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of the Commission in this beautiful town and wishes the Commission a happy 40th Anniversary!

Namibia is proud to be a member of ICCAT and be party to the crafting and implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures. ICCAT has implemented a large body of stock conservation measures, which help contribute to the sustainable management and utilization of the species under its purview. Namibia considers the adoption of the 2001 *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* as one of the major milestones achieved by the Commission. The momentum set since 2002 to accommodate the growing interests of the developing coastal States in the gradual implementation of these criteria should not be interrupted. We need to recognize the progress achieved so far and gradually move towards full implementation of the allocation standards set forth.

The development of emerging fisheries due to the growing interests of parties who did not previously fully participate in ICCAT fisheries requires that the Commission monitors the issue of fishing capacity so that over-capacity does not occur or even worsen. Namibia supports measures to address this issue. Meanwhile efforts have been made for electronic innovations in response to excessive paper work employed to track trade of tuna and tuna-like resources and for data exchange. Namibia believes that development of bilateral programs to advance this innovation will go a long way towards improvements in the quality of information exchange.

The Namibian delegation takes this opportunity to wish the Commission and all participants a fruitful meeting.

Norway

The Norwegian Delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Government of Croatia for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT in the beautiful city of Dubrovnik.

This year's Commission meeting is particularly important with regard to the management of the Atlantic bluefin tuna stock. The state of this stock is critical and urgent measures are called for. To redress the situation difficult and painful measures must be taken. Norway is fully aware of the costs involved. In fact, Norway has for a long time suffered the consequences of the stock decline. In the past Norway was by far the most important fishing nation of Atlantic bluefin tuna in the North East Atlantic, counting for over 70% of the total catches in some years, with large fish up to 400 kg. During the last decades, however, the stock has been practically absent from our waters as the normal feeding migrations northwards to the most productive ecosystems in the northeast Atlantic have not taken place. Indeed, there is a lack of older fish which would normally undertake the long migration out of the Mediterranean Sea.

Atlantic bluefin tuna is a highly migratory species and it should be a primary objective for ICCAT to adopt management measures which will enable the stock to increase and the individual fish to grow to their full potential. This would be beneficial to all countries concerned.

Norway will call upon ICCAT's members to join efforts and cooperate with the view of future sustainable harvesting of this important stock in accordance with our obligations and rights under UNCLOS and in particular the UN Fish Stock Agreement.

Philippines

First of all, the Philippine delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the Government of Croatia for hosting this meeting in the beautiful city of Dubrovnik.

The Philippines is pleased to participate in the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT and look forward to working with all delegations on the issues facing ICCAT this year.

The Philippines, having attended ICCAT meetings as an observer and a Cooperating non-Contracting Party and as member of the Commission since 1998, would like to reconfirm its commitment in the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the ICCAT Convention area and will support actions that will stop over-fishing and excess fishing capacity, as well as the implementation of conservation and management measures based on best scientific advice.

Since its participation in ICCAT, the Philippines have endeavored to provide statistical information on the catches of its fleet in the Atlantic Ocean and will continue to adhere to the approved resolutions and recommendations of the Commission.

The Philippines is deeply committed to the principles and obligations embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the associated Implementing Agreement in the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish stocks. As a member of the Commission we want to demonstrate the seriousness of our commitment in the sustainable conservation and management of fishery resources in the Atlantic Ocean as well as other areas where Philippine flagged fishing vessels are operating.

The Philippines is a classic case of a developing country that is just in the process of establishing its own fishing industry and for which practically all international instruments relating to conservation and management of fisheries resources calling on more developed fishing States to extend consideration and assistance in the development of their fishing industry. It may be recalled that at the meeting in New Orleans in 2004, the Philippines was authorized an additional three fishing vessels from the five fishing vessels that were authorized to fish in the Atlantic Ocean at any given time, for this we are grateful to the Commission. However, our request for a quota of 4,000 tons of bigeye, as well as quota for the other species managed by ICCAT was not given consideration. We are reiterating this request because we firmly believe that new participants to the fishery be afforded a fair and equitable scheme in the allocation of quotas.

Sao Tomé & Príncipe

The Delegation of St. Tome & Principe would like to wholeheartedly express its appreciation to the Government of Croatia and especially the city of Dubrovnik for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT, a very important event for the conservation of Atlantic tuna.

A special note of recognition goes out to the Commission Chairman and the Secretariat of the Commission for the excellent work carried out throughout the year.

St. Tome & Principe considers that the Commission is constantly progressing since some regional activities have been carried out, such as working groups, training for its members to improve their statistics, the timely transmission of pertinent documents and information and, above all, democracy in the discussions at its meetings. All this makes our organization a strong and sustainable institution, which will have positive repercussion on the management and conservation of the species.

ICCAT needs to confront challenges, notably the decline in the catch of bluefin tuna and other species as well as the lack of submission of fishery data by Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, and this can be achieved through more collaboration and international assistance to improve scientific and technical capacity, from the point of view of countries located in the North, Central, South, East and West Atlantic Ocean.

Esteemed members and Secretariat of ICCAT, the St. Tome & Principe delegation is committed to collaborate with the Commission and proposes to reinforce equilibrium any way it can for the sustainable and equitable management of the opportunities within the precepts of the regulations adopted in the framework of the Organization.

Once again, St. Tome & Principe congratulates the Chairman, the Executive Secretary and his staff and the members for special organization of the 15th Special Meeting of the Commission, and for the 40th Anniversary of the Commission. We express our wishes that this anniversary marks the year as one of promotion of sustainable balance and tolerance. Thank you for your attention.

Senegal

The Republic of Senegal wishes to thank the Republic of Croatia for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Concerned about the sustainable exploitation of the tuna stocks within the scope of international agreement, Senegal has resumed its activities in ICCAT since December 2004. Its withdrawal from the organization in December 1988 was dictated by the political context of a structural adjustment and thus by the need to reduce public expenses.

After Seville, this year marks our second participation in the Commission's work and Senegal intends, thus, to play an important role in the sustainable management of the high seas resources, particularly tunas and tuna-like species.

Thus, the Sub-regional Workshop for the collection and processing of statistics on the tuna fishery was organized in Saly, Senegal, from March 20 to 25, 2005, under the auspices of ICCAT and with financing from the Japan Data Improvement Project (JDIP). Following that workshop, Senegal submitted a plan for the improvement of tuna statistics to ICCAT.

Other important measures have been taken by Senegal, notably:

- Decree No. 006477 of September 25, 2006, approving the National Plan of Action for the conservation and management of the stocks of sharks and rays.

The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Shark Stocks ("*PAN-requins*") developed and approved by an ensemble of players whose objective is in accordance with international and sub-regional plans of action for the conservation and management of sharks.

- Within the framework of implementing the Sub-regional Plan of Action on Sharks, Senegal has coordinated a study on the empirical knowledge of fish-sawshark;
- An inter-ministerial decree on regulating the import of fishing products. This objective of this decree is to define the conditions of sanitary and documentary of the fishing products imported.
- A revision of Law No. 98-32 of April 14, 1998 on the maritime fishing code decree of implementation whose objective, among others, is to readapt our legal arsenal to the current fishing context. This revision of the code will take into account the management and conservation measures decreed in the framework of international bodies in which Senegal is a member, in particular, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
- Tuna vessels over 24 m authorized to operate in waters under Senegalese jurisdiction will henceforth be obliged to have an observer on board.
- Decree No. N°007958 of December 5, 2005, Senegal has made it obligatory to have a beacon on board all the vessels authorized to operate in Senegalese jurisdictional waters. The tuna vessels authorized by the Directorate of Protection and Surveillance of Fishing in Senegal (DPSP) to fish in our waters have, in particular, a real-time VMS system.
- Decree No. 00856 of March 3, 2005, established a national registry of fishing vessels, an effective tool for monitoring, surveillance and implementation of fishing regulations.
- Transshipments at sea are prohibited; these can be authorized, exceptionally, in the port interior. They must be subjected to a preliminary report and be placed under the supervision of the DPSP.
- A national plan of action against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU) is being developed.

As you will note, considerable efforts are deployed by Senegal within the scope of ICCAT. After the last SCRS meeting, Senegal was identified to assist ICCAT with the Billfish Research Program for the east Atlantic. In this context, \$1,500 has been allocated by ICCAT to monitor this species. These efforts merit being continued,

specifically on the institutional, technical and financial level so as to implement an effective scheme to monitor the tuna fishery and, in particular, the artisanal and sport fisheries.

Up to now, Senegal has not been allocated any quota. As regards bigeye tuna, Senegal, in the perspective of the implementation of a tuna platform and the increase in its tuna fleet requests a 7,000 t quota. With regard to swordfish, Senegal hopes to obtain fishing possibilities of at least equal to 2,000 t, to take into account the threats that this species has.

Concerning the placing of observers on board tuna vessels over 24 m, this is foreseen in the Senegalese regulation. From now on, all tuna vessels over 25 m authorized to fish in waters under Senegalese jurisdiction will be required to have an observer on board.

In this connection, Senegal would like to support ICCAT to strengthen the capacities of its observers concerning the rules for monitoring tunas in view of their eventual insertion in the ICCAT rules.

ICCAT should continue to be a special normative context for the fundamental needs of sustainable exploitation of the living resources under its protection.

Senegal hopes that the present meeting takes into account the concerns of the developing countries that are of an institutional, technical or financial nature, in order to facilitate their involvement in decision-taking, in order to result in adequate and prompt implementation of the ICCAT recommendations. Senegal regrets its absence from the last meeting in Madrid which was due to budgetary constraints.

In this regard, more involvement of the *Commission Sous Regionale des Pêches*, CSRP (Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (SRCF) in ICCAT could induce the CSRP Member States to become more interested in ICCAT's activities. In effect, pooling of resources of the CSRP members countries could contribute effectively to the achievement of ICCAT's objectives. Thus, it is essential that ICCAT contact CSRP in view of establishing a partnership.

South Africa

The South African delegation wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Government of Croatia for hosting this 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful city of Dubrovnik. We are particularly grateful for the efforts of the Chairperson to attend to the concerns of the developing States and the regional consultative meetings he initiated.

As one of the founding members of ICCAT, South Africa is pleased to note the tremendous growth in terms of membership, data gathering, cooperation and sharing of information with the fishing nations. This has provided an excellent basis for South Africa to put management and conservation measures in place to ensure the sustainability of extremely important migratory fish stocks in keeping with the objectives of ICCAT. In so doing, South Africa has increased its capacity in respect of Resource Management, Monitoring Control and Surveillance and Research. South Africa has implemented a vessel monitoring system in all its inshore and offshore fishery sectors and has gone to great lengths to address IUU fishing. As a developing coastal State, South Africa is steadily building its capacity in the large pelagics fishery sector and has allocated long-term fishing rights in this sector in 2005, thus contributing to the expansion of our fishing performance.

We note with concern the pressure on certain fish stocks that were highlighted in the SCRS Report and are pleased that the Commission has taken and is continuing to take effective action to protect and rebuild these resources for future generations. South Africa is committed and fully supports the ICCAT management and conservation measures.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is pleased to participate in this 15th Special Session of the ICCAT Commission in Dubrovnik, Croatia for the first time as a Contracting Party to ICCAT. We take this opportunity to bring to the Commission our concerns, needs and measures taken by our country to regulate all Vincentian registered vessels fishing on the high seas.

We have made substantial efforts to fulfil our reporting and compliance obligations to ICCAT as a fishing nation. This is consistent with the fundamental policy of sustainable use of all our resources. To this end we have

enacted legislation and have passed the relevant regulations; we are currently monitoring vessels utilising a satellite vessel monitoring system; which has been recently upgraded for greater efficiency; the moratorium on the registration of high seas fishing vessels is still maintained and vessels are currently reporting detailed statistics.

Additionally, we have signed a memorandum of understanding with Chinese Taipei to cooperate on fisheries matters and I am pleased to say that this cooperation has already started in the area of monitoring control and surveillance of high seas fishing vessels and general cooperation on ICCAT compliance issues. Discussions were held with: (i) Trinidad and Tobago, who has agreed to cooperate on port monitoring through the exchange of information; (ii) the United States with which we are exploring training and assistance opportunities in monitoring control and surveillance, including at the market place; and (iii) Japan who has continued their technical and financial assistance in numerous fisheries related areas. We have implemented most activities outlined in our remedial action plan for the regulation of all vessels (local and foreign), a plan which has been regarded as ambitious. St. Vincent and the Grenadines would like to thank the members of the Commission who provided support during our preparation for membership.

St Vincent and the Grenadines is a developing state with special needs, given our limited financial and human resources, and opportunities for economic diversification. It is important that recognition be given to our dependence on our marine resources, not only, for economic benefits, but as a major contributor to food security, and poverty alleviation.

Our problems are compounded by the eminent demise of the banana industry, our nation's main foreign exchange earner for many years. Consequently, the fishing industry, local and high seas, is of increasing importance as a source of revenue. However, global issues, such as increasingly stringent sanitary and phytosanitary standards, rising commodity prices, particularly, oil prices create major challenges. It is in recognition of these challenges that the government of St Vincent and the Grenadines has in place comprehensive strategies for the development of the fisheries sector, invested significant financial resources in fisheries institutional and infrastructural enhancement, and has become a Contracting Party to ICCAT.

Our country recognises the need to obtain reasonable quota and anticipates that our rights as a developing coastal state to fish resources in the ICCAT Convention area will be fully accommodated and respected. In this regard we request that these deliberations take account of our needs as a small developing state by ensuring that any quotas which are allocated to St. Vincent and the Grenadines could facilitate a viable fishing industry. We will continue our efforts to refine mechanisms to regulate our fishing fleet as deemed necessary for compliance with the Convention.

Given the current capacity and the significant sacrifices made by our fishing industry during the past five years, we request membership of Panels 1, 2 and 4 and the following quotas: 1000 t of North Atlantic albacore, and 300 t of North Atlantic swordfish.

Furthermore, we wish to advise the Commission of our intention to harvest 2100 t of bigeye tuna in 2007. Thank you.

Uruguay

The Delegation of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay wishes to greet and thank the Government of Croatia, and particularly the city of Dubrovnik, for hosting the 15th Special Meeting of the Commission, on occasion of its 40th Anniversary, in this magnificent venue. We would also like to express our greetings and recognition to the Commission Chairman and the Secretariat for all the work carried out to organize this important event.

We consider that the Regional Workshops convened by the Chairman were a true success, which allowed a horizontal exchange among the parties to communicate their problems, expectations and aspirations. We believe that this path of integrated dialogue that has started, will allow the Commission to walk along more stable lines of agreement, where poor countries have more opportunities and we hope that these Workshops are incorporated permanently to the functioning of this Commission.

This year the Commission's meeting is particularly important as a reply has to be provided concerning the situation of various stocks of species which were assessed by the SCRS and that in some cases, such as bluefin tuna, the situation is of concern. This represents a challenge for ICCAT and its role in the adequate administration of resources.

We firmly believe that the conservation of our fishing resources is based fundamentally on scientific grounds and thus, the Commission must provide greater support to the Scientific Committee providing better possibilities to Member States for research and data collection and control.

Uruguay has claimed that the efforts for the management and administration of resources are recognized and valued, in particular, for poor countries on the coast. We understand that the adequate management and administration of resources and economic development are not contradictory matters and contributing to resolve these matters is part of our work.

During this meeting our delegation is committed to collaborate with the Commission in the implementation of Allocation Criteria and collaborate in making this the basis of understanding in this years' allocation of quotas

In the 15th Special Meeting of the Commission, Uruguay hopes to avoid the difficulties and strengthen the functioning and commitment of this organization and Contracting Parties as regards the conservation and equitable distribution of resources. It is a challenge that we hope to overcome between Parties, bearing in mind the criteria and determination of the Commission Chairman. Thank you.

United States

I would like to begin by thanking our Croatian hosts for their warm hospitality in this beautiful city of Dubrovnik. This is the first visit to Dubrovnik for all of us on the United States delegation, and we are very impressed with the rich culture and history of this stunning UNESCO World Heritage site.

This year's ICCAT meeting is likely to be the most challenging in many years. With new stock assessments of bluefin tuna, swordfish and marlin, the Commission has a significant number of management measures to put in place. In addition, ICCAT must address overall compliance issues, including chronic data reporting deficiencies, which severely hampers the SCRS' ability to monitor and assess the status of the stocks.

This year's scientific results run the full gamut from positive to alarming news.

On the positive end, ICCAT members should be extremely proud of achieving their first-ever successful international fish rebuilding program. North Atlantic swordfish are now considered nearly fully recovered. This success shows that a multilateral effort to develop science-based measures, implemented through a multi-year rebuilding program, can result in a rebuilt stock and tremendous socio-economic benefit from the fishery.

At the other extreme in the scientific results, bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are considered on the brink of stock collapse. It is clear that harvests in this fishery are completely out of control. Conservative estimates from the SCRS put catches over the last couple of years, indeed perhaps the last decade, at least 50,000 t, which is roughly twice the level recommended by the scientists in 2002. The cumulative overage over the last four years is estimated to be at least 76,000 t.

Perhaps the most disturbing situation is that even long-time members of ICCAT are overrunning their quotas and/or not fully reporting their catches. How can new or potential members view their responsibilities seriously when compliance is clearly not a priority in several fisheries? How can developing countries be expected to put effort into monitoring and compliance when even industrialized nations are not meeting their ICCAT data reporting obligations?

In 2002, the United States reluctantly agreed to a package of management measures for eastern bluefin tuna, based on a commitment by eastern harvesters to reduce undersized bluefin tuna catch and to significantly improve data collection. Clearly these commitments have not been honored. In addition to TAC overruns (doubly damaging given that the TAC was set above scientifically advised levels), data reporting is worse than ever, and any benefits to the eastern bluefin stock from the promised reductions in small fish were offset by overall increases in harvests.

Overall, the United States is appalled at the continued poor performance with data reporting by a large number of ICCAT members. The SCRS continues to report that for a number of species, including eastern bluefin, their scientific analyses have been hampered and/or delayed due to the lack of full reporting of data. We must implement the data compliance measure adopted last year to make progress on this never-ending problem.

In stark contrast with the east, the western Atlantic bluefin fishing countries agreed to a scientifically recommended rebuilding program, have stayed well within, and even below the catch limits, and have fully reported their data. While this year's stock assessment indicates that the western rebuilding program may need adjustment, recovery is likely being hampered by continued rampant over-fishing in the eastern Atlantic. SCRS states that the over-harvests in the east have an impact on the western stock because of mixing.

Given the status of the eastern bluefin tuna resource ICCAT must take effective action to implement appropriate management actions and measures to ensure compliance with management decisions. These are not new concerns, and ICCAT's credibility as a competent management authority depends on taking meaningful action this year.

Indeed, it seems that only in the case of Chinese Taipei has ICCAT been successful in addressing overcapacity, compliance, and reductions in fishing effort. This experience should serve as a model for moving forward with overall management and compliance issues by the entire Commission. Equity demands a similar response to similar problems.

Given the sacrifices of the U.S. fleet, there is a strong call from our constituents to ensure a level playing field across the global fishery. All fishing fleets must share in the burden of reducing fishing effort, catch and capacity. All management authorities must share in the responsibilities to monitor and control their fishing fleets, and fully report their data to ICCAT as required. Only a multi-national effort can ensure that ICCAT meets its objective of maintaining stocks at scientifically based levels that provide maximum sustainable yield, thereby ensuring the maximum long-term socio-economic benefits from the fishery resources under our stewardship. Thank you.

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

Chinese Taipei

First of all, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Government of Croatia for choosing the beautiful and historic city of Dubrovnik as the venue for the annual meeting of ICCAT. Their warm hospitality could be felt once we arrived in the airport of Dubrovnik. I would also extend my appreciation to the Secretariat staff for their tireless and diligent work in preparing the meeting. There has been much improvement in the dissemination of meeting documents. Thanks to the efforts to the Secretariat staff.

I must also thank the Chairman for arranging the Informal Workshops of different groups during the inter-sessional period, listening to the voices from different sources with the aim of improving the progress of the annual meeting and to the extent practicable avoiding bureaucracy in the meeting. We highly appreciate your efforts in this respect. The Chairman mentioned in the Informal Workshops that this annual meeting will be a tough one with plenty of work lying in front of us, and notably the issue of conservation of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic. Failure to reach effective conservation measures will undermine the sustainability of the stock as well as the creditability of the Commission. My delegation will wholeheartedly cooperate with you and other members to reach a resolution acceptable to all. I firmly believe, with your wisdom and the cooperative spirit of members and cooperating non-members, the Commission will be able to achieve this goal.

Last year the Commission adopted a recommendation requiring Chinese Taipei to enhance its management of the bigeye tuna fishery, coupling with unprecedented conditions. Despite the short period of time given for the implementation of this recommendation, I am proud to say that Chinese Taipei has fully and completely achieved this task. We sent progress and final reports to the Secretariat for circulation to members, and I am sure you have received them in time. Thanks to the prompt action of the Secretariat staff despite some complaints of the workload. My colleague will brief you in the appropriate session on the work done and continued to be done in the future to ensure compliance and sustainability of tuna stocks. Among the work we have done worth highlighting are our efforts to control fishing capacity to be commensurate with the fishing possibilities.

Account was taken in a global sense rather than focusing only on the Atlantic. The government and the industry have spent some 200 million US dollars in reducing 160 LSTLVs by buying back the vessels and their licenses for scrapping or sinking for use as artificial reef by the end of 2006. We are proud to say we have managed to complete this difficult task. 59 vessels have had their engines dismantled and destroyed ready for sinking in our

territorial waters and for use as artificial reef. After completion of the vessel reduction program, I am sure the remaining fleet size will commensurate with the fishing possibility available to us.

To demonstrate our determination in continuing our efforts in the fisheries management, the government has approved allocation of 113 million dollars for a six-year program and creation of eight new posts of fisheries officers for the follow up of the management of deep sea fisheries. This includes the restructuring of our longline fisheries with a further reduction of 16 LSTLVs in 2007, focusing on the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. At this time of budgetary constraint in the public sector as well as the policy of a small size government, the approval of such a large budget and new posts was not easy.

Chinese Taipei has already learnt a lesson, and the lesson is a painful and expensive one. I hope the Chairman and members of the Commission recognize the work we have done in full and complete compliance with the requirement of the Recommendation and our efforts in continuing the management of fisheries. Recommendation 05-02 is a one-year measure, and in recognition of our work and future efforts, Recommendation 04-01 should resume to apply to Chinese Taipei. We appreciate your kind consideration in this regard.

Finally, I wish this session of ICCAT fruitful results.

3.4 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO is very grateful for the invitation extended by the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), to observe the 15th Special Meeting. FAO has been keeping a close and effective working relationship with ICCAT and desires to continue such collaboration.

FAO appreciates, in particular, the cooperativeness of the ICCAT Secretariat in responding to FAO's periodic requests for information relating to ICCAT's activities. Such collaboration greatly assists FAO in meeting its global fisheries reporting responsibilities.

The important role of regional fishery bodies (RFBs) in contributing to ensure sustainable and responsible fisheries management all over the world has been increasingly recognized. The Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and the Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries held in March 2005 in Rome underscored the importance of RFBs, in particular, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and expressed their expectation that these organizations would take the lead as we move toward more responsible fisheries. The Fourth Meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies held just after the COFI also reconfirmed the important role of RFBs in sustainable fisheries. We are now in the midst of preparation for the next session of COFI and the meeting among Secretariats of RFBs both scheduled to be held in March 2007 and expect active participation of ICCAT in those meetings as it has done so far.

RFMOs were recognized as the primary mechanism for international cooperation in conserving and managing straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks during the Review Conference on the UN Fish Stock Agreement held in May 2006. It was widely agreed that the improvement of regional organizations' functioning and alignment of their conventions and adopted measures with the Agreement's standards should be a priority. The implementation of precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management and strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance regimes were underscored among others in order to modernize RFMOs. The need for performance reviews based on transparent criteria was also underscored. ICCAT was highlighted as one of examples for others to follow.

There is significant diversity existing among RFBs. Some do not have mandate to manage fisheries. Some are new and need more experiences of collaborative and collective regional fishery governance. There are a couple of initiatives going on in establishing new RFMOs. Among those RFBs, ICCAT is one of the world's leading RFMOs having a long history and much experience in the management of sustainable fisheries and expected, as a model for other RFMOs, to continue playing a significant role in regional action to secure sustainable and more responsible fisheries management.

I will carefully observe the proceedings of this meeting and report back to the management of FAO's Fisheries Department.

I would like to conclude by stating that I bring to the meeting greetings from FAO's Assistant Director-General for Fisheries, Mr. Ichiro Nomura. He wishes the meeting's every success in its deliberations. Thank you very much.

Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (COMHAFAT)

The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean, ATLAFCO (*Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique*, COMHAFAT) expresses, on behalf of its President, its Permanent Secretariat and its member countries, its profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to the Government of Croatia and the local authorities of Dubrovnik for their generous hospitality to the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

The Permanent Secretariat of COMHAFAT appreciates the invitation set to him by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, to participate in the 15th Special Meeting, and takes this opportunity to congratulate ICCAT on the celebration of its 40th Anniversary.

ICCAT and COMHAFAT, who share the same concerns as regards the conservation and preservation of the fishing resources, in particular, the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species, are determined to reinforce even more their collaboration and cooperation in order to respond to the Atlantic coastal countries, in contributing to the fight against all types of illegal exploitation of tunas and tuna-like species.

Conscious of the importance of tunas in world trade, based on reliable statistical and scientific data of the SCRS, and in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendations, the Governments of the Member States of COMHAFAT have taken some courageous political decisions that have resulted in measures to fight against all activities that may lead to the destruction of the marine resources, particularly the stocks of tunas and tuna-like species.

Notwithstanding, the developing countries, especially those of COMHAFAT, express their willingness to collaborate and actively and effectively cooperate with international instruments and the developing countries in deploying considerable effort to implement responsible fishing. Thus it is important that encouraging support is given to these countries.

In this regard, and in the interest of durable and fruitful cooperation to assure the sustainable exploitation of tunas, the Member States of COMHAFAT consider that the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT constitutes an opportunity which much be used for the implementation of measures that are fair and equitable for all the Parties.

COMHAFAT wishes the 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT a successful meeting and reiterates its congratulations to the Executive Secretary on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the organization. It also looks forward to a consolidation of close and fruitful collaboration with ICCAT.

3.5 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Greenpeace

In May 1999, Greenpeace published a report denouncing the depletion of the eastern stock of the northern bluefin tuna population and analyzing its causes. Greenpeace had been working in previous years in the region, exposing how illegal fishing was threatening one of the key species in the Mediterranean Sea. Pirate fishing by vessels flagged to third countries was identified as the main threat to the bluefin tuna population at that time. Today the situation has deteriorated even further. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing for tuna is rampant in the region and is mainly carried out by vessels flagged to Mediterranean countries, with the stock at a high risk of collapse.

The state of the bluefin tuna fishery in the Mediterranean is yet another clear example of the failure of Governments and the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations they are party to, to guarantee the sustainable management of the marine resources under their competence.

The problems of the bluefin tuna fishery are well established. They include extremely high levels of IUU fishing mainly by Mediterranean fleets; overcapacity largely created through public subsidy policies; misreporting and

extremely poor quality of the reported data; and poor knowledge of some of the basic parameters of bluefin tuna biology. In addition, the geographical expansion of fishing effort in recent years to cover the whole Mediterranean Sea leaves no refuge areas for the bluefin tuna to retreat to or rebuild from.

Earlier this year Greenpeace witnessed, at sea, the lack of control over the activities of these tuna fishing fleets. Two Greenpeace ships, the *Esperanza* and the *Rainbow Warrior*, documented their fishing activities. Copies of a document that summarizes the findings made at sea are available to delegates. These include: the use of spotter planes during the month of June; unregulated transshipments; illegal longline fishing during the month of June; amongst others... Under the existing rules, neither Governments nor regional bodies are in a position to enforce fisheries regulations in the region. Countries are not complying with their international obligations, and not even basic data is available for scientists in many cases. Governments with vessels involved in the fishery have not only allowed the increase of fishing effort on an already overexploited species, they have greatly contributed to it.

This lack of control is not only a problem in the bluefin tuna fishery. The *Rainbow Warrior* also spent several weeks, from 17 June to 15 July this year, in the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas to document the illegal use of driftnets by Italian vessels in contravention of ICCAT Recommendation [03-04]. For every kilometer of driftnet found by Greenpeace, hundreds of kilometers are still deployed in the Mediterranean Sea. The highly unselective nature of this gear, its continued use even inside spawning grounds of swordfish during spawning season, the unreported catches from this illegal fishery and the consequent distortion of data, results in an increasing pressure on the stock of swordfish, which is already showing serious signs of strain. A report of the findings from this tour will also be available to delegates.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas celebrates its 40th Anniversary at this 15th Special Meeting of the Commission and at this year's meeting its main task will be to review the management of bluefin tuna fisheries. In previous years, ICCAT has taken positive steps by approving measures to fight IUU fishing, such as the establishment of mechanisms to consistently apply trade sanctions, or the creation of black lists of fishing vessels. These have opened the way for other RFMOs to establish similar measures. If the ICCAT parties sitting around this table are serious about defending the future of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, then you will act at this Commission meeting to further strengthen these measures and adopt the necessary new restrictions on fishing for bluefin tuna. Delegates attending this 15th Special Meeting have the benefit of unequivocal scientific advice from the SCRS on bluefin tuna.

Amongst the measures needed to manage and control the activities of the fleets that target bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean we want to stress the paramount importance of expanding the seasonal closure of the fishery, from May 1, to July 31. Given the lack of control in the region, this is the only measure that can guarantee an immediate and enforceable decrease in fishing effort in the short term and give the eastern stock of the bluefin tuna population a chance to recover.

Time is running out for the northern bluefin tuna of the Mediterranean. Unless serious steps are taken now, ICCAT will be remembered as managing the collapse of one of the most important and profitable fisheries of our time, the decimation of one of the oceans' champion species, and the disintegration of a way of life for the fishermen of the region dependent on this ecosystem for their livelihoods.

International Game Fish Association (IGFA)

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a non-profit organization that represents recreational anglers throughout the world. IGFA was established in 1939, has active members in 123 countries, is the governing body for international recreational fishing and provides rules for ethical angling practices. Many of IGFA's members target highly migratory species managed by ICCAT.

IGFA has an International Committee of Representatives in nearly 90 countries, who have been chosen for their integrity, fishing knowledge and concern for sportsmanship and conservation. These international representatives report to IGFA on issues affecting our interests and are a primary way that IGFA participates in the international recreational fishing community.

In addition to compiling decades of catch information from around the world, IGFA staff, trustees, and international representatives participate 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 game fish and their habitats. Whether participating in cooperative research or management, IGFA's core purpose is to provide a

link and facilitate interaction and information exchange between recreational anglers and fisheries scientists and managers.

IGFA wishes to express our appreciation to ICCAT for arranging this 15th Special Meeting of the Commission and our gratitude to the city of Dubrovnik, Croatia for hosting us. We also wish to congratulate the ICCAT Chairman, Dr. Bill Hogarth, on his appointment as Chairman. We hope that IGFA, as an observer, will be able to contribute to the management policies of the Commission so that our marine resources are managed in a sustainable manner for all users.

IGFA's primary interest in this meeting is the conservation of bluefin tuna. We urge the Commission to take a conservative approach to managing this important fishery. We have serious concerns about the status of bluefin tuna, particularly the east Atlantic/Mediterranean stock. IGFA wishes the Commission to take action towards the increasing amount of IUU catch associated with tuna farming operations. This illegal fishing is jeopardizing an important resource that recreational anglers are entitled to. IGFA believes in fisheries management based on the best available science, and we urge the Commission to adopt recommendations set forth by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. We furthermore respectfully request that the Commission demand Contracting Parties to comply with existing and future management recommendations for bluefin tuna and other stocks under the Commission's purview.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

This is an important year for ICCAT, probably a crucial one. This year ICCAT celebrates its 40th Anniversary. Indeed, four decades ago ICCAT was created by fishing states to make it a tool to achieve the sustainable management of tuna resources in the Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately today we all know this goal is far from having been achieved.

Nowadays, talking about ICCAT's failure means talking about the critical situation of the bluefin tuna stocks in the Atlantic, which supports the most important bluefin tuna fishery in the world. To the worrying status of the West Atlantic bluefin tuna stock after several years undergoing a long-term recovery plan, it adds the catastrophic situation of the East Atlantic stock – as uncovered this year by ICCAT's SCRS. In the history of fisheries management it is hard to find a scientific assessment produced by a formal scientific committee which speaks louder or more clearly on the high risk of collapse of a fish stock of global importance such as bluefin tuna. The SCRS report also shows clearly what should be done to bring the East Atlantic bluefin tuna stock back to safe biological limits and reverse the current over-fishing situation. ICCAT scientists show there are no shortcuts to achieving recovery – advocating the closure of the fishery during the spawning period (particularly in June) and an increase in the minimum catch size to equate size at maturity, thus meaning short-term sustainable catches of no more than 15,000 t per year.

These tough reactive measures respond to the lack of political will, or inability, of several Contracting Parties to enforce ICCAT conservation regulations during the last years, which has resulted in the current disastrous situation. This stands behind the huge level of IUU fishing estimated by the SCRS and demonstrated by WWF, with real catches amounting to 50,000 t, 56% higher than the quota and more than 3 times the level considered sustainable by scientists. And the worst thing is that the main culprits of this situation are fleets belonging to prominent ICCAT Contracting Parties.

In spite of this pessimistic situation, WWF has adopted during the last years a firm commitment to work together with ICCAT and its Contracting Parties to help overcome this sad scenario. From our overall engagement with the development of an improved and really effective global network of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, WWF's technical inputs to ICCAT, aiming at helping halt the destruction trend of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks, have been rigorous, and always founded by a positive and proactive attitude.

Much is at stake at this 15th Special Meeting of ICCAT, including the very credibility of this organization and its Contracting Parties, which is inextricably linked to the fate of Atlantic bluefin tuna, with an exploitation history going back several millennia. Never before has the body of evidence been so overwhelming on the need for ICCAT to react. Perhaps for the first time in a meeting of ICCAT it can be said without exaggeration that the world will be looking at Dubrovnik during the next ten days. WWF hopes the expectations of citizens worldwide, making up the constituencies of ICCAT Contracting Party delegations gathered here, for a strict, scientifically based recovery plan for the east Atlantic bluefin tuna stock will not be deceived.

REPORT OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

4.1 REPORT OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (Palma de Mallorca, Spain - April 19 to 21, 2006)

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Commission Chairman, Dr. William Hogarth (USA), who welcomed participants.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**.

2. Election of the Chairman

The Panel 2 Chairman, Mr. Julien Turenne (EC-France) was elected Chairman.

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 2 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 since the last Working Group meeting.

Dr. Gerry Scott (SCRS Chair) reported that scientific activity on bluefin tuna has continued since the Working Group last met. He stated that the volume of research has been high, but more could be done with regards to analyzing mixing if support from the Commission was provided. He pointed out that mixing of the two stocks is occurring, but the degree of mixing is unknown. Dr. Scott also emphasized that there are biological differences between the stocks in the eastern and western Atlantic.

Several delegations requested further elaboration on what the SCRS had done with respect to the recommendations from the 3rd meeting of the Working Group last year. Dr. Scott responded that the SCRS analyzed data with regards to time/area closures in the Gulf of Mexico and Mediterranean and minimum sizes. Further elaboration was requested and Dr. Scott stated that due to lack of data, particularly from the Mediterranean, more detailed analysis was not possible and that there was inadequate data to look at farming, but expressed hope that more data would be available for the June assessment. He further stated that a full evaluation of the measures was not possible until the SCRS had an updated assessment. He hoped the SCRS would be able to provide full evaluation by November, but emphasized the need for the information from the June assessment. Dr. Scott again pointed to the lack of data quality and quantity in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean as a limiting factor in the type of analysis the SCRS would be able to conduct with regards to the eastern stock and mixing.

Several delegations asked questions and the SCRS Chairman provided answers to each in turn, the bulk of which is summarized in a document he provided to the Working Group (See **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**).

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

Possible components for the management regime to be discussed at the annual meeting were discussed. The recommendations resulting from this discussion are included under Agenda item 8 below.

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 Parties have contacts prior to the annual meeting on specific issues related to bluefin tuna management measures.

The Working Group has identified components that should be considered when elaborating bluefin tuna management measures. These components are set forth below, but the list is not exhaustive and not prioritized.

- Multi-annual management plan
- Annual TAC and allocation of quotas
 - Overages/Underages
 - Chartering
- Compliance with conservation measures
- Boundary/demarcation line
- Time/area closures
- Measures to address fishing effort
 - Closed seasons for PS/LL
 - Balance between effort and quotas
- Minimum size
- Control and monitoring
 - Real time monitoring of catches
 - VMS
 - Observer coverage (cages and vessels)
 - Data collection
- Market aspects
 - Statistical Document Program
 - Consistency between imports/exports and conservation measures
- IUU fishing activities
- Measures to address farming activities

The Working Group also recommends that:

- The SCRS continue its efforts to provide the Commission with responses to the recommendations resulting from the 3rd meeting of the Working Group in Fukuoka, taking into account the ICCAT Workshop on Bluefin Mixing (ANON. 2002).
- The Commission have a thorough discussion of the implementation of the current management regime and identify areas that need improvement and take steps to address them: the need to work on measures allowing real time monitoring of catches and farming activities, improvement of data collection, better monitoring of the implementation of VMS were emphasized. The objectives and coverage of an observer program should be defined and discussed. The Statistical Document Program should also be improved in order to have a better monitoring of commercial activities and to allow cross-checking between catches, farming, exports and imports data. The Working Group recognizes that these issues should be addressed by the relevant bodies of ICCAT.

- The Commission should examine the implications of the Secretariat's involvement in the implementation of management measures, including, for the bluefin tuna fisheries, real-time monitoring of catch and farming activities, VMS, and observer coverage. Discussions of the financial and personnel implications for the Secretariat given this expanded role should also occur.

9. Adoption of the report

During adoption, the United States delegation made a closing statement, attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**.

The report was adopted during the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The Executive Secretary thanked the European Community and the Government of Spain for hosting the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Reference

ANON. 2002. ICCAT Workshop on Bluefin Mixing. Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 54(2): 261-352.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1

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Appendix 2 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

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1

Summary from SCRS Chair

1) What did the Fukuoka Working Group ask the SCRS to analyze?

The Commission, through the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies (Fukuoka, Japan, April 20 to 23, 2005), requested (in summarized form) the following advice from SCRS:

- a) Assess effectiveness of the current multi-annual management plan, including the new minimum size, the eradication of the tolerance and the regulation of farming activities;
- b) Advise on possible additional measures to reinforce the current management measures;
- c) Evaluate the feasibility and benefits of :
 - maintenance, modification or elimination of the current boundary at 45°W,
 - additional management measures for areas where mixing occurs,
 - time and area closures in spawning and nursery areas; and
 - time and area closures for directed bluefin tuna pelagic longline fishing activities, including elimination of the 45°W management boundary.

- d) Inform the Commission on the feasibility of operational models to take account of mixing;
- e) Establish priorities within its proposed research program.

2) What has the SCRS analyzed to date?

Potential effectiveness of minimum sizes

For the eastern stock, [Rec. 04-07] established new minimum size limits of 10 kg and 6.4 kg (with no tolerance) in the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic, respectively. Because these new limits only entered into force in June 2005, it is too early to evaluate them with observed results. The Committee therefore carried out theoretical yield-per-recruit (YPR) calculations to address the long term potential impact of these limits. The YPR analyses were based on the fleet-specific selectivity patterns for the early 1990s that were estimated in the last (2002) assessment, which reflect the size limits that were in force at that time (i.e., from [Rec. 74-01]). The Committee then calculated the changes in equilibrium yield-per-recruit and spawning-biomass-per-recruit that would result from applying different selectivity patterns that reflected different size limits. The Committee also examined different levels of implementation error (see **Table 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**). The results suggest that the new size limits could increase yield and spawning biomass per recruit substantially compared to the early 1990s situation (Y/R and S/R could increase by 8.8% and 16.5% respectively). However, these potential benefits could be foregone if the size limits are implemented with error. It is also evident from these analyses that these size limits alone are not sufficient to achieve MSY biomass levels.

Table 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1. Long-term yield and spawning biomass per recruit (S/R) for BFT-East resulting from different size limits with varying levels of implementation error (but at current effort levels). Percent differences are relative to the first row.

<i>Regulation</i>	<i>Error</i>	<i>Y/R</i>	<i>(% diff)</i>	<i>S/R</i>	<i>(% diff)</i>
[74-01]	Unknown	10.92		67.74	
[04-07]	0	11.88	8.8	78.88	16.5
[04-07]	25%	11.62	6.5	75.94	12.1
[04-07]	50%	11.38	4.2	73.12	7.9

Potential effectiveness of spawning area closures

Bluefin spawning in the Mediterranean occurs from mid-May through mid-July and mainly during May in the Gulf of Mexico. During the spawning season, bluefin tuna concentrate in certain areas and this produces changes in catchability. Larval density distributions provide a basis for description of the known spawning areas for bluefin. Larval sampling has not yet been systematically conducted, and so important spawning locations might go unidentified.

Based on catch data, a time-area closure of the entire Mediterranean in April-June to protect spawning aggregations could result in a reduction of catch from the Mediterranean on the order of 40% (assuming that the displaced effort would not compensate). Mediterranean catches represent close to 100% of the eastern plus Mediterranean area catch of large fish and about 60-80% of the catch of small fish of from the eastern plus Mediterranean area. Closure of the entire Mediterranean during July-September results in a reduction of catch on the order of 30%, again presuming no compensation by the displaced effort. Such compensation would diminish the catch savings. In some cases displaced effort due to a Mediterranean closure cannot be compensated because the fisheries of some countries have no further bluefin fisheries other than those in the Mediterranean. Finer scale closures of spawning areas within the Mediterranean during the spawning season would likely result in lower potential savings in catch, but the current resolution of the ICCAT data does not permit more precise estimation of this potential.

The data indicate that the highest quarterly catch volumes from the Gulf of Mexico occur January-June. Based on these data a time-area closure of the entire Gulf of Mexico in April-June to protect spawning aggregations could result in a reduction of catch from the Gulf on the order of 65%, presuming that the displaced effort would not compensate. Closure of the entire Gulf of Mexico during quarters January-June to protect spawning age fish could result in a reduction of catch on the order of >90%. However catches in the Gulf of Mexico represent less than 10% of the overall western bluefin tuna catch of larger fish and the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico do not solely target bluefin. Finer scale closures of spawning areas within the Gulf of Mexico during the spawning

season would likely result in lower potential savings in catch, but the current resolution of the ICCAT data does not permit more precise estimation of this potential.

If the west bluefin stock does not substantially mix with the east, then closure of the Gulf of Mexico during spawning times (and with effort in other areas and times remaining the same) would be expected to increase overall western spawning biomass (S/R) in the long run to about 14% more than current levels with an increase in yield (YPR) of about 9%.

If substantial mixing *does* occur, then the potential for improving the long term eastern and western stock status and eastern and western fisheries by closing both spawning areas could be larger. However, the success of these closures could only be achieved by eliminating the fishing opportunities of some countries that have no other access. We do not have good estimates of the rates of mixing as of yet.

Other management alternatives

More elaborate management strategy evaluations than those which are addressed here will have to be addressed in the context of the next stock assessment when the stock sizes and fishing mortality rates are re-estimated based upon changes in the catch, catch-at-size, catch-per-unit-effort, tagging and other relevant biological information. The data limitations, especially in the Mediterranean may limit the methods that may be used for the assessment and for analysis of management strategies. Furthermore, consensus on providing a balanced set of advice with respect to other time-area closures could not be achieved during this meeting. Additionally, uncertainties in determining the effectiveness of alternative management strategies are likely to remain large without an investment in comprehensive long term research.

The feasibility of alternative procedures to address spatial mixing between eastern and western bluefin

The SCRS examined the feasibility of operating modeling approaches and concluded that operating models appear to be a useful mechanism for evaluating management procedures. A schedule for the development of these activities is given in SCRS/2005/011.

Research priorities

A table of research priorities appears in the SCRS report for 2005. Following from the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies (Fukuoka, Japan, April 20 to 23, 2005), at which it was recommended “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,” a previous research plan was reviewed in the context of ongoing and recent national and BYP-sponsored bluefin research as well as new research activities reported at the meeting.

At the outset of this review, it was reiterated that collection and reporting of catch and effort is a basic responsibility of the CPCs. Past failures to meet these basic obligations have led to extreme uncertainties in even the basic level of catch and its composition for bluefin (and other species), especially in the Mediterranean.

The Committee was informed of a large-scale tagging program (in excess of €1,000,000) co-funded by the European Commission and EU Members which will be undertaken in 2005/2006. The main component of the program is electronic tagging of adult bluefin in the Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic. It was noted that this level of funding is in line with the research plan presented in Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 56(3): 987-1003 and should provide useful results for further addressing stock dynamics hypotheses raised on the basis of electronic tagging of bluefin in the western Atlantic (Block *et al.*, Nature, 2005). Initiation of this project permits large reduction in the estimated costs of conducting the Research Plan outlined in *op. cit.* and the Prioritized Research Plan presented in Table 16.7 (of the 2005 SCRS Report) reflects both this and the prioritization scheme agreed by the Committee.

3) What does the SCRS plan to analyze that will be ready to discuss at the fall meeting?

More elaborate management strategy evaluations will be addressed during and after the June stock assessment when stock sizes and fishing mortality rates will be re-estimated. These will focus largely on the feasibility and benefits of:

- maintenance, modification or elimination of the current boundary at 45°W,
- additional management measures for areas where mixing occurs,
- time and area closures in spawning and nursery areas; and
- eliminating the current 45 degree W management area boundary and instead introducing time and area closures for directed bluefin tuna pelagic longline fishing activities.

However, it is important to realize that data limitations, especially in the Mediterranean, may limit the types of analyses that can be conducted. Moreover, substantive results from the operational modeling project are not likely to be forthcoming for 2 or 3 years.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1

Statement by the USA

The United States expresses its disappointment that the Working Group has not given sufficient priority to the development of integrated management taking account of mixing, which was clearly the impetus for establishing the Group. In fact, the word mixing is rarely mentioned in the report. In particular, the United States is disappointed in the lack of tangible actions to protect fish in the central Atlantic, which is known to be an important mixing area, as well as on both eastern and western spawning grounds. In spite of shortcomings in the outcome of this meeting, the United States remains committed to work toward integrated management taking account of mixing, based on scientific advice from SCRS. In this regard, we look forward to SCRS's further analysis of the issue at its upcoming meetings, and urge all members to be responsive to advice from SCRS.

4.2 REPORT OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW STATISTICAL MONITORING PROGRAMS (Palma de Mallorca, Spain - April 24 to 26, 2006)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, who welcomed participants. Mr. Meski thanked the European Community and Spain for hosting 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) was elected to Chair the meeting.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

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

4. Review of the Meeting Terms of Reference

The Chair drew attention to the Terms of Reference for the Working Group.

5. Adoption of the Agenda

The EC requested that the following two matters be explicitly referenced in the agenda under Item 8: Definition of international trade terms and improving the biannual reporting system, which were also discussed at the 2005 Working Group meeting. The EC also requested that issues with longer term implications, such as electronic statistical document systems, should be taken later under Item 8. The Agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**) was adopted with this amendment. The Chair noted that the matters to be discussed under Item 8 were not listed in priority order and that matters of priority and focus for the Working Group should become apparent as the meeting unfolded.

6. Overview of issues raised at the 1st Working Group meeting

The Chair reviewed the Report of the 1st Meeting of the Working Group (Fukuoka, Japan, April 20-23, 2005) and introduced the PWG Chair's working document from the 2005 annual meeting (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**) to help guide discussions.

7. General exchange of views on main focus of and issues for 2nd Working Group meeting

The Parties had a general exchange of views on the potential long-term direction of the ICCAT statistical document programs. Specifically, it was agreed that a statistical document program should have three main objectives: (1) be a tool to monitor compliance by Parties, (2) provide statistical information to SCRS, and (3) aid in the fight against IUU fishing. It was noted that according to the FAO, the definition of IUU fishing applies to both Contracting and non-Contracting Parties.

In addition, Parties agreed on the need to include some catch data in the statistical documents, but some Parties stressed that this connection should not affect national catch data programs already in place. Further, several Parties voiced concern regarding a complete shift to a catch documentation scheme, similar to CCAMLR's, particularly if this information would be used by third Parties to monitor the quota of others and unilaterally close markets. Taking these views into account, the Group agreed to include information on date and port of landing in statistical documents, but there was no consensus to establish a new catch documentation scheme (See

Recommendations under Agenda Item 9). It was noted by some Parties, however, that a properly constructed trade monitoring scheme was a logical and appropriate progression in the effort to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Group also discussed the use of an electronic statistical document system. Some Parties indicated that they saw this as a long-term goal, but that interim steps should be taken to improve the current paper-based system. In addition, the capacity of developing countries to move to an electronic system was noted as an item that would need to be addressed. The Parties also noted that the use of an electronic system would greatly facilitate the cooperation and exchange of information between Parties. It was agreed that those Parties interested in pursuing an electronic system should work bilaterally and/or multi-laterally to examine the feasibility of such a model in the ICCAT context with an initial focus on frozen bluefin tuna and could submit a proposal to the Commission for discussion at the 2006 annual meeting (See Recommendations under Agenda item 9).

8. Discussion of specific issues, including possible next steps

Using the Chair's working document as a guide (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**), the Working Group discussed issues related primarily to the operation and implementation of the existing programs. Certain themes became evident. One theme was strengthening the ICCAT programs against fraud and abuse and standardizing implementation of the programs across ICCAT's membership. Facilitating information exchange was another central theme. Additionally, it was noted that complementary methods, such as the use of observers, tagging or other measures, are an important future step. The Working Group agreed on a number of proposals, which are presented in Agenda Item 9 below.

Consensus could not be reached on all options discussed. These included:

1. 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 should be discussed at the 2006 ICCAT meeting.
2. Declarations by operators and endorsements by authorities. One Party expressed concerns that the declarations contained in the statistical documents and re-export certificates contain reservations, noting that the current wording could weaken enforcement of the program. Others noted that such reservations were standard in a variety of legal documents and took into account that the person signing could not necessarily have first hand knowledge of some items on the statistical document. It was also noted that such reservations should not hinder taking action against an individual if there was clear evidence that a document had been knowingly falsified. Given the legal complexity of this issue, particularly in light of domestic laws and regulations of each CPC, the Working Group could not agree to delete the reservations from the statistical documents. One Party noted regret with regard to this.
3. Consignment identification. The Working Group could not agree on whether consignment identifiers, such as mode of transport, and the bill of lading, should appear in the instructions of the statistical documents and re-export certificates (see **Table 1 to ANNEX 4.2**, below). Several Parties expressed support for the inclusion of such information, even if only on a voluntary and/or provisional basis, as it would further strengthen implementation of the programs by improving the ability to track shipments and verify the legality of the product. Others questioned the practicality as well as the utility of including such information. Further, some Parties expressed concern that voluntary elements in the statistical document program could become required by importing States before being made mandatory by the Commission. There was also debate regarding whether the information should be supplied prior to export or recorded after import of the product given the unpredictable nature of flights, modes of transport, etc. At the request of the Working Group, the EC agreed to give a presentation at the annual meeting to further elucidate the problems they have experienced with regard to tracing the origin of product in the absence of consignment information on statistical documents.

Table 1 to ANNEX 4.2. Consignment information.

If by sea/air:	Container number If more than one – attach list)
If no container:	Vessel name; OR Flight number; AND Bill of Lading/Airway Bill number; AND Date and place of issue
If ground transport:	Truck registration number and nationality; OR Railway transport number; AND Date and place of issue

4. 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 monitoring and control and better support ICCAT's conservation and management measures. Some Parties expressed strong concern regarding this proposal. Some Parties noted that such a change would unacceptably alter the scope of the statistical document program, lead to unilateral and discriminatory trade measures, and undermine the role of the Compliance Committee and the Commission. It was stressed by some parties that flag States must be the only Party responsible for implementation of their quotas or catch limits, not third Parties. Other Parties highlighted the increasing importance of the responsibility of the importing State.
5. Cooperation and exchange of information: The need to improve cooperation and the exchange of information between Parties was a central topic of discussion. Several Parties indicated that the statistical document program would be more effective if communication between Parties could be improved. Several suggestions were put forward including: using a secure internet site for rapid exchange of information between importing and exporting States; increasing the frequency of reporting to ICCAT; an electronic system to improve access to data; providing cumulative catch information by flag States and chartering States on the ICCAT website; and monitoring of trade data by the importer or the Secretariat who would notify a flag State when it was approaching its quota limit. Many Parties had concerns with these suggestions, particularly the last two items, because they felt it was the sole responsibility of the flag State to maintain catches within its quota and any alleged failure to do so should be brought to the attention of the Commission via the Compliance Committee. There was also concern by some that the issue of catch data reporting was beyond the scope of the working group terms of reference.
6. Bluefin tuna farming and trade tracking: One Party requested clarification from Parties participating in farming of the steps taken to ensure accurate tracking of caged bluefin tuna on statistical documents, when fish from multiple flag States have been placed in the same cage. One suggestion was to tag each fish. Some Parties expressed concern about the number of fish that would have to be tagged, the cost of tagging, and potential injury to or mortality of the fish. It was requested that those Parties participating in the catch, transport, and farming of bluefin tuna provide feedback on this issue before the 2006 annual meeting.
7. Document protection: The Working Group briefly discussed the possibility of developing a system of unique document numbers to improve document protection but could not reach consensus on this matter.

9. Development of recommendations for improvements of the programs

The Working Group reached consensus on several areas and recommends the Commission consider the following at the 2006 annual meeting to improve the ICCAT statistical document programs.

- A. Document protection and retention. The Working Group recognized the concern over potential forged and fraudulent statistical documents and recommends that the Commission adopt the recommended changes outlined below:

Additions to Instructions for ICCAT Statistical Documents and Re-export Certificates

New "General Instructions" heading:

- a) Product quantities must be written in both numbers and letters
- b) Blank spaces must be crossed out from the forms
- c) Modification of information declared by the exporter must be approved by the validating authority.

- d) Statistical documents must be retained from the time of validation for a minimum period of two years, or longer to meet domestic requirements.

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.

B. Consignment identification. The Working Group recommends the following changes to the Commission:

Addition to Re-export Certificates:

- Additional column under ‘Description of Imported Fish’ and ‘Description of Fish for Re-export’ titled ‘Statistical Document Number’.

Change to Re-export Certificate Instruction Sheet:

- Change all ‘verified’ to ‘certified’.
- Under paragraph 1 for bluefin tuna, move the last five sentences beginning with ‘A copy of the original bluefin tuna statistical document accompanying the bluefin tuna at the time of importation....’ and ending with ‘.... a properly documented Re-export Certificate’ to a new Note 6.

Change to Re-export Recommendation:

- Change all ‘verified’ to ‘certified’.

Change to all statistical document instructions and re-export certificates:

- Change paragraph 7, final sentence to read, “This requirement may be waived according to ICCAT Resolution [94-04].”

Change to all statistical documents and document instructions:

- As a link between catch and trade, create a new box within the documents, which will contain the required fields “date of landing” and “port of landing” and corresponding instructions for the box.

Change to Appendix 6 of the statistical document program (see F below for an explanation):

- Delete the Note requiring provision of name, title, etc of validating officials.

Taking these changes into account, the Working Group requests that the Secretariat provide Parties with a consolidated document similar to the recommendations for bigeye and swordfish, which includes all of the relevant bluefin tuna statistical document recommendations and resolutions for consideration by the Commission during the 2006 annual meeting. To the extent that the consolidation may change a reference to a particular ICCAT recommendation or resolution in the instructions or elsewhere, the Secretariat to propose an appropriate approach for ensuring proper references are maintained.

C. Cooperation and information exchange. The Working Group reminds Parties that, under the instructions for the three statistical document programs, importing Parties are required to send a copy of the completed statistical document to the exporting country. In order to facilitate review of possibly fraudulent statistical documents, the Working Group recommends that each Party notify the Secretariat a point of contact who is competent to handle issues associated with statistical documents and/or to verify the information contained therein. It was noted that the timing of when to use this process should be identified and a suggested starting place for discussion was section I.3 “Grounds for doubt exist in particular in the following situations” found in Appendix 4 of the Report of the 1st Meeting of this Working Group.

D. Electronic Statistical Document Program. The Working Group recommends that the Commission authorize ICCAT Contracting Parties to develop pilot projects to examine the feasibility of electronic systems. These pilot projects should be developed on a bilateral or multilateral basis, including both importing and exporting countries, and would be subject to Commission approval. The project designs should reflect the diverse technical and resource capacities of the ICCAT Parties. It was envisioned that these projects would be

implemented in parallel to the existing paper-based system. At the conclusion of the project, the participating Parties would prepare a report containing a description of the electronic system, details of its implementation, and conclusions regarding the feasibility of expansion. The report would be provided to the Secretariat for compilation and presentation to all Parties.

- E. Access to information by non-CPCs. The Working Group recalled that, based on agreements at the 2005 annual meeting, non-CPCs can 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. It was clarified that the Secretariat should communicate about this matter with non-CPCs that have provided validation information to the Commission within the last two or three years.
- F. Names and signatures of validating authorities. The Working Group recommends that the note in Appendix 6 of the statistical document programs setting forth a format for the submission of names and other information of validating authorities be deleted as this is inconsistent with the terms of the statistical document recommendations, which do not require the submission of signatures and names of individual validators.
- G. Conversion factors. The Working Group took note that conversion factors for “steak” and “block” forms of swordfish and bigeye tuna had not been developed and recommended that the SCRS undertake this work.

10. Other matters

The delegate from Korea stressed the importance of improving statistical monitoring programs in ICCAT, such as by moving to an electronic system and developing a CDS-type approach, given the need to enhance control over illegal fishing. He reported that Korea had recently identified some illegal activity and that this situation demonstrated how important it was to make additional improvements to the ICCAT trade monitoring system.

No other matters were discussed.

11. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The Report was adopted.

The Chair thanked the Rapporteur, Secretariat, and interpreters for their hard work over the course of the meeting. The Working Group expressed appreciation to the Chair for her hard work as well.

The meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Working Group Terms of Reference
5. Adoption of the Agenda
6. Overview of issues raised at the 1st Working Group Meeting
7. General exchange of views on main focus of and issues for 2nd Working Group Meeting
8. Discussion of specific issues, including possible next steps
 - Definition of international trade terms
 - Declarations by operators and endorsements by authorities
 - Consignment identification & link to other import / export formalities
 - Catch information, catch limits and programs
 - Cooperation and exchange of information
 - Bluefin tuna farming and trade tracking
 - Document protection
 - Improvement of the biennial reporting system
 - Electronic Statistical Document Program

- Other issues
- 9. Development of recommendations for improvements of the programs
 - General
 - Species-specific
- 10. Other matters
- 11. Adoption of report
- 12. Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2

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Chair's Working Document
Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs
2005 Meeting Follow-Up

A. Information to be provided/discussed at the 2005 Commission meeting:

1. Section 9, Item 1: **Guidelines on Verification of SDs and re-export certificate:** Internal review to be conducted by parties and written information to be provided for 2005 meeting.
2. Section 9, Item 2: **Definitions of International Trade Terms:** Internal review by parties suggested; additional discussions possible at 2005 ICCAT meeting.
3. Section 10, Item A: **Implementation:** Review current SDP implementation by parties, including responses to Secretariat letter, and consider appropriate actions.
4. Section 10, Item B: **Document Protection:** Discuss possible development of a procedure to create unique document numbers, taking into account current CPC procedures.
5. Section 10, Item F: **Link to other import/export formalities:** CPCs with experience in the issue of linking statistical documents with relevant declarations of imports, export, and re-exports are to provide relevant information to ICCAT in 2005.
6. Section 10, Item G: **Cooperation and Exchange of Information:** Written information on matters of practice concerning retrospective validation procedures is to be provided in 2005.
7. Section 10, Bluefin tuna: **Bluefin Tuna Farming and Trade Tracking:** Parties participating in catch, transport, and farming of bluefin tuna are to provide information on the possible need for improvements to statistical document programs.

B. Draft list of consensus items that could potentially be addressed in 2005 through some means:

1. Section 10, Item B: **Document Protection:** Amend Statistical Document Programs to require: (a) product quantities be written in both numbers and letters, (b) blank spaces be deleted from the forms, (c) modification of already validated documents be approved, and/or (d) other steps.
2. Section 10, Item C: **Consignment Identification:** Alter re-export certificates and directions for all species to require inclusion of the document number(s) of each original statistical document.
3. Section 10, Item D: **Standardization:** Support that the Statistical Documents remain species-specific given differing data needs and seek Commission agreement. Record this proposed decision in the meeting report.
4. Section 10, Item E: **Document Retention:** Alter the Statistical Document Recommendations to specify a minimum retention time for statistical documents.
5. Section 10, Item G: **Cooperation and Exchange of Information:** Advocate to the Commission that it request CPCs to provide contact points to the Secretariat, and direct the Secretariat to establish a database of CPC contact points and to make it widely available. Record this proposed action in the meeting report.
6. Section 10, Item H: **Access to Information by Non-CPCs:** Advocate to the Commission that it give the Secretariat a mandate to allow non-CPCs to have access to validation and catch information. Record this proposed action in the meeting report.
7. Section 10, Item I: **Reporting Concerns and Conversion Factors:** Advocate that the Commission (1) direct SCRS to review possible conversion factors for tuna products, including the non-standard product forms "steak" and "block"; (2) support Secretariat development of a table of statistical document data, similar to the compliance table, for consideration at annual meetings; (3) remind all parties of

obligations to submit SD information in a complete manner (including area of catch), in a manner that allows interaction with the data (e.g., Excel), and in one of the three official languages of the Commission. In this regard, recommend that the Commission to direct the Secretariat to liaise with CPCs to address problems in submissions, including drafting a circular to CPCs on relevant issues. Record these proposed actions in the meeting report.

C. Draft list of consensus items that could potentially be topics for a 2006 intersessional meeting:

1. Section 10, Item B: **Document Protection:** Develop a system of real-time data exchange.
2. Section 10, Item C: **Consignment Identification:** Consider modifications to current programs (both SDs and re-export certificates) to allow inclusion of consignment information, such as name, mode of transport, and the bill of lading.
3. Section 10, Item F: **Link to other Import/Export Formalities:** Explore and develop ways to establish a cross reference between statistical documents or re-export certificates and relevant declarations of imports, exports, and re-exports.
4. Section 10, Item G: **Cooperation and Exchange of Information:** As a priority, develop a mechanism and procedures for cooperation and information exchange. Further, develop procedures to address retrospective validation of documents. (Note: this item is related to item 10B above.)
5. Section 10, Item J: **Electronic Statistical Document Program:** Develop an electronic statistical document pilot project, including examining the potential resource implications for the Secretariat.

D. Other issues not yet listed:

1. Section 9, Item 3: **Declarations by Operators and Endorsements by Authorities:** Consensus could not be reached on this issue. One party reserved the right to revisit this issue, perhaps at the 2005 ICCAT meeting.
2. Section 9, Item 4: **Approaches to Complement Existing SDPs:** Consensus could not be reached on this item.
3. Section 9: Item 5: **Catch Information, Catch Limits, and Programs:** Consensus could not be reached on this item. One party suggested CPCs reflect on the issues and reserved the right to revisit the item in the future.

(Note: Lists B and C are subject to change depending on the outcome of discussions of all items and are not intended to be limiting.)

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2006

[06-01]

BET

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REGARDING CHINESE TAIPEI

RECALLING the adoption in 2005 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery* [Rec. 05-02];

FURTHER RECALLING the adoption in 2003 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures*;

MINDFUL that the alternate bigeye tuna catch limit for Chinese Taipei specified in Recommendation 05-02 applied for 2006 only;

CAREFULLY REVIEWING the information regarding the information and reports submitted by Chinese Taipei in accordance with Recommendation 05-02 and its attachment, and all other relevant information available;

ACKNOWLEDGING with satisfaction that Chinese Taipei has met the conditions set out in Recommendation 05-02 to cooperate with ICCAT in the conservation and management of tuna and tuna like species by carrying out such measures as extensive reduction in the number of its vessels and has made significant progress in rectifying the situation that Recommendation 05-02 was designed to address;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01], Chinese Taipei shall limit the number of vessels under its registry authorized to conduct a directed fishery for bigeye tuna in the Convention area to no more than 64 in 2007, and 60 in 2008 and thereafter. In general, Chinese Taipei shall ensure that the number of vessels of any size registered to Chinese Taipei and authorized to fish for ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area is commensurate with the available fishing opportunities agreed by ICCAT.
2. For 2007, Chinese Taipei shall subject fishing vessels under its registry and authorized to conduct a directed fishery for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area to the following monitoring and enforcement measures:
 - The vessels shall submit daily catch reports to Chinese Taipei authorities, by VMS or radio;
 - These vessels shall only conduct fishing operations for bigeye tuna if they are in possession of available individual vessel quota.
 - Chinese Taipei authorities will send a preliminary catch report to ICCAT on a semi-annual basis;
 - Chinese Taipei shall ensure 10% observer coverage by vessel in the entire fishery.
3. Until the observer program established under the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Program for Transshipment* [Rec. 06-11], is implemented, no at-sea transshipment is permitted for the vessels in paragraph 2, and their catch must be transshipped or landed at two designated ports (Cape Town or Las Palmas).
4. For 2007, Chinese Taipei shall conduct an appropriate port inspection and sampling program to verify compliance by its fleet fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area with quotas and other rules, as well as to sample catches, and report the findings of this program to ICCAT.
5. In order to control IUU fishing by vessels of any size that fish for ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area, Chinese Taipei shall, in cooperation with other CPCs continue to take effective steps to eliminate IUU fishing activities by Chinese Taipei residents and business entities and by vessels registered to Chinese Taipei, including implementing meaningful regulatory and enforcement measures to, at a minimum:

- Cut beneficial and financial relations with IUU operators;
 - Identify, investigate, and take effective measures to eliminate IUU fishing operations for ICCAT species in the Convention area, in particular by vessels less than 24 meters LOA owned by Chinese Taipei residents or business entities, including cooperation with flag States to control foreign-flagged vessels; and
 - Work with the respective flag States, to the extent practicable, to stop foreign flagged vessels owned by Chinese Taipei business interests from exporting under the name of Chinese Taipei.
 - Work with the respective flag State to ensure that foreign-flagged vessels owned by Chinese Taipei business interests comply with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
6. Chinese Taipei shall further investigate the past and current IUU fishing activities involving Chinese Taipei residents including illegal harvest of ICCAT species and submit a report on its findings to the 2007 annual meeting of the Commission.
 7. Chinese Taipei shall submit to ICCAT an interim report by 1 July 2007 and a final report 30 days before the 2007 annual meeting of the Commission describing the steps it has taken to comply with all terms of this recommendation. ICCAT shall review these reports and any other available information at its 2007 annual meeting.
 8. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery* [Rec. 05-02].

[06-02]

SWO

SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND THE REBUILDING PROGRAM FOR NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Contracting Parties, and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall implement a 10-year rebuilding program, starting in 2000 and continuing through 2009, with the goal of achieving BMSY, with greater than 50% probability.
2. For this purpose, a total allowable catch (TAC) of 14,000 t shall be set for years 2007 and 2008.
3. The catch limits for 2007 and 2008 shall be as indicated below:
 - a) 2,690 t of the unused portion of the United States quota at the end of the previous management period (2003-2006) will be added to the TACs in the new management period as specified below:

2007	1,345 t
2008	1,345 t
Total	2,690 t

- b) "Other Contracting Parties and Others" receive quotas of 2,530 t for 2007 and 2008 as detailed below:
- c) Quotas of 12,815 t for 2007 and 2008 shall be shared as follows:

European Community	52.42%
United States	30.49%
Canada	10.52%
Japan	6.57%

CATCH LIMITS

(Unit: t)

	2007	2008
Contracting Parties		
European Community	6,718	6,718
United States (1) (2)	3,907	3,907
Canada (2)	1,348	1,348
Japan	842	842
Other Contracting Parties		
Morocco (3)	850	850
Mexico (3)	200	200
Brazil	50	50
Barbados	45	45
Venezuela	85	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125	125
UK (Overseas Territories) (4)	35	35
France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) (4)	40	40
China	75	75
Senegal (3)	400	400
Korea	50	50
Belize (3)	130	130
Philippines	25	25
Côte d'Ivoire	50	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75	75
Vanuatu	25	25
Others		
Chinese Taipei	270	270

- (1) The United States may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 5 degrees South latitude.
 - (2) For each year of this catch quota allocation, the United States will transfer 25 t to Canada. This transfer does not change the relevant shares of Parties as reflected in the above allocation.
 - (3) When the catch limit is exhausted in a given year during 2007–2008, the Commission shall make a decision to adjust the catch limit to accommodate the need of the CPC while ensuring that the actual total catch does not exceed the TAC.
 - (4) For each year of this catch limit allocation, 20 t of UK (Overseas Territories) catch limit is transferred to France (St. Pierre & Miquelon). This transfer does not change the relevant shares of parties as reflected in the above allocation.
4. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

	<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
North Atlantic swordfish	2007	2009
	2008	2010

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 50% of the original quota.

5. Provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* adopted at the 1996 Commission Meeting, and of paragraph 4 above, shall be applied to the implementation of the individual quotas in paragraph 3 and for over-harvests that occurred in 2005 and/or 2006, for each Contracting Party, non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. Each year is considered a separate management period, as that term is used in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries*, except for Japan, for which the management period is two years (2007-2008).
6. If Japan's landings exceed its quota in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total quota for the two-year period commencing in 2007. When annual landings by Japan are less than its quota, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' quota, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same two-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2002-2006 management period shall be applied to the two-year management period specified herein.
7. Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is East of 35°W and South of 15°N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota;
8. Japan shall implement a national observer program on 8% of vessels operating in the North Atlantic by the end of 2008.
9. All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.
10. In year 2009, and thereafter every three years, SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment and provide advice relative to paragraphs 2 and 3.
11. In order to protect small swordfish, Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.
12. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 13, any Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/ 125 cm LJFL, to take the

necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. A Party that chooses this alternative shall require appropriate record keeping of discards.

The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.

13. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual individual quotas established above, the Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each Contracting Party, non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.
14. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a TAC allocation of North Atlantic swordfish, as per section 3(c) may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations, consistent with domestic obligations and conservations considerations. Any such transfer may not be used to cover over harvests. A CPC that receives a one-time quota transfer may not retransfer that quota.
15. This Recommendation replaces the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Relating to the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 02-02].

[06-03]

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON SOUTH ATLANTIC
SWORDFISH CATCH LIMITS**

CONSIDERING that the SCRS indicates that the current estimated fishing mortality rate is likely below that which would produce MSY, and the current biomass is likely above that which would result from fishing at Fmsy in the long term;

CONSCIOUS that the SCRS recommends that annual catch should not exceed the provisionally estimated MSY (about 17,000 t);

RECOGNIZING that this multi-annual approach for the management of South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*, adopted by the Commission in 2001, for the period concerned;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. For 2007, 2008 and 2009, TAC and the catch limits are as follows:

(Unit: t)

	2007	2008	2009
TAC (1)	17,000	17,000	17,000
Brazil (2)	4,720	4,720	4,720
European Community	5,780	5,780	5,780
South Africa	1,200	1,200	1,200
Namibia	1,400	1,400	1,400
Uruguay	1,500	1,500	1,500
United States (3)	100	100	100
Cote d'Ivoire	150	150	150
China	315	315	315
Chinese Taipei (3)	550	550	550
UK (Overseas Territories)	25	25	25
Japan (3)	1,315	1,215	1,080
Angola	100	100	100
Ghana	100	100	100
St. Tome & Principe	100	100	100
Senegal	300	400	500
Philippines	50	50	50
Korea	50	50	50
Belize	150	150	150
Vanuatu	20	20	20

- (1) When the total amounts of catches exceed the TAC in a given year during 2007- 2009, the Commission shall make a decision to adjust the catch limits at the following annual meeting to ensure the total catch of 2007-2009 does not exceed 51,000 t.
- (2) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.
- (3) The Japanese, the U.S. and the Chinese Taipei's underages in 2006 may be carried over to 2007 up to 800 t, 100 t and 400 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2007-2009 but those carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

2. Any unused portion or excess of the annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for South Atlantic swordfish:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2007	2009
2008	2010
2009	2011

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 50% of the quota of previous year.

3. Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is east of 35 degrees W and south of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.

[06-04]

ALB

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
TO AMEND THE *RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON NORTH ATLANTIC
ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2006***

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The terms of the 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Catch Limits for the Period 2004-2006* [Rec. 03-06] are extended to 2007.
2. All underages or overages of the quota/annual catch limit of northern albacore may be added to or shall be deducted from the quota/catch limit as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2007	2009 and/or 2010

However, the maximum underage that a Party may transfer in any given year shall not exceed 50% of its initial catch quota.

06-05

BFT

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN

RECOGNISING that the Commission's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has indicated in its 2006 stock assessment that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) for bluefin tuna continues to decline, while fishing mortality is increasing rapidly, especially for large fish,

NOTING that the SCRS has indicated a possible collapse of the stocks in the near future unless adequate management measures are implemented, in view of its estimation of the combined fishing capacity of all fleets and the current fishing mortality rates,

CONSCIOUS that in order to reverse these declines in spawning biomass and to initiate recovery, the SCRS recommends substantial reductions in fishing mortality and catch,

CONSIDERING that the SCRS has pointed out that management actions are also needed to mitigate the impacts of over-capacity, as well as to eliminate illegal fishing,

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain tuna populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY),

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the stock recovery scenarios developed by SCRS based on the stock assessment carried out in 2006,

DESIRING to achieve a stock level consistent with the objectives of the Convention within 15 years,

CONVINCED that to achieve those objectives, it is necessary to implement a coherent Recovery Plan for that stock over a fifteen year period. The objective is to recover the stock through a combination of measures which will protect the spawning stock biomass and reduce the juvenile catches,

NOTING that the measures included in the Multi-Annual Recovery Plan should be considered as specific emergency measures to address the status of bluefin stock,

NOTING that a substantial reduction of the fishing mortality, both on juveniles and adult fish could be obtained in a first stage by a combination of closed fishing seasons and increased minimum size,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the 2001 ICCAT *Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*,

RECOGNIZING that the success of the Recovery Plan involves the implementation by ICCAT of an appropriate system of control which should include a set of effective control measures to ensure the respect of the management measures, in particular TAC and quotas, closed seasons and minimum size and the regulation of the caging operations,

INSISTING on the need to immediately improve the protection of juveniles and to adjust the minimum sizes for East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna,

CONSIDERING the responsibility of flag States, port States, farm States and market States to ensure compliance with the present Recommendation,

GIVEN the need to assess and address overcapacity in fleets participating in many ICCAT fisheries and seeking eventually to develop effective ways to address this problem in a comprehensive manner, in particular in the eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, in the framework of the Capacity Working Group that will meet in 2007,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

Part I
General provisions

1. The Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving Bmsy, with greater than 50% probability. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing effort commensurate with available fishing opportunities fixed in accordance with this Plan.
2. In 2008 this Recovery Plan shall be reviewed and may be adjusted, notably, on the basis of subsequent SCRS advice.
3. For the purposes of this Plan:
 - a) "Fishing vessel" means any vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of tuna resources, included fish processing vessels and vessels engaged in transshipment;
 - b) "Joint fishing operation" means any operations between two or more vessels flying the flag of different CPCs where catch is transferred from the fishing gear of one vessel to another;
 - c) "Transfer activities" means any transfer of bluefin tuna
 - from the fishing vessel to the end fattening bluefin tuna farm, including for the fish dead or escaped during the transport,
 - from a bluefin tuna farm or a tuna trap to a processing vessel, transport vessel or to land.
 - d) "Tuna trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads fish into an enclosure.
 - e) "Caging" means that bluefin tuna is not taken on board and includes both fattening and farming,
 - f) "Fattening" means caging of bluefin tuna for a short period (usually 2-6 months) aiming mostly at increasing the fat content of the fish,
 - g) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna for a period longer than one year, aiming to increase the total biomass,
 - h) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel at port,
 - i) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or transformation,
 - j) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
 - k) "Recreational fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.

Part II **Management measures**

TAC and quotas

4. The total allowable catches (TACs) are fixed:

- 2007:	29,500 t
- 2008:	28,500 t
- 2009:	27,500 t
- 2010:	25,500 t

5. The TACs for subsequent years shall be established taking into account the progress made in the rebuilding of the stock.
6. The SCRS shall monitor and review the progress of the Plan and submit an assessment to the Commission for the first time in 2008, and each two years thereafter.
7. The TAC for 2009 and 2010 may be adjusted following the SCRS advice. The relative shares shall remain unchanged for 2010 from those in the current Recommendation.
8. To establish a fair and equitable allocation of the quota in the bluefin tuna fishery in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, an allocation scheme for a four-year period, starting in 2007, shall be established at a meeting to be convened in early 2007¹.

Associated conditions to TAC and quotas

9. Each CPC may allocate its bluefin tuna quota to its fishing vessels and traps authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna.
10. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.

By derogation to paragraph 4 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08], no more than 50 % carry-over of any under-harvests arising from 2005 and/or 2006 may be made under this Plan. Paragraph 2 of the 1996 *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the Bluefin Tuna and North Atlantic Swordfish Fisheries* [Rec. 96-14] shall not apply for the overages in 2005 and 2006.

11. Private trade arrangements and or transfer of quotas/catch limits between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
12. To comply with paragraph 1 of 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], the percentage of a CPC's bluefin tuna quota/catch limit that may be used for chartering shall not exceed 60%, 40% and 20% of the total quota in 2007, 2008, 2009, respectively. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted in 2010.

By derogation of paragraph 3 of the 2002 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21], only bluefin tuna fishing vessels flying the flag of a CPC can be chartered.

The number of bluefin tuna fishing vessels chartered and the duration of the charter shall be commensurate with the quota allocated to the charter nation.

13. Joint fishing operations for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of flag States. Detailed information shall be provided to the flag State of the fishing vessel participating in the joint fishing operation related to the duration and the composition of the operators involved in the joint operation. This information shall be transmitted by the concerned flag State to the ICCAT Secretariat.

¹ Note from the Secretariat: The meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, January 29-31, 2007. The allocation scheme for 2007-2010 is attached as **Annex 4** to this Recommendation.

Closed fishing seasons

14. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 June to 31 December, with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N.
15. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 December.
16. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 15 November to 15 May.
17. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be prohibited in the East Atlantic during the period from 15 November to 15 May.

Use of aircraft

18. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

Minimum size

19. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) weighing less than 30 kg.
20. By derogation to paragraph 19 above and without prejudice to paragraph 21, a minimum size for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus thynnus*) of 8 kg shall apply to the following situations:
 - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats, trolling boats and pelagic trawlers in the eastern Atlantic shall be authorized in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.

By-catch

21. A by-catch of maximum 8% of bluefin tuna shall be authorized to fishing vessels, fishing actively or not for bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg and no less than 10 kg. This percentage is calculated on the total of these incidental by-catches in number of fish per landing of the total bluefin tuna catches of these vessels, or their equivalent in percentage in weight. By-catch must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The discard of dead fish shall be prohibited and shall be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC.

The procedures referred to in **Annex 1**, paragraph 7 and 8, apply to the landing of by-catch.

Recreational fisheries

22. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one piece in each sea trip.
23. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing is prohibited except for charitable purposes.
24. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS.
25. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational fishing.

Sport fisheries

26. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorizations.
27. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions is prohibited except for charitable purposes.

28. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS.
29. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of the bluefin tuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of sport fishing.

Part III

Control measures

ICCAT record of vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

30. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation fishing vessels not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
31. Each CPC shall submit electronically, where possible, to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 June 2007, the list of its vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 30.
32. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2002 *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] apply *mutatis mutandis*.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

33. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, tranship or land bluefin tuna.
34. Each CPC shall submit electronically, where possible to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 June 2007, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 33. Conditions and procedures referred in the 2002 *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] apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Transshipment

35. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited, except for fishing vessels operating in accordance with Recommendation 06-11.

Authorized vessels may only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June 2007. Each CPC shall transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat any subsequent changes in the list at least 15 days before their entry into force. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior to entry into any port, the receiving vessels (catching vessel or processing vessel) or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the Port State or authorities of the State where the farm is located, at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
- c) information on the geographic area where the catches were taken;
- d) the name of the catching vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of authorized fishing vessels for bluefin tuna,
- e) the name of the receiving vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of authorized fishing vessels for bluefin tuna,
- f) the tonnage of bluefin tuna to be transhipped,
- g) the geographic area of the tuna catches

Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag State of the catching fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the catching vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its Flag State of the following:

- a) the quantities of bluefin tuna involved,
- b) the date and port of the transshipment,
- c) the name, registration number and flag of the receiving vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of authorized fishing vessels for bluefin tuna,
- d) the geographic area of the tuna catches

The relevant authority of the port State or of the farm CPC shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.

The relevant authority of the Port State or of the farm CPC shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag State authority of the catching vessel, within 48 hours after the transshipment has ended.

Recording requirements

36. The masters of authorized fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna shall keep a bound or electronic logbook of their operations, indicating particularly the quantities of bluefin tuna caught and kept on board, whether the catches are weighted or estimated, the date and location of such catches and the type of gear used set out in **Annex 2**.
37. The master of the vessel engaged in a joint fishing operation shall record in its logbook:
 - a) where the catch is taken on board or transferred into cages:
 - the date and the time,
 - the location (longitude/latitude),
 - the amount of catches taken on board, or transferred into cages,
 - the name and international radio call sign of the fishing vessel by whose gear the catch has been taken,
 - b) where the catch is not taken on board or is in a net before transfer activities or transferred into cages:
 - the date and the time ,
 - the location (longitude/latitude),
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - the name and international radio call sign of the catching fishing vessel by whose gear the catch has been taken.
38. Authorized vessels may only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June 2007. Each CPC shall transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat any subsequent changes in the list at least 15 days before their entry into force. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:

- a) estimated time of arrival,
- b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
- c) information on the zone where the catches were taken;

Each landing or caging shall be subject to an inspection by the relevant authorities of the port.

The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

After each trip and within 48 h of landing, the masters of authorized vessels fishing for bluefin tuna shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorized vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

39. The masters of authorized fishing vessels for bluefin tuna shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

Communication of catches

40. Each CPC shall ensure that its authorized vessels engaged in fishing activities for bluefin tuna shall communicate by electronic or other means, to its competent authorities, which shall transmit without delay, to the ICCAT Secretariat, the following report:
- a) Quantities of bluefin tuna, including nil catch returns. This report shall for the first time be transmitted at the latest at the end of the ten days after the entry into the Plan Area or after the beginning of the fishing trip. In the case of joint operations the master shall indicate to which vessel or vessels the catches are attributed, to be counted against the quota of the flag State.
 - b) From 1 June of each year, the masters shall transmit the report referred to in point a) on a five-day basis.

Reporting of catches

41. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
42. The ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
43. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all CPCs of the date on which the accumulative reported catch taken by vessels of the CPCs is estimated to equal 85% of the concerned CPC quota for this stock. The CPC shall take the necessary measures to close its bluefin tuna fisheries before its quota is exhausted and notify this closure without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat which will circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

44. CPCs shall verify, including by using VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out administrative cross checks on all landings, all transshipment or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Caging operations

45. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week a caging report, validated by an observer, to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. This report shall contain the information referred to in the caging declaration as set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming [Rec. 06-07]*.

When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBS) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBS are located.

46. Before any transfer activity, the flag state of the catching vessel shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the transfer into cage of quantities caught by fishing vessels flying its flag. If the flag State of the catching vessel considers on receipt of this information that:
- a) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
 - b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
 - c) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna,

It shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea.

47. The master of authorized fishing vessels for bluefin tuna shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration not later than 15 days after the date of transfer to tug vessels or to the cage, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

The transfer declaration shall accompany the transferred fish during transport to the cage.

Trap activities

48. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure the record of the catches after the end of every fishing operation and the transmission of this data simultaneously by electronic means or other means within 48 hours after the end of every fishing operation to the competent authority, which shall transmit these data without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat.

VMS

49. CPCs shall implement a vessels monitoring system for its bluefin tuna fishing vessels over 24 m referred to in paragraph 30, in accordance with 2003 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area*.

With effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied to bluefin tuna fishing vessels over 15 m.

Not later than 31 January 2008, each CPC shall communicate without delay messages pursuant to this paragraph to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the data exchange formats and protocols adopted by the Commission in 2007.

Observer program

50. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on its fishing vessels over 15 m in length of at least:
- 20% of its active purse seine vessels In the case of joint fishing operations, an observer shall be present during the fishing operation,
 - 20% of its active pelagic trawlers,
 - 20% of its active longline vessels,
 - 20% of its active baitboats,
 - 100% during the harvesting process for tuna traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- monitor a vessel compliance with the present recommendation,
- record and report upon the fishing activity,
- observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- sight and record vessels which may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

51. Each CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall ensure an observer presence during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor farming operation compliance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07],
- validate the caging report referred to in paragraph 45,
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS,

Enforcement

52. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 36, 37, 38 and 39 (closed seasons, minimum size and reporting requirements).

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches,
- sequestration of the vessel,
- suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish,
- reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.

53. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 45, 46 and 51 (caging operations and observers) and with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBs,
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

Market measures

54. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07].

Conversion factors

55. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

Part IV
ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

56. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid².
57. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 56 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by Resolution 00-20.

² Note from the Secretariat: (See Appendix II to Annex 7 in *Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II (1975)*).

Specific conditions applying to baitboat, trolling boat and pelagic trawler fisheries in the eastern Atlantic

1. CPCs shall limit the maximum number of its baitboat and trolling boats authorized to fish bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
2. CPCs shall limit the maximum number of its pelagic trawler vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna as by-catch.
3. By 1 June 2007, CPCs shall submit to ICCAT Secretariat, the number of fishing vessels established pursuant to paragraph 1 and 2 of this Annex.
4. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to baitboat, trolling boat and pelagic trawler vessels fishing for bluefin tuna and shall transmit the list of such vessels to ICCAT Secretariat.
5. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 10% of its quota for bluefin tuna among these authorized vessels, with up to a maximum of 200 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4 kg caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m.
6. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish.
7. Authorized vessels may only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June 2007. Each CPC shall transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat any subsequent changes in the list at least 15 days before their entry into force. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website for these fisheries.
8. Prior to entry into any designated port, authorized vessels or their representative, shall provide the competent port authorities at least 4 h before the estimated time of arrival with the following:
 - a) estimated time of arrival,
 - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
 - c) information on the zone where the catches were taken;

Each landing shall be subjected to an inspection in port.
9. CPCs shall implement a catch reporting regime that ensures that effective monitoring of the utilization of each vessels quota.
10. Bluefin tuna catches may not be offered for retail sale to the final consumer, irrespective of the marketing method, unless appropriate marking or labeling indicates:
 - a) the species, fishing gear used,
 - b) the catch area and date.
11. Beginning 1 July 2007, CPCs whose baitboats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna statistical documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

Annex 2

Minimum specification for logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available). In case of joint fishing operations, vessel names, register numbers, ICCAT numbers and IMO numbers (if available) of all the vessels involved in the operation.
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) type FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks ...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day.
 - c) Record of catches:
6. Species identification:
 - a) by FAO code
 - b) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature (if applicable)
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board.
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information in case of landing, transshipment/transfer:

1. Dates and port of landing /transshipment/transfer
2. Products
 - a) presentation
 - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

Document No. **ICCAT TRANSFER/TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION**

<p>Tug/Carrier vessel</p> <p>Name of vessel and radio call sign: Flag: Flag State authorization No. National Register No. ICCAT Register No. IMO No.</p>	<p>Fishing Vessel</p> <p>Name of the vessel and radio call sign, Flag: Flag State authorization No. National register No. ICCAT Register No. External identification: Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>
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	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	F.V Master's name:	Tug/Carrier Master's name:	LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT
Departure	_ _	_ _	_ _	from	_ _ _	Signature:	Signature:	
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _	to	_ _ _			
Transfer/Transh.	_ _	_ _	_ _		_ _ _			

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |_|_| kilograms.
In case of transfer of live fish indicate number of unit and live weight.

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of Product Live	Type of Product Whole	Type of Product Guttled	Type of Product Head off	Type of Product Filleted	Type of Product	further transfer / transhipments
	Lat.	Long.									
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

ICCAT Observer signature (if applicable).

Obligations in case of transfer /transhipment:

1. The original of the transfer/transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel tug/processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transfer/transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching fishing vessel.
3. Further transfers or transhipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CP which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transfer/ transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the farm or the landing place.
5. The transfer or transhipping operation shall be recorded in the log book of any vessel involved in the operation.

Annex 4

**Appendix to the Recommendation by ICCAT
to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna
in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 06-05]**

In accordance with paragraph 8 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05], an allocation scheme for a four-year period, starting in 2007, shall be established by ICCAT as follows:

(Unit: t)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Algeria	1,511.27	1,460.04	1,408.81	1,306.35
China (People's Republic)	65.78	63.55	61.32	56.86
Croatia	862.31	833.08	803.85	745.39
European Community*	16,779.55	16,210.75	15,641.95	14,504.35
Iceland	53.34	51.53	49.72	46.11
Japan	2,515.82	2,430.54	2,345.26	2,174.69
Korea	177.80	171.77	165.74	153.69
Libya	1,280.14	1,236.74	1,193.35	1,106.56
Syria	53.34	51.53	49.72	46.11
Morocco	2,824.30	2,728.56	2,632.82	2,441.34
Norway	53.34	51.53	49.72	46.11
Tunisia	2,333.58	2,254.48	2,175.37	2,017.16
Turkey	918.32	887.19	856.06	793.80
Chinese Taipei	71.12	68.71	66.30	61.48

*Fishing possibilities for EC-Malta and EC-Cyprus as follows:

2007: 355.59 tonnes and 154.68 tonnes, respectively,

2008: 343.54 tonnes and 149.44 tonnes, respectively,

2009: 331.49 tonnes and 144.20 tonnes, respectively,

2010: 307.38 tonnes and 133.71 tonnes, respectively.

[06-06]**BFT**

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING
THE WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA REBUILDING PROGRAM**

RECALLING the 1998 Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 98-07], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [Rec. 02-07], and the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 04-05],

FURTHER RECALLING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY),

CONSIDERING that the 2006 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment indicates that a constant total allowable catch (TAC) of 2,100 t over the period of 2007-2009 would produce gains in SSB of western Atlantic bluefin tuna equivalent to fishing at Fmsy,

ACKNOWLEDGING that management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to impact recovery in the western Atlantic, and that the current fishing mortality rate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries may be more than three times the level which would permit that stock to stabilize at the MSY level,

RECOGNIZING the need to amend the rebuilding program for western Atlantic bluefin tuna in light of scientific advice in the 2006 stock assessment,

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the SCRS recommendation concerning the timing of the next stock assessment for western Atlantic bluefin tuna,

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of Mexico and the United States in the conservation and protection of the spawning stock biomass in the Gulf of Mexico, which substantially contributes to the sustainability of the western stock,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS:**

1. The Contracting Parties whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will initiate a 20-year rebuilding program beginning in 1999 and continuing through 2018.

Effort and capacity limits

2. In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern or western Atlantic, Contracting Parties, non-contracting parties, entities and fishing entities will continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic and from the eastern to the western Atlantic.

Catch limits and quotas

3. The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic, which began in 1999 and will continue through 2018, will have a total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 2100 t, annually, effective beginning in 2007, through 2008, and thereafter, until such time as the TAC is changed.
4. The annual TAC, maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target, and 20-year rebuilding period may be adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.
5. At such time as the SCRS determines the stock size has achieved the level that would produce MSY, TAC levels up to the level of MSY will be considered.

6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:

a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
UK (in respect of Bermuda)	4 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	4 t
Mexico (incidental catch in longline fishery in the Gulf of Mexico)	25 t
USA (by-catch related to directed longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (by-catch related to directed longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	15 t

b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<i>< 2413 t (A)</i>	<i>2413 t (B)</i>	<i>> 2413-2660 t (C)</i>	<i>> 2660 t (D)</i>
USA	57.48 %	1387 t	1387 t	52.14 %
Canada	23.75 %	573 t	573 t	21.54 %
Japan	18.77 %	453 t	453 t + all increase between 2413 t and 2660 t	26.32 %

c) Consistent with paragraphs 1 and 6(a) and (b), the 2100 t TAC results in the following CPC-specific TAC allocations:

USA	1,190.12 t
Canada	496.41 t
Japan	380.47 t

d) In the years of 2007 and 2008, 75 t and 100 t, respectively, will be allocated to Mexico, // from the U.S. underharvest. These allocations will be used to develop a western bluefin tuna fishery in the western Atlantic Ocean management area. None of this allocation shall be used for carrying out any fishery activities in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico or transferred to any other CPC. This does not affect the 25 t incidental catch allocation for Mexico under paragraph 6(a).

e) 50 t of current U.S. underharvest is allocated to Canada for each of the years 2007 and 2008. None of this amount may be transferred to any other CPC.

7. Any overharvest of a CPC's specific TAC allocation provided under paragraph 6 shall be subtracted from that CPC's specific TAC allocation for the next year. Any underharvest of a CPC's specific TAC allocation in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. In no event shall the underharvest that is carried forward exceed 50% of the CPC's initial TAC allocation under paragraph 6 above, with the exception of those CPCs with initial allocations of 25 t or less. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period for the purposes of paragraph 8 below.

8. a) If, in the applicable management period, and each subsequent management period, any CPC has an overharvest of its TAC allocation under paragraph 6, its TAC allocation will be reduced in the next subsequent management period by 100% of the amount in excess of such TAC allocation; and ICCAT may authorize other appropriate actions.

b) Notwithstanding paragraph 8(a), if a CPC has an overharvest of its TAC allocation under paragraph 6 during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the CPC's TAC allocation equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount, and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under

this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

9. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a TAC allocation under paragraph 6 may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations, consistent with domestic obligations and conservations considerations. The transfer shall be notified to the Secretariat. Any such transfer may not be used to cover overharvests. A CPC that receives a one-time quota transfer may not retransfer that quota.

Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish

10. Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative having a fork length of less than 115 cm.
11. Notwithstanding the above measures, Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities may grant tolerances to capture western Atlantic bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish so that the average over each four-consecutive-year quota balancing period is no more than 10% by weight of the total bluefin tuna quota on a national basis, and institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish.
12. Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or in the alternative having a fork length less than 115 cm.

Area and time restrictions

13. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the western Atlantic in spawning areas such as the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientific research and data and reporting requirement

14. The SCRS shall conduct a stock assessment of western Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2006, in conjunction with the scheduled stock assessment of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna and thereafter every two years.
15. If scientific evidence results in an SCRS recommendation to alter the definition of management units, or to take explicit account of mixing between management units, then the rebuilding program shall be re-evaluated.
16. In 2008, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, *inter alia*, on total allowable catch levels for those stocks for future years.
17. All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
18. All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall provide the best available data for the assessment of the stock by SCRS, including information on the catches of the broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions.
19. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Program for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 98-07], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 04-05].

[06-07]

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON BLUEFIN TUNA FARMING**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the increasing development of bluefin tuna farming activities, especially in the Mediterranean;

RECALLING the conclusions of 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,

CONSIDERING the on-going work to establish a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme,

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 including loss in quantity and number during the transportation to the cages by farm for fattening and farming, carried out by their flag vessels.
 - 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) to equip these tugs and towing vessels 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) assign an identifiable different number to each cage of its farming facility.
 - b) ensure that a caging declaration is submitted to the farming CPCs by the operator for further submission to the Commission 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 validation numbers and dates of the bluefin tuna statistical document(s), the quantities (in t) of fish transferred to

the cages, the number of fish, loss during transportation, the date, the place, the location of the catch, the name of the vessel, fishing methods used, as well as its flag and license number;

- c) 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 (length or weight) 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 and on the dead fish during transport, 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 July for the sampling conducted the previous year.

- d) 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);
- e) set up and maintain a registry of the farming facilities under their jurisdiction;
- f) 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 and of its supporting Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document, within one week after the completion of the transfer operation of bluefin tuna into cages.

3. CPCs mentioned 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 these products be accompanied by the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document and, where appropriate, that these products be identified as "farmed" with cage number of 2 a) and ICCAT FFB Record Number on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.
5. The CPCs shall transmit, each year, to the Executive Secretary, prior to 31 August:
- the total amount of the transfer of bluefin tuna by farm 1 b).
 - the list of flag vessels provided for in paragraph 1 c),
 - the results of the program referred to in paragraph 2 b),
 - the quantities of bluefin tuna placed in cage and estimate of the growth and mortality by farm 2 d),
 - the quantities of bluefin tuna caged during the previous year,
 - the quantities by sourcing of origin marketed during the previous year.
6. The CPCs mentioned 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 Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document 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.

¹ For fish farmed more than one year, other additional sampling methods should be established.

- 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)
- 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 the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document.
 - iii) CPCs importing farmed bluefin tuna and the States that authorize the FFB shall cooperate to ensure that the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
- g) Each CPC shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the imports and sale of bluefin tuna into and from farms not registered in the ICCAT record of farming facilities authorized to operate as well as those that do not respect the sampling requirements foreseen in paragraph 2c and/or do not participate in the sampling programme referred to in paragraph 2c.
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 CPC 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, registry number
 - previous flag (if any)
 - previous name (if any)
 - previous details of deletion for 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 authorized 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.
11. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures so that the FFBs do not receive bluefin tuna from vessels that are not included in the ICCAT record (fishing vessels, transport vessels, vessels with pools, etc).
 12. The SCRS shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including weight gains during the fattening or caging period.
 13. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 05-04].

ICCAT DECLARATION ON CAGING

Vessel name	Flag	Registration Number Identifiable cage number	Date of catch	Place of catch Longitude Latitude	Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document validation number	Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document date	Date of caging	Quantity placed in cage (t)	Number of fish placed in cage for fattening	Size composition	Fattening facility *

*Facility authorized to operate for fattening of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area.

[06-09]

BIL

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE
PLAN TO REBUILD BLUE MARLIN AND WHITE MARLIN POPULATIONS**

RECALLING the 2000 Recommendation from ICCAT to rebuild Atlantic Blue Marlin and Atlantic White Marlin,

FURTHER RECALLING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY),

CONSIDERING that the 2006 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment recommends that the management measures currently in effect be continued, and that billfish mortality from artisanal fleets be regulated to control or reduce the fishing mortality generated by these fisheries;

FINALLY NOTING that the next stock assessment for marlins will be conducted in 2010,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

Rebuilding Program

1. A two phase program shall be continued to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin populations to levels sufficient to support MSY. Phase 1 measures are to commence in 2001 and apply through 2010, with re-evaluation and adjustment in 2010 for the beginning of Phase 2.
2. All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall take steps aimed at reducing the uncertainty in the SCRS stock status evaluations by substantial investment into SCRS research on blue marlin and white marlin habitat requirements and further verification of the historical catch and effort data for these species from all fisheries.

Phase 1

3. Through 2010, the annual amount of blue marlin that can be harvested and retained for landing by pelagic longline and purse seine vessels must be no more than 50% of the 1996 or 1999 landing levels, whichever is greater. During Phase 1, for white marlin, the annual amount of white marlin that can be harvested by pelagic longline and purse seine vessels and retained for landing must be no more than 33% of the 1996 or 1999 landing levels, whichever is greater. All blue marlin and white marlin brought to pelagic longline and purse seine vessels alive shall be released in a manner that maximizes their survival. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to marlin that are dead when brought along the side of the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce.
4. During Phase 1, Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities are encouraged to conduct research on blue marlin and white marlin, as recommended by the SCRS, including, but not limited to: habitat requirements of white marlin, studies on post-release survival rates of released fish, further verification of historical fishery data and validation; life history characteristics of marlin, and development of models for abundance estimation and stock assessment. The Commission continues to be concerned about commercial exploitation as a result of the utilization of white marlin and blue marlin, and encourages Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to take actions as practicable to address this concern.
5. During Phase 1
 - a) All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall maintain daily records of live and dead releases of blue marlin and white marlin from longline and purse seine vessels, by area no greater than 5 degrees by 5 degrees;

- b) To improve information for future stock assessments of blue marlin and white marlin, all Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities shall establish or maintain systems to collect scientific information on total catch composition and disposition of released and discarded marlin by area and season through new or on-going observer programs for their industrial and recreational fleets. In that regard, the purse seine and longline fleets will aim to place observers on at least 5% by fishing vessels.
 - c) The United States shall monitor the landings of billfish tournaments through scientific observer coverage of at least 5% that includes collection of data on marlin landings from each observed billfish tournament. The United States shall maintain 10% scientific observer coverage of billfish tournament landings. The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally-caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin combined on an annual basis through the year 2010.
 - d) All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities other than the United States shall adopt domestic regulations that establish minimum sizes for landings of blue marlin and white marlin in their recreational fisheries, such as, for example, blue marlin not smaller than 251 cm LJFL and white marlin not smaller than 168 cm LJFL.
 - e) All Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall be required to maintain records (in terms of weight or number) of landings of blue marlin and white marlin. Such countries, entities or fishing entities shall collect catch and effort data on all marlins landed, and size data on at least 50% of the landings.
 - f) The SCRS shall present at the 2010 Commission meeting, work plans to achieve Phase 2.
6. Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall encourage the initiation of research programs on technological improvements in the various fishing gears which promote the maximum reduction in mortality of these species, for example, the use of circle hooks as a means of minimizing post-release mortality of marlins;

Phase 2

- 7. The SCRS shall conduct stock assessments of Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin in 2010, with a data preparatory meeting one year in advance.
- 8. For blue marlin and white marlin, the SCRS shall, at the 2010 Commission meeting, present its evaluation of specific stock recovery scenarios that take into account the new stock assessments, any new information and any re-evaluation of the historical catch and effort time series.
- 9. Following the next assessments, the Commission shall, if necessary based on SCRS advice, develop and adopt programs to rebuild the Atlantic stocks of blue marlin and white marlin to levels that would support MSY. The rebuilding programs shall include a timetable for recovery to a scientifically derived goal consistent with the objectives of the Convention, with associated milestones and biological reference points. This objective could be reached through plans of monitoring of effort and/or time-area closures and/or other measures practical to apply by the various Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, taking the specific characteristics of their fisheries into account.

Catch limits and quotas

- 10. All Contracting Parties and non-contracting parties, entities or fishing entities shall promote the voluntary release of live blue marlin and white marlin.
- 11. Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities with artisanal marlin fisheries shall submit to SCRS in 2007 documentation of the character and extent of such fisheries and shall implement beginning in 2007, if feasible but not later than 2008, domestic measures to cap artisanal marlin catches at 2006 levels.

Scientific research and data reporting requirements

12. CPCs shall advise ICCAT annually of measures in place or to be taken that reduce landings of marlins or fishing effort in the commercial and recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin and white marlin.
13. The Commission shall maintain a program to improve catch data for blue marlin and white marlin.
14. Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities shall monitor and report effort (including number of fishing vessels) and catches (landings and discards) of billfish by their artisanal marlin fishing fleets.

Resolutions relating to billfish

15. The SCRS is requested to further improve research and study of these species, with particular attention to their growth and age;
16. The SCRS is requested to review and update historical catch and effort data for commercial and recreational fisheries for these species in the Convention area;
17. A scientific program is hereby continued under the ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Program, under which Contracting Parties will promote the voluntary release by their commercial and recreational fishermen of blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, and spearfish taken alive in the Convention area and, where practicable, the tagging of these species under the program;
18. All Contracting Parties fishing for billfishes should make an effort to participate in the ICCAT scientific program for these species, and report annually to the SCRS results of the program referred to in paragraph 17 above;
19. ICCAT will, particularly with the cooperation of those Contracting Parties with interests in the billfish fisheries, continue a reward program for the tag and release of billfishes, and for the return of tags recovered from recaptured billfishes.
20. As recommended by the Third ICCAT Billfish Workshop (1996), Contracting Parties should promote the use of monofilament leaders (on hook gangions) to avoid hindering the live release of billfishes;
21. The SCRS should continue to improve catch statistics and information about post-release mortality of fish released live from commercial as well as recreational fisheries, in order to develop a recovery program for billfish;
22. This Recommendation consolidates and replaces the following Recommendations and Resolutions as they relate to billfish:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| [Rec. 97-09] | <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Atlantic Blue Marlin and Atlantic White Marlin</i> |
| [Rec. 00-13] | <i>Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations</i> |
| [Rec. 02-13] | <i>Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations</i> |
| [Rec. 04-09] | <i>Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Rebuilding Plan for Blue Marlin and White Marlin</i> |
| [Res. 95-12] | <i>Resolution by ICCAT for the Enhancement of Research Programs for Billfishes</i> |
| [Res. 96-09] | <i>Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Release of Live Billfish Caught by Longline</i> |

[06-10]

BYC

**SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
CONCERNING THE CONSERVATION OF SHARKS CAUGHT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT**

NOTING that the SCRS has stated that previous reviews of the shark database resulted in recommendations to improve the data reporting for sharks and that a large improvement in the quantity and quality of the overall shark catch statistics has not yet resulted; and

CONSIDERING that three years have elapsed since the last assessment, the limited improvement achieved in the provision of shark data to ICCAT since then, as well as the acute need to convene a data processing workshop prior to the next stock assessment.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Paragraph 7 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10], is amended to read:

“SCRS shall conduct stock assessments of, and recommend management alternatives for, shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) in time for consideration at the 2008 annual meeting of the Commission. A data preparatory meeting will be held in 2007 to review all relevant data on biological parameters, catch, effort, discards, and trade, including historical data. Parties should submit all relevant data sufficiently in advance of the meeting to allow the SCRS adequate time to review and incorporate the data into the assessment.”

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ESTABLISHING A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSHIPMENT**

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 longline tuna to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULE

1. Except under the special conditions outlined below in Section 2 for transshipment operations at sea, all transshipment operations of tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area must take place in port.¹
2. The flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that large-scale tuna vessels (hereafter referred to as the “LSTVs”) flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Annex 3** when transshipping in port.

SECTION 2. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA

3. The Commission shall 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. Pending this review, small-scale albacore longline vessels shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph 4.

4. The flag 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 3, 4 and 5, and Annexes 1 and 2 below.

SECTION 3. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA

5. 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.

¹ By derogation, this provision shall not apply until 31 December 2009 to four Russian vessels, the characteristics of which shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat. However, the extension to 2009 shall be subject to the results of the review process in 2008.

6. 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
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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].

SECTION 4. AT-SEA TRANSHIPMENT

10. Transshipments by LSTLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of the CPCs are subject to prior authorization from the coastal State concerned. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSTLVs flying their flag comply with the following:

Flag State authorization

11. LSTLVs are not authorized to transship at sea, unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag State.

Notification obligations

Fishing vessel:

12. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 11 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 transshipped,
 - the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
 - 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 2**.

Receiving carrier vessel:

13. 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.
14. 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.

Regional Observer Program

15. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer, not later than 31 March 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 transshipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transshipment declaration.
16. 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.

SECTION 5. 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 transshipment 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.
21. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Longline Fishing Vessels* [Rec. 05-06].

ICCAT TRANSHIPMENT DECLARATION

Carrier vessel

Name of vessel and radio call sign
 Flag
 Flag State authorization number
 National Register Number
 ICCAT Register Number, if available

Fishing vessel

Name of the vessel and radio call sign
 Flag
 Flag State authorization number
 National Register Number
 ICCAT Register Number, if available
 External identification

	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	Agent's name:	Master's name of LSTLV:	Master's name of Carrier:
Departure	_ _	_ _	_ _	from	_ _ _			
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _	to	_ _ _	Signature:	Signature:	Signature:
Transshipment	_ _	_ _	_ _		_ _ _			

Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |_|_| kilograms LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT.....

Species	Port	Sea	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product	Type of Product
			Whole	Gutted	Head off	Filleted						

If transshipment effected at sea, ICCAT Observer signature:

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.

IN-PORT TRANSHIPMENT BY LSTVs

1. Transshipment operations in port may only be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 2 of the General Rule and the procedures detailed below:

Notification obligations

2. Fishing vessel:

- 2.1 Prior to transshipping, the captain of the LSTV must notify the following information to the Port State authorities, at least 48 hours in advance:
 - the name of the LSTV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
 - the name of the carrier vessel, and the product to be transshipped,
 - the tonnage by product to be transshipped,
 - the date and location of transshipment,
 - the major fishing grounds of the tuna catches
- 2.2 The captain of a LSTV 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
 - the major fishing grounds of the tuna catches.

The captain of the LSTV 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 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, 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 LSTV 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 LSTV shall include in its Annual Report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

[06-12]

GEN

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING 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*

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out IUU activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way.

RECALLING that ICCAT has already adopted measures against IUU fishing activities and, in particular, against large-scale tuna longline vessels.

CONCERNED by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT area continue, and these activities diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

FURTHER CONCERNED that there is evidence of a large number of vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities which have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with ICCAT management and conservation measures, and to evade the ICCAT-adopted non discriminatory trade measures.

DETERMINED to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to the vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant ICCAT instruments.

CONSIDERING the results of the Working Group, which was held in Tokyo from May 27 to 31, 2002.

CONSCIOUS of the need to address, as a matter of priority, the issue of large-scale fishing vessels conducting IUU fishing activities.

NOTING that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

Definition of IUU Activities

1. For the purposes of this recommendation, the fishing vessels flying the flag of a non-Contracting Party, or a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, or a Contracting Party are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area, *inter alia*, when a Contracting Party or a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity presents evidence that such vessels:
 - a) Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area;
 - b) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - c) Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports;
 - d) Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - e) Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - f) Use prohibited fishing gear in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - g) Transship with, or participate in joint operations such as re-supply or re-fuelling vessels included in the IUU vessels list;

- h) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization and/or infringes its laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels,
- i) Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area, and/or
- j) Engage in fishing activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Information on alleged IUU activities

2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall transmit every year to the Executive Secretary at least 120 days before the annual meeting, the list of vessels flying the flag of a non-Contracting Party presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities in the Convention Area during the current and previous year, accompanied by the supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity.

This list shall be based on the information collected by Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities, *inter alia*, under:

- 1994 *Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Res. 94-09];
- 1997 *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11];
- 1997 *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* [Rec. 97-10];
- 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the Convention area* [Rec. 00-17];
- 1992 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [Rec. 92-01]; 2001 *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program* [Rec. 01-21]; and 2001 *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program* [Rec. 01-22];
- 1998 *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Unreported and Unregulated Catches of Tunas by Large-scale Longline Vessels in the Convention Area* [Res. 98-18]*.

Draft IUU List

3. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall draw up a Draft IUU List. This list shall be drawn up in conformity with **Annex I**. The Secretary shall transmit it together with the current IUU List as well as all the evidence provided to Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, and to non-Contracting Parties whose vessels are included on these lists before at least 90 days before the annual meeting. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and non-Contracting Parties, shall transmit their comments, as appropriate, including evidence showing that the listed vessels have neither fished in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures nor had the possibility of fishing tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, at least 30 days before the annual meeting of ICCAT.

The Commission shall request the flag State to notify the owner of the vessels of its inclusion in the Draft IUU List and of the consequences that may result from their inclusion being confirmed in the IUU list adopted by the Commission.

Upon receipt of the Draft IUU List, Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall closely monitor these vessels included in the Draft IUU List in order to determine their activities and possible changes of name, flag and/or registered owner.

*This Resolution was replaced by the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], which in turn is replaced by the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13].

Provisional IUU List

4. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 3, the Executive Secretary shall draw up a Provisional List which he will transmit 2 weeks in advance to the Commission meeting to the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and to the non-Contracting Parties concerned, together with all the evidence provided. This list shall be drawn up in conformity with **Annex I**.
5. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities may at any time submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary any additional information, which might be relevant for the establishment of the IUU list. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall circulate the information, at latest before the annual meeting, to the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities and to the non-Contracting Parties concerned, together with all the evidence provided.
6. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall examine each year, the Provisional List, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 3 and 5. The results of this examination may, if necessary, be referred to the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee.

The PWG shall remove a vessel from the Provisional List if the flag State demonstrates that:

- The vessel did not take part in any IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
 - Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity.
7. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 6, at each ICCAT Annual meeting, the PWG shall:
 - i) adopt a Provisional IUU Vessel List following consideration of the Draft IUU List and information and evidence circulated under paragraphs 3 and 5. The Provisional IUU Vessel List shall be submitted to the Commission for approval.
 - ii) recommend to the Commission which, if any, vessels should be removed from the IUU Vessel List adopted at the previous ICCAT annual meeting, following consideration of that List, of the information and evidence circulated under paragraph 5 and the information received in accordance with paragraph 13.

IUU List

8. On adoption of the list, the Commission shall request non-Contracting Parties, whose vessels appear on the IUU List,
 - to notify the owner of the vessel identified on the IUU Vessels List of its inclusion on the list and the consequences which result from being included on the list, as referred to in paragraph 9.
 - to take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or of the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
9. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall take all necessary measures, under their applicable legislation:
 - So that the fishing vessels, support vessels, refueling vessels, the mother-ships and the cargo vessels flying their flag do not assist in any way, engage in fishing processing operations or participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with vessels included on the IUU Vessels List;
 - So that IUU vessels are not authorized to land, tranship re-fuel, re-supply, or engage in other commercial transactions;
 - To prohibit the entry into their ports of vessels included on the IUU list, except in case of *force majeure*;
 - To prohibit the chartering of a vessel included on the IUU vessels list;

- To refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU list, except if the vessel has changed owner and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
 - To prohibit the imports, or landing and/or transshipment, of tuna and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list;
 - To encourage the importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from transaction and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species caught by vessels included in the IUU list;
 - To collect and exchange with other Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates regarding tunas and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list.
10. The ICCAT Executive Secretary will take any necessary measure to ensure publicity of the IUU vessels list adopted by ICCAT pursuant to paragraph 7, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, and through electronic means, by placing it on the ICCAT web site. Furthermore, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will transmit the IUU Vessels List to other regional fisheries organizations for the purposes of enhanced co-operation between ICCAT and these organizations in order to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
11. This recommendation shall apply initially to large-scale fishing vessels. The Commission shall, at its annual meeting in 2007, review and, as appropriate, revise this recommendation with a view to its extension to other types of IUU fishing activities.
12. Without prejudice to the rights of flag States and coastal States to take proper action consistent with international law, the Contracting Parties and Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall not take any unilateral trade measures or other sanctions against vessels provisionally included in the Draft IUU List, pursuant to paragraph 4, or which have been already removed from the list, pursuant to paragraph 6, on the grounds that such vessels are involved in IUU fishing activities.

Deletion from the IUU vessels list

13. A non-Contracting Party whose vessel appears on the IUU List may request the removal of this vessel from the list during the inter-sessional period by providing the following information:
- It has adopted measures so that this vessel conforms with ICCAT conservation measures,
 - It is and will continue to assume effectively its responsibilities with respect to this vessel in particular as regards the monitoring and control of the fishing activities executed by this vessel in the ICCAT Convention area,
 - It has taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing activities in question including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity; and/or
 - The vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing.

Inter-sessional modification of the IUU Vessels List

14. The non-Contracting Party shall send its request for the removal of a vessel from the IUU Vessels List to the ICCAT Executive Secretary accompanied by the supporting information referred to in paragraph 13.
15. On the basis of the information received in accordance with paragraph 13, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will transmit the removal request, with all the supporting information to the Contracting Parties within 15 days following the notification of the removal request.
16. The Contracting Parties will examine the request to remove the vessel and arrive at a conclusion on either the removal from, or the maintenance of the vessel on the IUU Vessels List by mail within 30 days

following the notification by the Executive Secretary. The result of the examination of the request by mail will be checked by the Executive Secretary at the end of the 30-day period following the date of the notification by the Executive Secretary referred to in paragraph 16.

17. The Executive Secretary will communicate the result of examination to all Contracting Parties.
18. If the result of the exercise indicates that there is a majority of the Contracting Parties in favor of removal of the vessel from the IUU List, the Chairperson of ICCAT, on behalf of ICCAT, will communicate the result to all the Contracting Parties and to the non-Contracting Party which requested the removal of its vessel from the IUU list. In the absence of a majority, the vessel will be maintained on the IUU List and the Executive Secretary will inform the non-Contracting Party accordingly.
19. The ICCAT Executive Secretary will take the necessary measures to remove the vessel concerned from the ICCAT IUU Vessels List, as published on the ICCAT web site. Moreover, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will forward the decision of removal of the vessel to other regional fishery organizations.

General dispositions

20. 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] is replaced by this Recommendation.
21. This Recommendation shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to large-scale fishing vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and Co-operating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

Annex I

Information to be included in all IUU Lists (Draft, Provisional and Final)

The Draft IUU List, as well as the Provisional IUU List shall contain the following details, where available:

- i) name of vessel and previous names;
- ii) flag of vessel and previous flag;
- iii) name and address of owner of vessel and previous owners, including beneficial owners, and owner's place of registration;
- iv) operator of vessel and previous operators;
- v) call sign of vessel and previous call sign;
- vi) Lloyds/IMO number;
- vii) photographs of the vessel;
- viii) date vessel was first included on the IUU List;
- ix) summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING TRADE MEASURES

NOTING that the objective of ICCAT is to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic at levels which will permit harvesting at maximum sustainable yield;

CONSIDERING the need for action to ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT objectives;

CONSIDERING the obligation of all Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) to respect the ICCAT conservation and management measures;

AWARE of the necessity for sustained efforts by CPCs to ensure the enforcement of ICCAT's conservation and management measures, and the need to encourage non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as NCPs) to abide by these measures;

NOTING that trade restrictive measures should be implemented only as a last resort, where other measures have proven unsuccessful to prevent, deter and eliminate any act or omission that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

ALSO NOTING that trade restrictive measures should be adopted and implemented in accordance with international law, including principles, rights and obligations established in World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements, and be implemented in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like fish and/or fish products or in whose ports those products are landed, shall identify such products, collect and examine the relevant import, landing or associated data on such products, in order to submit the relevant information in a timely manner to the ICCAT Secretariat for distribution to the other CPCs to collect any additional element in order that the Commission can identify each year:
 - a) vessels that caught and produced such tuna or tuna-like species products,
 - i) name
 - ii) flag
 - iii) name and address of owners
 - iv) registration number
 - b) farming facilities
 - i) name
 - ii) location
 - iii) name and address of owners
 - iv) registration number
 - c) species (of tuna and tuna-like species) of the products,
 - d) areas of catch (Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, or other area),
 - e) product weight by product type,
 - f) points of export,
2. a) The Commission, through the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (hereinafter Compliance Committee) or the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (hereinafter PWG), shall identify each year:
 - i) The CPCs that have failed to discharge their obligations under the ICCAT Convention in respect of ICCAT conservation and management measures, in particular, by not taking measures or exercising

effective control to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures by the vessels flying their flag, or farming facilities subject to their jurisdiction; and/or

- ii) The NCPs that have failed to discharge their obligations under international law to co-operate with ICCAT in the conservation and management of tuna and tuna-like species, in particular, by not taking measures or exercising effective control to ensure that their vessels or their farming facilities do not engage in any activity that undermines the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.
- b) These identifications should be based on a review of all information provided in accordance with paragraph 1 or, as appropriate, any other relevant information, such as: the catch data compiled by the Commission; trade information on these species obtained from national statistics; the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program, the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish Statistical Document Programs; the list of the IUU vessels adopted by ICCAT, as well as any other relevant information.
 - c) In deciding whether to make identification, the Compliance Committee or the PWG should consider all relevant matters including the history, and the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the act or omission that may have diminished the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.
3. The Commission should request CPCs and NCPs concerned to rectify the act or omission identified under paragraph 2 so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Commission should notify identified CPCs and NCPs of the following:

- a) the reason(s) for the identification with all available supporting evidence;
 - b) the opportunity to respond to the Commission in writing at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the Commission with regard to the identification decision and other relevant information, for example, evidence refuting the identification or, where appropriate, a plan of action for improvement and the steps they have taken to rectify the situation; and
 - c) in the case of a NCP, an invitation to participate as an observer at the annual meeting where the issue will be considered.
4. CPCs are encouraged jointly and individually to request the CPC/NCPs concerned to rectify the act or omission identified under paragraph 2 so as not to diminish the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures.
5. The Executive Secretary should, by more than one means of communication, within 10 working days following the approval of the report of the Compliance Committee or the PWG, transmit the Commission's request to the identified CPC or NCP. The Executive Secretary should seek to obtain confirmation from the CPC or the NCP that it received the notification.
6. The Compliance Committee or the PWG should evaluate the response of the CPCs or NCPs, together with any new information, and propose to the Commission to decide upon one of the following actions:
- a) the revocation of the identification;
 - b) the continuation of the identification status of the CPC or NCP; or
 - c) the adoption of non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures.

Absence of response from the CPCs/NCPs concerned within the time limit shall not prevent action from the Commission.

In the case of CPCs, actions such as the reduction of existing quotas or catch limits should be implemented to the extent possible before consideration is given to the application of trade restrictive measures. Trade measures should be considered only where such actions either have proven unsuccessful or would not be effective.

7. If the Commission decides upon the action described in paragraph 6 c), it should recommend to the Contracting Parties pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention to take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures, consistent with their international obligations. The Commission shall notify the CPCs and NCPs concerned of the decision and the underlying reasons in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph 5.
8. CPCs shall notify the Commission of any measures that they have taken for the implementation of the non discriminatory trade restrictive measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 7.
9. In order for the Commission to recommend the lifting of trade restrictive measures, the Compliance Committee or the PWG shall review each year all trade restrictive measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 7. Should this review show that the situation has been rectified, the Compliance Committee or PWG shall recommend to the Commission the lifting of the non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures.

Such decisions should also take into consideration whether the CPCs and/or NCPs concerned have taken concrete measures capable of achieving lasting improvement of the situation.

10. Where exceptional circumstances so warrant or where available information clearly shows that, despite the lifting of trade-restrictive measures, the CPC or NCP concerned continues to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, the Commission may immediately decide on action including, as appropriate, the imposition of trade-restrictive measures in accordance with paragraph 7.

Before making such a decision, the Commission shall request the CPC or NCP concerned to discontinue its wrongful conduct and shall provide the CPC or NCP with a reasonable opportunity to respond.

11. The Commission shall establish annually a list of CPCs and NCPs that have been subject to a trade-restrictive measure pursuant to paragraph 7 and, with respect to NCPs, are considered as non-Cooperating non-Contracting Parties to ICCAT.
12. The *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] is repealed and replaced by the present Recommendation. For the purposes of this paragraph, CPCs and NCPs that are under sanction pursuant to Resolution 03-15 are deemed to be sanctioned under the present Recommendation, provided that this will not result in any greater level of sanction than that already imposed.

[06-14]

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO PROMOTE
COMPLIANCE BY NATIONALS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES,
COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, OR
FISHING ENTITIES WITH ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

CONVINCED that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing compromises the objectives of the Convention,

CONCERNED that some flag States do not comply with their obligations regarding jurisdiction and control according to international law in respect of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag that carry out their activities in the Convention area, and that as a result these vessels are not under the effective control of such flag States,

AWARE that the lack of effective control facilitates fishing by these vessels in the Convention area in a manner that undermines the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, and can lead to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) catches of fish,

CONCERNED that vessels that carry out activities in the Convention area which do not comply with the ICCAT conservation and management measures are benefiting from the support provided by persons subject to the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs), including, *inter alia*, through participation in transshipment, transport and trade of illegally harvested catches or engagement on board or in the management of these vessels,

NOTING that the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing calls on States to take measures to discourage nationals subject to their jurisdiction from supporting and engaging in any activity that undermines the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures,

RECALLING that CPCs should cooperate in taking appropriate action to deter any activities which are not consistent with the objective of the Convention,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Without prejudice to the primacy of the responsibility of the flag State, the Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures, subject to and in accordance with their applicable laws and regulations:
 - i) to investigate allegations and/or reports concerning the engagement of any natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction are engaged in the activities described, *inter alia*, in Recommendation 06-12, paragraph 1, *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*.
 - ii) take appropriate action in response to any verified activities referred to in paragraph 1(i); and
 - iii) cooperate for the purpose of implementing the measures and actions referred to in paragraph 1(i). To this end, relevant agencies of CPCs should cooperate to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures and CPCs shall seek cooperation by industries within their jurisdiction.
2. To assist with the implementation of this recommendation, CPCs shall submit reports subject to the national laws of confidentiality to the ICCAT Secretariat and the CPCs on the actions and measures taken in accordance with paragraph 1, in a timely fashion.
3. These provisions shall be applicable from 1 July 2008. Contracting Parties may voluntarily decide to implement these provisions prior to this date.

[06-15]

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR COMPLIANCE
OF THE ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

STRESSING the need to improve control and management of quotas and catch limits 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 with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

NOTING the ongoing work to establish the Catch Documentation Program,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The flag CPCs shall validate the Statistical Documents for all bluefin tuna products only when:
 - i) the accumulated export amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, and comply with other relevant provisions of the conservation and management measures.
2. CPCs shall require that Atlantic bluefin tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party, be accompanied by the Statistical Documents validated by the flag CPCs in accordance with paragraph 1 above.
3. CPCs importing Atlantic bluefin tuna and the flag CPCs shall cooperate to ensure that Statistical Documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.

[06-16]

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
ON AN ELECTRONIC STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PILOT PROGRAM**

RECALLING that ICCAT's Working Group to Review Statistical Monitoring Programs concluded that improved implementation of the statistical document programs is warranted,

RECOGNIZING the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of ICCAT's statistical document programs, and

NOTING that electronic systems could improve the ICCAT statistical document programs through expediting cargo handling, increasing the ability to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, facilitating more efficient exchange of information between exporting and importing parties, and encouraging automated links between national catch reporting and customs processing systems,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs), to the extent they are able, should develop pilot projects to investigate the feasibility of electronic systems to improve the statistical document programs, consistent with their national laws. Pilot projects shall contain all of the information elements of the current paper systems and have the ability to produce paper copies upon request of national authorities from the exporting and importing parties.
2. CPCs implementing a pilot electronic system shall coordinate with importing and exporting partners prior to the proposed effective date of the pilot system to ensure that the electronic system meets the current requirements of the ICCAT statistical document programs, taking into consideration the respective national regulations of the importing and exporting parties and the need for electronic means of authenticating transactions and users of the system. The pilot electronic system should be flexible enough to accommodate any agreed changes to ICCAT's programs in the future.
3. CPCs implementing a pilot electronic statistical document program shall continue to accept valid paper documents from exporting parties, and issue paper documents to importing parties, for all such parties unable to participate in the pilot program and for all participating parties upon notification of either party.
4. A description of the pilot electronic system and details of its implementation shall be provided to the Secretariat for distribution to all parties. Parties taking part in the pilot program shall report observations on the advantages and problems, if any, to the Commission.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2006

[06-08]

BFT

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON FISHING
BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN**

ACKNOWLEDGING continuing concern about the possible adverse effect of a large shift of fishing effort in the Atlantic on future bluefin tuna conservation programs,

NOTING the SCRS' concern about issues of mixing identified in previous SCRS documents,

NOTING there is strong evidence of mixing in the entire Atlantic, including Central area,

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES THAT:**

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) should not increase their catch by large-scale tuna longline vessels from the 1999/2000 level in the area north of 10°N, and between 30°W and 45°W.

[06-17]

TOR

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A
WORKING GROUP ON SPORT AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**

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 managed by ICCAT,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. A Working Group on Sport and Recreational Fishing Activities is established and will meet in late 2007 or early 2008 at a place to be determined by the Commission.
2. The Working Group will:
 - a) Examine the biological and economic impact of recreational and sport fishing activities on ICCAT-managed stocks and notably assess the level of harvest.
 - b) Based on available information, identify approaches for managing the recreational and sport fishing activities in ICCAT fisheries.
 - c) Report the results of deliberations to the Commission at its 2008 Meeting and, as appropriate, propose recommendations for next steps to manage the recreational and sport fishing activities in the Convention area. CPCs shall report prior to the Working Group meeting the techniques used to manage their sport and recreational fisheries and methods used to collect such data.
3. The SCRS should provide the Working Group with relevant information notably concerning the harvest levels in the recreational and sport fisheries for the most recent year(s) available in advance of the Working Group to assist deliberations.

[06-18]

TOR

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO STRENGTHEN ICCAT

RECALLING that, further to the 2005 *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 05-10], the Commission should review ICCAT's conservation and management program and develop a work plan to address the strengthening of the organization;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work of the Secretariat in compiling the information requested in paragraph 2 of *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 05-10]

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The report of the Capacity Working Group established by *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Capacity Working Group* [Res. 06-19] should constitute part of the exercise to strengthen ICCAT.
2. In 2007, the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group established by *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20] should meet intersessionally to develop mechanisms to strengthen the existing ICCAT monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) regime and to recommend changes. Port State measures should be considered as part of the review.
3. A Working Group on the Future of ICCAT is established to review the Convention and, notably, to evaluate its compatibility with developments in international law since the signature of the Convention in 1966. The terms of reference of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT are attached in **Annex 2**. It should meet intersessionally in 2008 and report to the 2008 annual meeting on the outcome of its deliberations including, a future workplan. At the 2008 annual meeting, ICCAT should consider the work of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT and decide on a workplan for the Working Group. An indicative timetable of Working Group activities contemplated by this Resolution is attached as **Annex 1**.

Annex 1**Indicative Timetable of Working Group Activities**

<i>Working Group</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>
Capacity WG	Established	Meet intersessionally Report to annual meeting.	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
Integrated Monitoring Measures WG	Issued instructions for 2007	Meet intersessionally Report to annual meeting.	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
WG on the Future of ICCAT	Established		Meet intersessionally Report to annual meeting. Decide further workplan.	

Annex 2**Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT are as follows:

1. Review the document prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 05-10], the outcome of the 2007 Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs in Kobe Japan, as well as other developments in international law, including Conventions, recommendations and resolutions of other regional fisheries management organizations.
2. Further to the review in paragraph 1, evaluate the ICCAT Convention and other ICCAT instruments, including Recommendations and Resolutions and make recommendations in order to strengthen ICCAT. The Working Group may recommend changes to the ICCAT Convention, the Rules of Procedure or other regulations, if appropriate. In particular, the review should consider and make recommendations pertaining to:
 - i) the decision making process;
 - ii) the current structure of ICCAT (constituent bodies);
 - iii) issues arising from the 2006 workshops convened by the Chair of ICCAT; and
 - iv) any other matter relating to the provisions of the Convention.

[06-19]

TOR

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 and that, to this end, several conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission currently contain capacity limits;

FURTHER RECALLING that the immediate objective of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity) is for States and regional fisheries organizations to achieve world-wide an efficient, equitable and transparent management of fishing capacity with particular priority on highly migratory fisheries;

NOTING the recommendations of the 2006 FAO Workshop on the Management of Tuna Fishing Capacity;

RECOGNIZING that some stocks under ICCAT jurisdiction are fully or overfished;

RECALLING the recent recommendations of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) Review Conference (May 2006) and other international fisheries meetings regarding fishing capacity;

AGREEING that overcapacity can threaten the achievement of ICCAT's conservation and management objectives;

GIVEN the need to assess and address overcapacity in fleets participating in many ICCAT fisheries and seeking eventually to develop effective ways to address this problem in a comprehensive manner;

RECOGNIZING that Article 5 of FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Article 10 of the IPOA-Capacity note 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 (ICCAT) RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. A Capacity Working Group is established and will meet as early as possible in 2007 at a place to be determined by the Commission. The Working Group has the following terms of reference:
 - a) to determine by fishery the availability of the data required to assess fishing capacity and appropriate methodologies to measure fishing capacity based on available data;
 - b) to review and assess the level of fishing capacity for ICCAT managed species by country/fleet/gear/fishery in light of the status of the resources, as indicated in SCRS assessments with a priority focus on bluefin tuna, including caging activities;
 - c) to review the CPUE data and other relevant information in order to evaluate the relationship between capacity levels and available fishing possibilities.
 - d) In light of the outcomes of points 1(a)-(c) above, the Working Group may, if necessary, develop guidelines for managing fishing capacity in ICCAT fisheries for consideration by the Commission, *inter alia*, taking into account the needs of developing countries while ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of tuna and tuna-like resources;
2. Prior to the first meeting of the Working Group, CPCs shall submit to the Secretariat available information to be used in an assessment of fishing capacity including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) Inputs in terms of numbers of vessels, vessel characteristics, fishing operational characteristics, and any other relevant information;
 - b) Information on the types of measures and approaches used by the CPCs to manage fishing capacity;

3. At the 2007 annual meeting, the Working Group will report the progress of deliberations and, as appropriate, present proposals for next steps to the Commission.
4. The SCRS should provide the Working Group with relevant information on short- and long-term stock conditions and harvest levels in ICCAT fisheries for the most recent year(s) available, and data on effort and CPUE by flag, gear, season and area, in advance of the 2007 Working Group meeting to assist deliberations.
5. The Working Group should be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat staff. Broad representation from ICCAT's CPCs is encouraged, including by relevant experts in the field.
6. The Working Group could also draw upon the technical work (and expertise) of relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as the work of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). The results of the joint tuna RFMO meeting in January 2007 should also be taken into account.

OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2006

7.1 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 members 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 members 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 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 written 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. In doing so, the Chairman, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant Panel or other subsidiary body, as appropriate, first shall determine the necessity of considering the proposal intersessionally and shall identify the appropriate majority required for decision-making, pursuant to paragraph 2 above.
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 contained in paragraph 2.
11. Where an intersessional vote is initiated under paragraph 9 or 10, the Executive Secretary shall promptly transmit via the official correspondents provided for in Rule 1, paragraph 4:
 - a) the proposal, including any explanatory note,
 - b) both rulings made by the Chairman under paragraph 9, or
 - c) a request for an intersessional vote made under paragraph 10.
12. Members shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the proposal or request transmitted under paragraph 11. If no acknowledgment is received within 10 days of the date of transmittal, the Executive Secretary shall retransmit the proposal or request and shall use all additional means available to ensure that the transmittal has been received. Confirmation by the Executive Secretary that the transmittal 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. Within 10 days of the initial transmittal of a proposal pursuant to paragraph 11 (a), in accordance with Rule 7(d), any member may request an intersessional vote on the chairman's determination of the necessity of

considering the proposal intersessionally made under paragraph 9, to be subject to the majority decision rule contained in paragraph 2.

14. Members shall respond within 40 days of the date of the initial transmittal of a proposal or request, indicating whether they cast an affirmative vote, cast a negative vote, abstain from voting, or require additional time to consider the matter. If a member of the Commission requests additional time for consideration, a further 30 days shall be allowed from the expiration of the initial 40 day period. No additional extensions of time beyond one 30 day extension will be permitted. In the event of such an extension, the Executive Secretary shall inform all members of the final date by which responses must be received.
15. If no reply from a member is received within 40 days of transmittal, or by the extended deadline specified by the Executive Secretary in the event of a 30 day extension to consider the proposal, that member shall be recorded as having abstained and shall be considered part of the quorum for voting purposes, as long as the Secretariat has confirmed receipt of the transmittal by that member pursuant to paragraph 12.
16. 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 notified to all members. If any explanations of votes are received, these shall also be transmitted to all members.
17. Proposals adopted intersessionally shall become effective for all Contracting Parties pursuant to Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention. However, where the issues under consideration are particularly urgent or time-sensitive, the proposal may specify that Contracting Parties should provisionally implement the results of the proposal as soon as possible and to the fullest extent possible consistent with their domestic law and regulatory procedures.
18. Proposals transmitted by the Executive Secretary for an intersessional vote shall not be subject to amendment during the voting period.
19. A proposal that has been rejected by intersessional vote for any reason 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.
20. 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.

7.2 REVIEW OF PAYMENT PLANS OF ARREARS

At the 2005 Commission meeting, the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) emphasized the importance that all Contracting Parties comply with their budgetary obligations for the correct functioning of the Commission. This Committee has expressed its concern regarding the current situation of ICCAT which has a debt that is close to a regular budget.

At the 2001 Commission meeting, in view of the concerns regarding the financial situation of the Commission due to the delayed payment of contributions of some Contracting Parties, the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Financial Contributions to ICCAT by Contracting Parties* [Res. 01-24] was adopted, for which the Commission Chairman transmitted this concern to the Parties involved.

Due to the non-payment from those Contracting Parties with pending debts, at the 2002 Commission meeting it was suggested to apply Article X.8 of the ICCAT Convention, i.e., suspending the voting rights of any Contracting Party when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the preceding two years. To this end, the Commission was requested to write an official letter to those Contracting Parties that had not paid their contributions, with the aim of expediting payment procedures of respective Governments.

The non-compliance of budgetary obligations was discussed at the 2004 Commission meeting in order to remedy this situation; the Commission requested all Contracting Parties involved to present a payment plan to solve the problem of arrears once and for all. The payment plans would be reviewed at the next Commission meeting to evaluate the possible application of Article X.8.

In 2005, several letters were sent to Cape Verde, Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, Republic of Guinea, Senegal, and Uruguay, requesting them a payment plan to the Secretariat. Only Uruguay regularized part of its debt, leaving its arrears at only one year.

During the 2005 Commission meeting, the following payment plans were presented:

Ghana's action plan consisted of canceling approximately 400,000 US dollars annually, starting in 2005 and being to date with payments in 2007. In 2005 Ghana sent a total of €366,277.05. One payment of €39,000.00 and another payment of €80,000.00 were received in 2006.

The Republic of Guinea's action plan consisted of settling its debt by paying €21,000.00 in 2005, another €21,000.00 in 2006 and €42,000 in 2007. From the presentation of the plan up to now, no payment has been received from the Republic of Guinea.

Panama's action plan consisted of paying its 2003 contribution (€24,090.13) and after the Commission meeting to arrange a meeting at the Secretariat to establish a plan to cancel the remaining pending contributions. In November 2005, Panama paid €24,090.13. On January 1, 2006, Panama became one of the Contracting Parties whose arrears are equal to the previous years (contributions for 2004 to 2006).

Senegal's action plan consisted of settling the pending payments from 1983 to 1988 and for 2004, i.e. submitting payment of €54,483.97, leaving only a pending contribution from 2005, which amounts to €19,665.57. At the close of fiscal year 2005, Senegal paid €54,483.97. In July 2006, the Secretariat received a notification that Senegal intended to send a contribution of €39,989.73 to cancel its full debt with the Commission.

Sao Tome and Principe explained that its delegation had initiated the transfer of funds to ICCAT, and that during 2006 they would continue with this process and would send a payment plan. To date, the Secretariat has not received any payment or any notification.

Regarding the other delegations, the Commission decided to transmit a final letter in 2006 specifying that if a positive response was not received regarding the payment of arrears, the voting rights would automatically be suspended at the 2006 Commission meeting.

In 2006, the Chairman and the Executive Secretary sent several letters to Cape Verde, Gabon and Honduras reminding them of this situation.

On the other hand, several letters were also sent to Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay and Vanuatu, informing them that, as of January 1, 2006, they were included in the category of Parties with debts that exceeded two years and that if this situation was not settled, it would be reviewed at the following ICCAT meeting. Uruguay has settled part of its debt, but it still has payments due for part of 2005 and 2006.

Finally, those Parties that had presented an action plan were reminded to comply with it.

Summary

To date Contracting Parties with arrears that equal or exceed two years are as follows:

- Payment plans accepted (Copies of the letters received with reference to the payment plan of the countries pending contributions are available at the Secretariat).
 - Fulfilled commitment of established payment plan: Ghana
 - Did not fulfill commitment of established payment plan: Republic of Guinea
- No payment plan presented: Cape Verde, Honduras, Gabon, Sao Tome & Principe
- Included in 2006: Nicaragua, Panama, Vanuatu.

7.3 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 in recent years has increased the obligations of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) 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, this is less clear. The Secretariat wants to ensure that it is supporting the ICCAT membership as completely as possible. As a general rule the Secretariat circulates information on request from a Contracting Party, even in cases where circulation of such information is not specified by a management measure. To ensure the Secretariat is acting in accordance with the wishes of the Commission, the following approaches are adopted regarding the circulation of information:

Approaches to dissemination of information:

A. 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. In rare cases there may be a question regarding the appropriateness of the requested circulation, such as with regard to its relevance to ICCAT's work. In such instances, the Secretariat will consult with the Chairman and may seek clarification from the requesting CPC.

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, CPCs 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.

B. 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; Rec. 01-21 and Rec. 01-22]
 Sample Statistical Documents [Res. 94-05; Rec. 01-21 and Rec. 01-22]
 Information relating to chartering arrangements [Rec. 02-21]
 Draft IUU list [Rec. 02-23]

C. 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]
 Reports on the time/area closure in the Gulf of Guinea [Rec. 04-01]
 Annual Reports [Ref. 04-17]

D. Information to be published on the ICCAT web site (not circulated):

Institutions and Individuals authorized to validate ICCAT Statistical Documents [Res. 94-05; Rec. 01-21 and Rec. 01-22]
 List of Vessels over 24 meters [Rec. 02-22]
 Register of Farming Facilities [Rec. 04-06]
 List of carrier vessels authorized to receive at-sea transshipments from LSTLVs [Rec. 05-06]
 List of vessels authorized to fish for, provide or transport bluefin tuna for farming purposes [Rec. 05-04]

E. 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 them will be circulated in accordance with the approach used for Contracting Parties.

Information from non-Contracting Parties which 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.

If requests are received that fall outside of these general guidelines, the Secretariat will consult the Chairman for guidance.

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)**

1. Opening of the meeting

The 2006 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Saturday, November 18, 2006, by the Chairman, Mr. J. Jones (Canada).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was designated rapporteur.

4. Reports from the Secretariat

4.1 2006 Administrative Report

The Chairman presented the 2006 Administrative Report, and outlined its contents, i.e. the Secretariat and Commission administrative matters that occurred in 2006: Contracting Parties to the Convention, approval, ratification or acceptance of the Madrid Protocol to amend the ICCAT Convention, adoption and entry into force of the Recommendations and Resolutions in 2006, intersessional meetings, ICCAT working groups and Regional Workshops convened by the Chairman, meetings at which ICCAT was represented (see Appendix 1 to the Administrative Report), tagging lottery, Chairman's letters to various Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (concerning compliance with conservation and management measures, fulfillment of financial obligations, and the submission of payment plans for contributions in arrears), list of Secretariat publications and documents, organization and management of Secretariat staff (organization and pension plan for Secretariat staff), and other matters such as the new Secretariat headquarters and the management of other programs.

After reviewing the content of the Report, the Chairman referred to item 10.2, Secretariat pension plan, as regards possibly joining the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. He explained that this year the Secretariat had presented its candidature to join the Fund and that the request had been rejected since Article 3 of the Fund's statutes were not met. He pointed out that, of the three points on which the rejection was based, perhaps two of them could be resolved on an internal level. However, the third criterion, referring to the official recognition of ICCAT privileges and immunities by all the Contracting Parties, was a matter that required an in-depth study to look into the process to be followed. For this, he asked the Executive Secretary to continue his meetings with the Pension Fund for purposes of exploring the possibility of obtaining immunity in all the ICCAT Contracting Parties.

The Delegate of the European Community asked if the immunities and privileges that were required were only at the level of the pensions or if these also extended to other aspects. He also inquired if other regional fishery organizations, with the exception of the United Nations, enjoyed these immunities and, on the other hand, if this would imply changes in the ICCAT Convention. Finally, he expressed that his delegation agreed that more contacts be made with the United Nations to clarify these points.

The Chairman responded that the proposal of continuing meetings was precisely to check if there were other means before considering the need to change the Convention, which would be more complex.

The Executive Secretary added that ICCAT was a pioneer in this matter, and that as a result of this initiative other regional fishery organizations had also initiated a request to join the Fund. He indicated that IOTC, GFCM and CECAF were the only member agencies of the United Nations (FAO) and that for adherence it was necessary either to become a U.N. agency or all the ICCAT members had to ratify the change to the Convention

to establish a relationship between the Commission and the United Nations that would permit the inclusion of the Secretariat staff in the Pension Fund.

The Delegate of Libya expressed that ICCAT was created as an independent organization and suggested as an alternative to joining the United Nations Pension Fund to do so under the aegis of FAO, and pointed out that in this way the matter could be resolved quickly.

The Chairman again stressed verifying all possible routes prior to proceeding with issues of a larger scope.

The Administrative Report was adopted.

4.2 Functioning of the Secretariat

The Chairman explained that as a result of last year's discussion, the Secretariat had prepared document STF-024, *Functioning of the Secretariat*, which provides detailed information on the internal structure and organization of the Secretariat, as well as how it carries out its tasks.

The Delegate of the European Community expressed his appreciation to the Secretariat for the work done and indicated that this document was an important step in the review process of the work. He pointed out that the document consistently reiterates that the Commission should provide the necessary means to the Secretariat, for which it was absolutely necessary to comply with the financial obligations and respect the deadlines for payment.

The Delegate of Senegal noted the clarity and quality of the report, indicating that this document was very useful, for which he thanked the Secretariat for the work done in its preparation.

The document on the "Functioning of the ICCAT Secretariat" was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

4.3 2006 Financial Report

The Chairman presented the 2006 Financial Report that had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Mr. Jones informed the Committee that a copy of the Auditor's Report has been transmitted to all the Contracting Parties in May, 2006, and highlighted other important points of the Report, such as the funds for data improvement activities financed by the United States and Japan, as well as the external financing received from Greece, Spain and France for some intersessional meetings. He also appreciated the voluntary contribution received from Chinese Taipei amounting to €63,000.

Further, he pointed out the improvement in ICCAT's financial situation with respect to other years and indicated that even so, a considerable percentage of the budgetary contributions have yet to be received.

The Delegate from the European Community appreciated the Secretariat's sound financial management and pointed out that the debt owed to ICCAT was close to the amount of a Commission budget, which was unacceptable. He stressed that the entry into force of the Madrid Protocol was precisely to assist the developing Parties and reduce their contributions, and that even so, the cancellation of their debts has not come about.

The Chairman pointed out the effort made by the Executive Secretary to collect the pending contributions.

The Delegate of the United States stressed the importance of having full financing of the budget to meet the needs requested by the Commission. He also encouraged the Parties that needed assistance to utilize the special data funds, and those Parties that could do so to make more contributions.

The Delegate of Ghana informed the Committee that his country had proceeded to cancel part of its pending debt.

The Secretariat explained that the document presented contained information as of October 31, 2006 and that an Addendum to the Report would be distributed at a later session of STACFAD with updated information.

The Executive Secretary indicated that he had received notice from the Republic of Guinea and from Morocco that payment of their respective contributions had been authorized.

The Delegate of Belize emphasized the need to collect the pending contributions and pointed out that, according to the Report, 22 Contracting Parties had paid their total debt, which represented slightly more than 50%, and added it was important to monitor the debts of Parties with smaller contributions.

The Delegate of France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) reiterated the European Community position with regard to complying with financial obligations and added that this non-compliance should be taken into account in taking decisions and distributing quotas.

The Delegate of Vanuatu indicated that they had proceeded to pay their pending debts to the Commission and that the Secretariat would receive payments shortly.

The Delegate of Senegal noted that a transfer had been made which will cancel Senegal's total pending debt.

The Executive Secretary responded to the Delegate of Senegal that the Secretariat had received a notification of this payment, but that as of today no bank information had been received as to the deposit of this cash to the Commission's account.

The Delegate of Canada supported France (St. Pierre & Miquelon)'s position and indicated that to strengthen the Commission it was essential to recall the sanctions for non-payment of contributions.

The Delegate of St. Tome and Principe expressed that his Government has studied the problem of the contributions pending payment to ICCAT. He explained his country's difficulties and for this reasons their submission of a payment plan would be delayed, since it depended on the World Bank. He pointed out that when his country had a solution the Secretariat would be informed.

The Delegate of Libya stated they had complied with their financial obligations and that they were willing to continue collaborating with the objectives set forth by this Commission. He also expressed that the Commission, in taking decisions, should take into account those Contracting Parties that were up to date in the payment of their contributions.

The observer of Chinese Taipei pointed out their commitment to make another voluntary contribution this year amounting to US\$50,000.

The Financial Report was adopted.

At the Committee's second session the Chairman presented an update of the Financial Report which included changes that occurred between October 31 and November 21, 2006-Addendum 1). He also pointed out that after updating the aforementioned Report a contribution had been received from Senegal, which cancelled its debt, and a payment of €30,000 had been received from Ghana.

5. Proposed Amendment to ICCAT's Rule of Procedure on Mail Voting (Rule 9)

The Chairman asked the Delegate of the United States to present the document on the "Proposed Amendment to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure on Mail Voting (Rule 9)", since this proposal had been submitted by the U.S. delegation.

The Delegate summarized that this document dealt with amendment of Rule 9 of the ICCAT *Rules of Procedure* on mail voting, to clarify this procedure at the intersessional meetings. She explained that to prepare this document they had reviewed the Rules of Procedure of other regional fishery organizations, and had also taken into account suggestions made by other Contracting Parties during the intersessional meetings.

The Delegate of the European Community suggested some editorial changes that would lend more clarity but which would not alter the text.

The Delegate of Belize stated that this amendment was very constructive and would improve functioning in the intersessional period.

The amendment of Rule 9 of the *Rules of Procedure*, proposed by the United States, was adopted with the changes made by the European Community and is attached as **ANNEX 7.1**

6. Review of plans for the payment of arrears

The Chairman summarized the document on the “Review of Payment Plans of Arrears” which explained the decision adopted in 2005 by the Commission to automatically suspend voting rights at the 2006 meeting of those Contracting Parties with accumulated past debts equal to or exceeding the amount due for the two preceding years and which had not submitted a payment plan of arrears.

The Delegate of St. Tome and Principe reiterated his country’s internal problem to make payments, which is why they had not presented any payment plan. He asked for understanding of his country’s current economic situation.

The Delegate of Libya expressed that the majority of the countries that were in this situation were poor countries. Consequently, he proposed that since 2006 marked ICCAT’s 40th anniversary these past debts be cancelled, as with this decision the Commission would not lack financing for its activities.

The Delegate of the Republic of Guinea explained that they had presented a plan for the payment of arrears and had done everything possible to comply with it. He noted that the Commission should not forget that the spirit of ICCAT is the management and conservation of the resources and he did not believe it was necessary to be sanctioned for non-payment.

The Chairman explained that the spirit of the Commission was not being forgotten, but for the Commission’s smooth functioning a Secretariat had been created and it needs resources in order to carry out its work.

The Delegate of Ghana supported the proposal made by Libya.

The Delegate of the European Community indicated that Ghana had completed its payment plan in 2005, but that it had to continue with its commitment for 2006. With regard to Libya’s proposal, he noted that the best give that could be made to the Commission for its 40th anniversary was that all the Contracting Parties cancel their debts.

The Delegate of China stated that Libya’s proposal was an interesting one, but that if it were accepted it could call into question the sanctions and infractions imposed as a result of over-fishing.

The Delegate of Ghana pointed out that they were the first to submit a payment plan and also the first to comply with it. He explained they were making a great effort and that this should be recognized. Therefore, Ghana seconded Libya’s proposal.

The Delegate of Senegal supported Libya’s proposal.

The Delegate of Libya explained that the problem of the arrears could mean the withdrawal of Contracting Parties, while what was intended was to strengthen the Commission in order to achieve its objectives with the greatest number of members as possible.

The Delegate of Belize stated he also believed that the Commission should be inclusive, but that if this proposal were adopted there could be other poor countries that comply with their obligations that could become discouraged. Therefore, Belize did not support the proposal.

The Delegate of Mexico asked about the repercussion that the approval of this proposal would have for the Commission.

The Chairman responded that if the Contracting Parties did not have any financial commitment, then the Commission could not exist as an organization. He explained that efficient management depended on the resources and if these were not available then the tasks recommended by the Commission could not be carried out.

The Delegate of the European Community asked that in order to evaluate Libya’s proposal, they would need to submit it in writing.

At the second session the Chairman reviewed the Parties that still had not presented payment plans and referred the decision on the withdrawal of voting rights to the Commission. He also presented the proposal made by the Delegation of Libya.

The Delegate of Canada stated she understood the sense of the proposal, but that its acceptance was unfair to those Parties that had presented their payment plans.

The Delegate of the European Community expressed that the Parties should follow the organization's rules and respect the Commission's Convention and that the full debt should be paid. Therefore, he did not accept the proposal.

The Delegate of Mexico reiterated his question about the repercussion that the approval of Libya's proposal would have.

The Chairman explained that it was difficult to quantify the effect and that since all the contributions to the budget had not been received this could have serious financial difficulties.

The Executive Secretary expressed that the Commission's budget was limited and that furthermore considerable effort had been made to collect the maximum number of contributions. However, even so, there were some activities that could not be carried out due to the lack of payments.

The Delegate of France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) agreed with that expressed by the European Community and Canada. He said that the repercussion of the proposal could have an irreparable impact and that they were not willing to jeopardize the smooth functioning of ICCAT.

The Delegate of Ghana explained that when the budget is prepared the catch and canning data are requested and that there were many Parties that did not submit these data or when they did so, these data were accepted without verifying them. He commented that his delegation always presented its data and asked that 50% of the debts be cancelled.

The Chairman responded that this was interesting but that it was outside the proposal.

The Delegate of Equatorial Guinea declared that procedures had been made to cancel Equatorial Guinea's total debt.

The Delegate of Japan expressed that in Article X of the Convention it stated that each Contracting Party should contribute to the budget. He further stated that the Convention must be followed and that Japan did not second the proposal.

The Delegate of Vanuatu pointed out that his country had proceeded to the cancellation of its total debt to the Commission.

The Delegate of Senegal indicated his understanding of the social dimension contained in this proposal and pointed out that there were other problems such as over-fishing, that were not sanctioned and therefore, an attempt should be made to find a solution in this regard. He added that it would be important to have a humane gesture in favor of the developing countries.

The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire stated he supported the proposal for those developing Parties that wanted to make payments but did not have the possibility to do so.

The Chairman recalled that 14 years ago the Madrid Protocol was proposed to reduce the impact of the budget for the developing countries.

The Delegate of the European Community emphasized that budgetary obligations must be fulfilled.

Since there was no consensus, the Committee decided to refer the proposal to the Plenary Sessions (see **ANNEX 7.2**).

At the third session, the Delegate of Libya asked to reopen discussion on their proposal concerning the waiving of the payment of arrears.

The Chairman explained that the proposed had been discussed in depth and that no consensus had been reached. Therefore, it had to be deferred to the Plenary Sessions.

7. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2007

The Chairman presented the proposed budget and Contracting Party contributions for fiscal year 2007. He explained that the proposed budget represented a 6.94% increase over 2006, due to the hiring of a Compliance Officer, to the increase in the chapter on Operating Expenses, and the allocation to the Enhanced Research Program for Billfish.

The Delegate of the European Community stated that his delegation had no objections to the budget, but he asked that its adoption be postponed until Panel 2 had advanced in its work so that possible financial implications could be included. On the other hand, he asked what Chinese Taipei's contribution would be if it were an ICCAT Contracting Party.

The Delegate of the People's Republic of China also indicated acceptance of the budget and expressed that Chinese Taipei should contribute financially to the Commission taking into account its status.

The Delegate of the United States thanked the Secretariat for the detailed Explanatory Note on the budget and supported the hiring of a Compliance Officer, which she considered a priority. She also noted that the voluntary contributions from Chinese Taipei should be in accordance with its fishery.

The Delegate of Belize pointed out that other arrangements would have to be taken into account to calculate the contributions of Cooperating Parties.

The Delegate of Vanuatu indicated that given the importance of Chinese Taipei's catches, a solution would have to be found so that its contribution is in relation to its catches.

The Delegate of Mexico supported the budget proposal.

The Committee approved the budget presented, with the exception of the possible financial impacts expressed by the Delegate of the European Community.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that the final budget would also include any changes in Panel membership and the adjustment in the United Nations exchange rate for November 2006.

The Observer of Chinese Taipei brought up the possibility of being legally related to ICCAT and noted that in over the last 20 years it had made important voluntary contributions, equivalent to the Contracting Parties' payments for catches.

At the third session a budget was distributed which included St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a new Contracting Party as well as other changes that had come about.

The Delegate of Ghana expressed a reservation he had on the budget concerning the canning figure for his delegation, on which the calculation of the contributions was based.

The Executive Secretary clarified that to prepare the budget proposal, the Secretariat sent a circular to the Contracting Parties requesting their catch and canning figures and that Ghana had not responded. Therefore, the data shown in the budget were those that the Secretariat had available. He explained that the budget had already been adopted, except for the financial repercussions that could come about in the Panels.

The Delegate of the European Community agreed that the canning data should not be revised.

The Delegate of the United States stated that the catch and canning data were an important point not only for the conservation measures but also for the impact that they had on the contributions. Therefore, the discussion on the data should take place in the future.

It was decided to defer the adoption of the 2007 Budget and Contributions to the Plenary Sessions (see **Tables 1 to 5** attached to this Report).

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The Chairman presented the 2006 Report of STACFAD, which was adopted by the Standing Committee.

The Meeting of STACFAD was adjourned by its Chairman, Mr. J. Jones.

Table 1. 2007 Commission Budget (Euros).

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2007 Revised</i>	<i>Increase Revised</i>
1. Salaries	981,663.78	981,663.78	1,071,638.71	9.17%
2. Travel	43,102.69	43,102.69	30,000.00	-30.40%
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	115,884.75	115,884.75	115,884.75	0.00%
4. Publicationes	52,470.04	52,470.04	52,470.04	0.00%
5. Office Equipment	8,047.55	8,047.55	8,047.55	0.00%
6. Operating Expenses	112,665.73	112,665.73	158,265.73	40.47%
7. Miscellaneous	6,438.05	6,438.05	6,438.05	0.00%
8. Coordination of Research				
a) Salaries	555,762.73	555,762.73	639,368.18	15.04%
b) Travel to improve statistics	36,471.51	36,471.51	20,000.00	-45.16%
c) Statistics - Biology	46,032.00	46,032.00	25,000.00	-45.69%
d) Computer-related items	25,750.00	25,750.00	25,750.00	0.00%
e) Database maintenance	16,899.86	16,899.86	16,899.86	0.00%
f) Phone line - Internet domain	10,300.00	10,300.00	10,300.00	0.00%
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	77,256.50	77,256.50	77,256.50	0.00%
h) ICCAT Bluefin Year Program (BYP)	14,588.60	14,588.60	14,588.60	0.00%
i) ICCAT Enhanced Billfish Research Program	11,273.01	11,273.01	20,000.00	77.41%
j) Miscellaneous	6,116.14	6,116.14	6,116.14	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>800,450.35</i>	<i>800,450.35</i>	<i>855,279.28</i>	<i>6.85%</i>
9. Contingencies	20,600.00	20,600.00	10,000.00	-51.46%
10. Separation from Service Fund	30,900.00	30,900.00	15,000.00	-51.46%
TOTAL BUDGET	2,172,222.94	2,172,222.94	2,323,024.11	6.94%

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2007.

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	X	X	4	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	X	-	-	-	1	Guatemala, Rep.
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	5,915	5,099			0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep.	D	424	366			0	-	-	-	-	0	Guinea, 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
St. Vincent & Grenadines	C	3,137	2,704	2,136		2,136	X	X	-	X	3	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Sao Tomé e Príncipe	D	361	311	52		52	X	-	-	X	2	Sao Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	641	553	2,273	9,083	11,356	X	-	-	X	2	Senegal
South Africa	B	3,551	3,061	8,237		8,237	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	1,497	1,291	330		330	-	-	-	-	0	Syrian Arab Republic
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
UK (Overseas Territories)	A	30,355	26,168	238		238	-	-	-	-	0	UK (Overseas Territories)
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

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 exceeds 5,000 t.

Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 2,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t.

Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 2,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t.

GNP: Gross National Product per capita in US\$. Source: UNCTAD.

GNP with values adjusted to 1991 using a multiplier of 1.16 (Source: U.S. Federal Reserve Board's "Broad Index").

2002 catches (t).

2002 canning (t).

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 2007 (Euros)

Exchange rate: 1 €

1.272 US\$ (11/2006)

<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	3.95%	5.77%	786.00	1,572.00	6,808.50	9,334.55	18,501.06	Algérie
Angola	D	336	2	6.98%	14.29%	786.00	1,572.00	2,256.06	2,205.42	6,819.48	Angola
Barbados	C	197	0	0.12%	1.92%	786.00	0.00	2,269.50	275.37	3,330.87	Barbados
Belize	C	0	4	0.00%	9.62%	786.00	3,144.00	11,347.50	0.00	15,277.50	Belize
Brazil	B	65,554	3	48.78%	16.67%	786.00	2,358.00	26,053.95	152,506.04	181,703.98	Brazil
Canada	A	2,438	3	0.59%	14.29%	786.00	2,358.00	64,494.47	5,356.39	72,994.85	Canada
Cap-Vert	D	2,883	1	59.91%	9.52%	786.00	786.00	1,504.04	18,923.30	21,999.33	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep.	C	8,027	3	4.75%	7.69%	786.00	2,358.00	9,078.00	11,220.20	23,442.20	China, People's Rep.
Communauté Européenne	A	328,755	4	79.99%	17.86%	786.00	3,144.00	80,618.08	722,288.37	806,836.45	Communauté Européenne
Côte d'Ivoire	D	241	2	5.01%	14.29%	786.00	1,572.00	2,256.06	1,581.86	6,195.92	Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia	C	1,449	1	0.86%	3.85%	786.00	786.00	4,539.00	2,025.42	8,136.42	Croatia
France (St. P. & M.)	A	37	3	0.01%	14.29%	786.00	2,358.00	64,494.47	81.29	67,719.76	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	748	2	0.44%	5.77%	786.00	1,572.00	6,808.50	1,045.56	10,212.06	Gabon
Ghana	C	112,042	1	66.35%	3.85%	786.00	786.00	4,539.00	156,613.07	162,724.07	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep.	D	0	1	0.00%	9.52%	786.00	786.00	1,504.04	0.00	3,076.04	Guatemala, Rep.
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	786.00	1,572.00	6,808.50	0.00	9,166.50	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep.	D	0	0	0.00%	4.76%	786.00	0.00	752.02	0.00	1,538.02	Guinea, Rep.
Honduras	D	0	1	0.00%	9.52%	786.00	786.00	1,504.04	0.00	3,076.04	Honduras
Iceland	A	0	1	0.00%	7.14%	786.00	786.00	32,247.23	0.00	33,819.23	Iceland
Japan	A	25,626	4	6.24%	17.86%	786.00	3,144.00	80,618.08	56,301.38	140,849.47	Japan
Korea, Rep.	C	97	3	0.06%	7.69%	786.00	2,358.00	9,078.00	135.59	12,357.59	Korea, Rep.
Libya	C	670	2	0.40%	5.77%	786.00	1,572.00	6,808.50	936.53	10,103.03	Libya
Maroc	C	13,459	3	7.97%	7.69%	786.00	2,358.00	9,078.00	18,813.08	31,035.08	Maroc
Mexico	B	15,205	3	11.31%	16.67%	786.00	2,358.00	26,053.95	35,373.19	64,571.14	Mexico
Namibia	C	6,526	3	3.86%	7.69%	786.00	2,358.00	9,078.00	9,122.09	21,344.09	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep.	D	0	0	0.00%	4.76%	786.00	0.00	752.02	0.00	1,538.02	Nicaragua, Rep.
Norway	A	1,282	1	0.31%	7.14%	786.00	786.00	32,247.23	2,816.61	36,635.84	Norway
Panama	C	1,427	2	0.85%	5.77%	786.00	1,572.00	6,808.50	1,994.67	11,161.17	Panama
Philippines, Rep.	D	970	1	20.16%	9.52%	786.00	786.00	1,504.04	6,366.84	9,442.88	Philippines, Rep.
Russia	C	2,283	1	1.35%	3.85%	786.00	786.00	4,539.00	3,191.19	9,302.19	Russia
St. Vincent & Grenadines	C	2,136	3	1.26%	7.69%	786.00	2,358.00	9,078.00	2,985.72	15,207.72	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Sao Tomé e Príncipe	D	52	2	1.08%	14.29%	786.00	1,572.00	2,256.06	341.32	4,955.37	Sao Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	11,356	2	6.73%	5.77%	786.00	1,572.00	6,808.50	15,873.49	25,040.00	Senegal
South Africa	B	8,237	3	6.13%	16.67%	786.00	2,358.00	26,053.95	19,162.71	48,360.66	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	330	0	6.86%	4.76%	786.00	0.00	752.02	2,166.04	3,704.06	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	B	5,155	2	3.84%	12.50%	786.00	1,572.00	19,540.46	11,992.69	33,891.15	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	B	8,719	2	6.49%	12.50%	786.00	1,572.00	19,540.46	20,284.04	42,182.50	Tunisie
Turkey	B	12,669	2	9.43%	12.50%	786.00	1,572.00	19,540.46	29,473.40	51,371.86	Turkey
UK (Overseas Territories)	A	238	0	0.06%	3.57%	786.00	0.00	16,123.62	522.90	17,432.51	UK (Overseas Territories)
United States	A	52,596	4	12.80%	17.86%	786.00	3,144.00	80,618.08	115,555.59	200,103.68	United States
Uruguay	C	1,761	1	1.04%	3.85%	786.00	786.00	4,539.00	2,461.54	8,572.54	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	0	0	0.00%	4.76%	786.00	0.00	752.02	0.00	1,538.02	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	18,851	2	14.03%	12.50%	786.00	1,572.00	19,540.46	43,855.31	65,753.78	Venezuela

^a Table 1.^b Percentage of catch and canning within the group in which the member is a par^c Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the group in which the member is a par^d US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership^e US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership in which the member belong^f Variable fee in proportion to the percentage as a member of the Commission and Panel^g Variable fee in proportion to the percentage according to catch and canning^h Total contribution.

Table 4. Contributions by group 2007. Fees Expressed in Euros.

<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	20	410,972.00	---	59.25%	6,288.00	15,720.00	1,354,383.79	1,376,391.79
B	7	17	134,390.00	3.00%	21.00%	5,502.00	13,362.00	468,971.06	487,835.06
C	17	35	168,856.00	1.00%	17.00%	13,362.00	27,510.00	354,042.10	394,914.10
D	11	10	4,812.00	0.25%	2.75%	8,646.00	7,860.00	47,377.16	63,883.16
TOTAL	43	82	719,030.00		100.00%	33,798.00	64,452.00	2,224,774.11	2,323,024.11

^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 financed of the budget 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. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

Parties	2002			2003			2004			Parties
	Catch *	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	
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
Brazil	40,155	25,399	65,554	43,094	27,210	70,304		26,659	26,659	0 Brazil
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	0 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
Guinea, Rep.			0			0				0 Guinea, Rep.
Honduras			0			0				0 Honduras
Iceland	0	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	0 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.
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	0 Philippines, Rep.
Russia	2,283		2,283	652		652				0 Russia
St. Vincent & Grenadines	2,136 t		2,136	4,155 t		4,155	7,975 t		7,975	0 St. Vincent & Grenadines
Sao Tomé e Príncipe	52 t		52			0				0 Sao 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	0 South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	330 t		330							0 Syrian Arab Republic
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	0 Turkey
UK (Overseas Territories)	238 t		238	214 t		214				0 UK (Overseas Territories)
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	470,058	248,972	719,030	470,447	79,084	549,531	29,217	36,828	66,045	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 2001

co+ = Carry over from 1999 canning estimate

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication

* Data updated as of August 31, 2005.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 4.1 2006 Administrative Report
 - 4.2 Functioning of the Secretariat
 - 4.3 2006 Financial Report
5. Proposed Amendment to ICCAT's Rule of Procedure on Mail Voting (Rule 9)
6. Review of plans for the payment of arrears
7. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2007
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**Functioning of the ICCAT Secretariat***ICCAT Secretariat***Introduction**

In response to concerns expressed by some Contracting Parties at the 19th Regular Meeting of the Commission held in Seville, Spain, November 2005 in relation to the internal functioning of the ICCAT Secretariat, it was agreed that a working document presenting the current situation at the Secretariat would be prepared for presentation to the Commission in 2006.

This document presents the manner in which the Secretariat is organized in order to fulfill its mandate. Emphasis has been placed on the structure and internal organization of the Secretariat, and the execution of tasks. It has also been considered useful, however, to include an analysis of the possible control activities undertaken to avoid risks and minimize negative impacts on the work of the Commission.

1. Definition of the Secretariat

The Secretariat comprises the Executive Secretary and the staff hired by him to execute the functions assigned to him under the mandate (see below). The Secretariat does not exist in isolation as an entity in itself, but as an auxiliary body of the Commission. The functioning of the Secretariat is therefore determined to a considerable extent by the decisions taken at Commission level, and by the actions taken by the Contracting Parties as a body or individually. The ability of the Secretariat to function as an organization is therefore largely dependent on these "external" factors.

This reliance on so-called external factors must be taken into account when examining the performance or functioning of the Secretariat.

2. Mandate and tasks of the Secretariat

The mandate of the Secretariat is defined only in general terms by the Basic Texts. Rule of Procedure number 14, paragraph 2 states that "The Executive Secretary shall, under the general supervision of the Commission, exercise all the functions assigned to him under the Convention and these Rules and such other functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Commission or the Council." The existence of a Secretariat is explicit in Rule number 14, paragraph 3, which provides that "The Executive Secretary shall appoint the members of the staff including the Assistant Executive Secretary and shall have authority over them."

The Convention outlines some of the specific duties to be carried out by the Executive Secretary and his staff, while other tasks are assigned through the adoption of Recommendations, Resolutions and other decisions by the

Commission. Some tasks are assigned by the auxiliary bodies of the Commission, such as the SCRS, STACFAD etc.

A list of the major tasks carried out by the Secretariat and the source of the mandate to perform these tasks attached as **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**. This list is not exhaustive.

Addendum 2 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8 shows some quantitative indicators of the work carried out by the Secretariat. The quantities shown are the minimum amounts, as many *ad hoc* tasks are not included. Furthermore, many of the tasks are difficult to quantify, and such indicators may not reflect the amount of background work required to produce a given document or piece of correspondence. It should also be noted that this was based on the work carried out in 2005, a year in which there were relatively few inter-sessional meetings and no stock-assessments.

3. Policy and objectives

The policy and objectives of the Secretariat are largely determined by external factors, linked to the decisions of and the mandate as set by the Commission. In broad terms, the objective of the Secretariat is to carry out the functions assigned to it in the manner which will most effectively assist the Commission in its work.

The policy of the Secretariat is not clearly documented in a single literature. The closest literature to an “internal” policy statement by the Secretariat is Article 1–Code of conduct of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*.

4. Corporate procedures and guidelines

Some basic operational rules and norms are embodied in the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*. In some cases procedures for certain tasks are clearly defined in the Basic Texts (Convention, the Rules of Procedure and the Financial Regulations), e.g. calculation of budget, or through adopted management measures. In other cases, where the Commission has clearly assigned a given task to the Secretariat, no procedural guidelines are included. Procedural guidelines are defined, as necessary, by the Executive Secretary. No manual that compiles existing procedural guidelines currently exists, for which reason the Executive Secretary intends to undertake this task in the future.

The Secretariat is currently dependent on the Commission for advice and guidance in relation to corporate procedure and possible legal issues which may arise. The Secretariat also contracts the services of an external labor advisory service for advice on the application of Spanish employment and tax law in relation to general service and contract staff.

5. Organizational structure

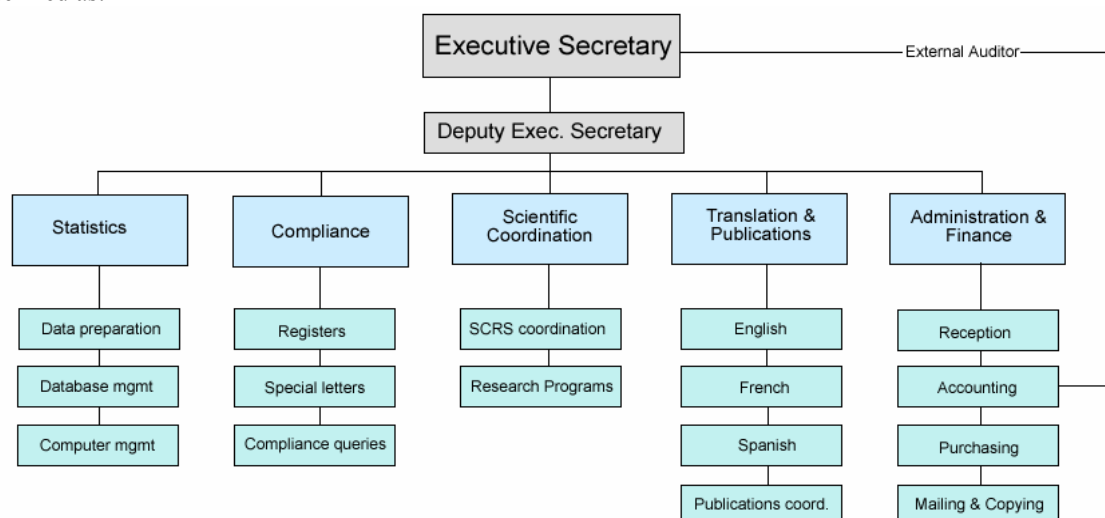
An effective control environment is an environment where competent people understand their responsibilities, the limits to their authority and are knowledgeable, mindful and committed to doing what is right and doing it in the right way.

The standards for professional integrity and ethical values are stipulated in the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*, mainly through Article 1; Article 41 and Article 43.

While the Secretariat is dependent on the higher structure which includes the Commission and its auxiliary bodies, organizational structure is here taken to be the internal structure of the Secretariat.

The Secretariat was created in 1970, with a minimum staff, which has gradually developed over the years. Initially, all staff reported directly to the Executive Secretary, or through the Assistant Executive Secretary, who carried out organizational functions with regard to scientific and technical matters, and for many years the number of professional staff members was very low. The nature of the work, however, combined with an increased number of staff members, led to the development of a more formalized structure, consolidated in 2004/2005.

The Secretariat is currently organized into five “departments”, but many tasks carried out do not relate directly to the department to which the staff members have been assigned. The current organization structure has been defined as:



Appendix-Figure 1. Administrative structure of the Secretariat.

The following table shows the number of staff by department, as currently defined:

Appendix-Table 1. Number of staff by department.

<i>Department</i>	<i>Total Staff</i>	<i>Professional</i>	<i>General Services</i>
Executive Secretary	1	1	0
Assistant Executive Secretary	1	1	0
Statistics	5	2	3
Compliance	1*	1	0
Scientific Coordination	0	Currently carried out mainly by Assistant Executive Secretary and Publications Coordinator.	
Translation & Publications	7	2	5
Administration & Finance	6	1	5

* Not including Executive Secretary, who currently acts as Compliance Officer.

In practice, however, the size of the Secretariat staff, its tri-lingual characteristic and the nature of the tasks to be performed does not allow for such rigid departmentalization, as staff assigned to one department may be involved in tasks in theory assigned to another. This is particularly true of tasks which require technical input, e.g. programming or information technology, and translation tasks, which are required in various fields of work. Furthermore, the organization chart does not reflect the weight of all tasks, or the structure within the various departments, the first three level representing a hierarchy, while lower levels are descriptive.

In an attempt to better understand the structure, a list of the major tasks was developed, to estimate the percentage of time spent on each task by each staff member. On the basis of these estimates, personnel resources used for the various areas can be summarized by major areas as follows:

Appendix-Table 2. Percentage of staff time by area of work.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Approximate % of Staff time</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Professional Staff</i>	<i>General Service / Contract Staff</i>
Publications	31.36	18.6	39.2
General office logistics & support	18.57	7.15	25.60
Statistics	12.5	19.8	8.0
Compliance	10.8	12.21	9.9
Finance & Administration	10.5	15.14	7.7
Meeting organization & attendance	8.7	11.85	6.8
Scientific Coordination	3.9	9.2	0.65
Legal and international organization issues	3.67	6.1	2.15
TOTAL	100	100	100

The tasks assigned to translation and information technology are re-defined by area; i.e. approximate amount of time spent on translation in each of the above categories; approximate amount of time spent on programming for each category, etc. Photocopying was broken down into publication and non-publication, as time spent photocopying documents relating to other tasks is more difficult to quantify. Tasks which span all departments (e.g. maintenance of the local computer network and ICCAT web site) were assigned to General Office Logistics & Support, as were any general tasks required for the efficient running of the Secretariat. It should be noted that the final results are very general approximations, as carrying out a full time and motion study of Secretariat activities is well beyond the resources of the Secretariat¹. See **Addendum 3 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8** for more details.

5.1 Assignment of authority and responsibility

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the Executive Secretary has ultimate responsibility for all actions taken by the Secretariat, but is empowered to delegate to the Assistant Executive Secretary, or in his absence, to the senior member of the staff, such of his powers as he may consider necessary for the effective implementation of his responsibilities. Under Article 1 of the *ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules*, "Staff members are subject to the authority of the Executive Secretary and are responsible to him in the exercise of their functions".

While the Executive Secretary is responsible before the Commission, therefore, all other staff members are responsible to the Executive Secretary.

5.2 Empowerment and accountability

Empowerment and accountability relate to the manner in which authority and responsibility are delegated throughout the organization.

As noted above, given the increase in the range of functions assigned to the Secretariat, since 2004 the Secretariat has been organized into five "Departments (see Figure 1 above); Statistics, Compliance, Scientific Coordination, Translation & Publications and Administration & Finance, each of which have been assigned a series of tasks within these areas, each under the direct supervision of a Head of Department (although current staffing requires the Assistant Executive Secretary to act as Head of Scientific Coordination Departments and the Executive Secretary to act as Head of the Compliance Department). This structure implies that heads of departments are responsible for the staff members in each department.

The nature of the work of the Secretariat, however, requires considerable interaction among departments to perform specific tasks, and human resource limitations may require that personnel perform tasks proper to more than one department. For this reason, special care is taken to ensure that the supervision of staff members to ensure that they do not receive instructions through several channels, and that there is clear demarcation and no multiple-command, which *inter alia*, could blur the demarcation of responsibility.

¹Exacerbated by some departments being unable to project reliable 2006 estimates, through departmental restructuring and/or new tasks assigned as a result of 2005 Recommendations and Resolutions.

It should be noted also that in situations of possible conflicting interests, responsibility is clearly defined. Thus, for example, staff members in charge of making payments are not involved in the calls for offers or purchasing. The delegation of empowerment is arranged in such a way that each no authorized expenditure can be signed by the person receiving the payment.

5.3 Appropriate lines of reporting

The Executive Secretary is responsible for reporting to the Commission. Within the Secretariat, appropriate lines of reporting are required to take account of delegation of authority and responsibility.

In theory, lines of reporting within the Secretariat should be the inverse of lines of command, which would be: Subordinate → Head of Department → Assistant Executive Secretary → Executive Secretary → Commission.

In practice, the nature and distribution of the tasks do not always result in this simple scalar chain for the reasons outlined earlier.

Heads of Department meet with the Executive Secretary and Assistant Executive Secretary at the beginning of each week to establish priorities and exchange information on progress made on the tasks being carried out in each department. These meetings also provide an opportunity to consider all matters relating to the organization and planning of activities of the Secretariat.

6. Human resource policies and practices

These include, according to the INTOSAI², the methods by which persons are hired, trained, evaluated, compensated and promoted and are an important part of the control environment.

6.1 Hiring

Although paragraph 3 of Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure provides that “The Executive Secretary shall appoint the members of the staff...”, in practice the hiring of staff is dependent upon the Commission. Proposals for new recruitments at the Secretariat are made by the Executive Secretary, but may be overruled by the Commission. The Secretariat’s resources are limited by the budget adopted by the Commission, and staffing levels are subject to budgetary allocation within the relevant chapters.

In accordance with Article 5 of the staff rules, staff members may be classified as: a) Professional or Higher category; b) General Services category; c) Contract Personnel.

While the hiring of all staff is the responsibility of the Executive Secretary under the Rules of Procedure, in practice, professional staff members are usually hired by the Executive Secretary on the recommendation of an external selection committee, following publication and circulation of a vacancy announcement which outlines the job description and necessary qualifications for the post. Post level for professional grades is decided by the Commission.

Recruitment procedures for general service staff have varied over the years, with no standard protocol currently in place. The normal selection procedure for general service staff would be advertisement of the position at local (host country) level, followed by written test and interview of short-listed candidates. General Service post levels (grades) are decided by the Executive Secretary.

Contract personnel may be hired on a temporary basis to assist as required. Criteria and procedures for such hires are unlikely to be necessary, as such hiring is not common.

The level of staffing has increased by 50% in the last 10 years (from 14 members in 1996 to 21 members in 2004). The proportion of professional staff in the same period has risen from 21% to 38% of the total personnel, including reclassification of three staff members. The majority of these new positions were created between 2002 and 2004. This increase, however, is not especially remarkable, taking into account the increase in tasks assigned and historical staffing levels:

1976: 9 staff members (3 professional, including 1 on temporary contract, and 6 general service staff)

² International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions.

1986: 17 staff members (4 professional and 13 general service staff)

1996: 14 staff members (3 professional and 11 general service staff)

Since 2004: 21 staff members (8 professional and 13 general service staff. The total staffing level of 21 was reached in March 2004, comprising at that time 5 professional and 16 general service staff)

6.2 Training

Most “training” in ICCAT is on the job, as staff members are usually recruited with the expectation that they are already qualified to carry out the duties assigned. All staff members have secondary school education and approximately two-thirds of the staff have university education. Occasional specialized training courses have been attended by senior staff (e.g. ASFA, FIRMS). Training has been identified as a possible additional desirable risk control activity.

6.3 Evaluation

A system of evaluation of personnel, as stipulated by the Staff Regulations and Rules, has been in place since 2005. Evaluations are made annually by either department head or Assistant Executive Secretary. Evaluations are written, in the form of multiple-choice, and subject to the varying criteria applied by each evaluator. The evaluations are later reviewed by the Executive Secretary.

6.4 Compensation

Once the initial grade has been determined, remuneration (salary and benefits) is set by the United Nations salary scales published by the International Civil Service Commission, with annual increases in accordance with these scales. Staff meetings are held to inform staff of any major changes in relation to remuneration packages, such as pension plan schemes.

6.5 Promotion

If work is considered satisfactory, staff may be reclassified to the next grade after reaching the top of the initial salary scale. In addition, following a proposal by the Executive Secretary, the Commission has recently approved a policy for reclassification from general service to professional level for staff with post-graduate qualifications, on the provision that this would have no impact on the budget. The small size of the ICCAT Secretariat greatly reduces promotional possibilities within the categories, other than those related to length of satisfactory service, and are dependent on the opportunities inherent in the initial position.

7. Risk assessment

The identification, evaluation and control of risks are complex, due to the nature of the Secretariat / Commission relationship. Certain tasks may imply minimal risks to the Secretariat as an organization, but very high risks to the Commission or any individual member (s) of the Commission.

The list of major tasks for each department was reduced to those activities which involve a certain level of risk in their execution, either to the Secretariat or to the Commission, and each department head completed a control sheet, indicating the major risks and actions taken to control these. The main risks identified by the various departments can be summarized as follows:

7.1 Risks to the Secretariat

Finance & Administration: This department probably has the highest number of internal risk tasks, as poor accounting procedures and budgetary control could lead to serious financial difficulties which could jeopardize the functioning of the Secretariat. At a less dramatic level, errors in certain tasks such as salary calculation, tax and pension payments etc. may seriously affect one or more staff members. Calculation of UN based salaries requires monthly revisions based on a series of complex factors. Continuous errors would lead to reduction in motivation, and possible resignation of staff, which would put the organization at risk if occurring on a large scale. This department is also responsible for many logistical and support tasks such as the control of incoming and outgoing post. Failure to ensure the proper performance of these tasks would pose great problems for the running of the Secretariat.

Statistics: The Department of Statistics is charged with all tasks relating to information technology and data bases. Failure to control the risks inherent in these tasks would lead to a failure in the computer resources of the Secretariat, making it almost impossible for any work to be done.

Publications: Some risks to the Secretariat or to the individual staff members are involved in tasks relating to diplomatic contacts, which includes contacts with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and staff identity cards, visa applications etc.), carried out by the publications department.

Scientific Coordination and Compliance: These departments do not carry out tasks which have inherent major risks which endanger the existence or ability to function of the organization. Internal risks in these areas are more limited to credibility issues and failure to meet the mandate of the Commission, but which could prejudice the objectives fixed by the Commission. Inability to meet the mandate of the Commission may become a major risk if new tasks are assigned to the Secretariat through the adoption of Recommendations without the appropriate corresponding resources being made available.

Other: In recent years, the ICCAT Web has become the primary vehicle through which the ICCAT Secretariat makes information available to the Commission and the general public. The Web site content offers a variety of useful information provided by various Departments. This site requires continuous maintenance and updating. Failure to maintain the Web up to date would imply higher costs for making available certain types of information.

7.2 Risks to the Commission

Finance & Administration: The risk of misuse of funds or poor accounting practices not only poses a risk for the Secretariat, but also for the Commission itself. Errors in the calculation of budgetary contribution may also cause serious problems, both at individual Contracting Party level and at global Commission level. This department is also responsible for the reproduction and copying of Commission publications and meeting documents. Failure to produce timely and correct copies in meeting documents at Commission level could cause delays in ability to take decisions and adopt measures.

Statistics: Incorrect handling of statistical data would have significant effects on stock assessments, which are used as the basis of stock management by the Commission. Large scale errors could result in the Commission taking erroneous decisions, leading to poor stock management, undermining the mandate and credibility of the Commission.

Publications: The timely publication and distribution of Commission reports and decisions, in the three official languages, is vital for the proper functioning of the Commission. Editing errors may lead to incorrect information being published, and misinterpretation or false reporting of the decisions taken. Such risks are also inherent in the translation process, and are particularly important at decision-making level, such as draft proposals for management measures.

Scientific coordination: Some risk to the Commission is inherent in this area in a similar way to the risks in statistics. Failure to organize and coordinate the scientific work could adversely affect the scientific advice received by the Commission.

Compliance: All information received and processed by the Compliance Department is used as a basis for decisions the Compliance Committee [and PWG], and erroneous information could have serious consequences. The inherent risks are greater at individual party level than to the Commission as a whole, but may involve serious credibility losses, particularly if decisions relating to identification and sanctions are adopted on the basis of erroneous information. The necessity of relying on Commission decisions to resolve interpretative issues may cause delays or errors in correct implementation of Recommendations, undermining the work of the Commission.

Other: The management of the ICCAT web site, and particularly the compliance data bases contained therein also involves serious risks to Contracting Parties (see also compliance and risks to third parties).

7.3 Risks to third parties

Finance & Administration: This department is responsible for purchasing and leasing of material and equipment required by the Secretariat, and also for staff travel arrangements. Any such dealings imply a certain level of risk to the suppliers, but this is unlikely to be high.

Statistics: This department is involved in the process of publishing compliance related information on the web site, and hence carries a high level of risk (see compliance below). Also responsible for contracts with information technology service providers, risks similar to those in purchasing / leasing tasks carried out by Finance & Administration.

Publications: There are no real inherent risks to third parties involved in these activities, although there may be some risks involved to authors of scientific documents.

Scientific Coordination: Involvement in research projects and data fund may imply some risk factor to third party providers, but again is low.

Compliance Department: Many of the tasks in this sector can be identified as high risk to third parties, as strict enforcement of compliance with management measures may result in considerable financial loss if exports are rejected, which may occur in the case of errors or omissions in compliance-related data bases such as the ICCAT Record of Vessels; ICCAT Record of Farming Facilities; or data base of institutions and individuals authorized to validate ICCAT Statistical Documents. Interpretation delays may also involve third party risks.

7.4 Risk appetite

Risk appetite is the amount of risk to which the entity is prepared to be exposed before it judges action to be necessary.

The risk appetite of the Secretariat is mainly determined by the Commission, and will be dependent to a large extent on the costs inherent in risk control. The risk appetite of the Commission in relation to the Secretariat will be determined by its need for the Secretariat to carry out certain tasks, and the ability of the Secretariat to absorb these.

Some organizational risks are evaluated internally and action taken by the Executive Secretary, particularly in relation to verifications and supervision.

8. Control activities

Control sheets were developed for each department, stating task, objective, inherent risk, control activity in place and possible desirable control activities. On the basis of these responses, controls, and lack thereof implying increased risk, may be identified.

8.1 Preventive controls

8.1.1 Authorization and approvals procedures

The undertaking of any activity within the Secretariat requires authorization from the Executive Secretary, who may delegate the authorization of the procedures to be followed. No activity or process can be undertaken without passing through at least one approvals procedure, usually following the scalar chain outlined in Section 5.3. Authorization and approvals procedures relate to both input and output of the Secretariat.

In the case of expenditures, proposals and advice may be provided by relevant senior staff members, but all expenditures are subject to final approval by the Executive Secretary and must be in accordance with the budget adopted by the Commission. For major purchases, at least three tenders are requested and studied before a decision on the basis of price/quality is made. The decision of which offer to accept is taken by the Executive Secretary in conjunction with the Heads of Departments on the basis of quality and on the principle of the lowest bidder.

8.1.2 Segregation of duties

To reduce the risk of error, waste or wrongful acts and the risk of not detecting such problems, no single individual or team should control all key stages of a transaction or event. Under current conditions, this is virtually impossible to achieve within the ICCAT Secretariat for all activities, although many tasks span departments, which in some cases may result in confusion rather than greater control. Segregation of duties in an organization the size of the Secretariat may involve more risks than non-segregation, as absence of staff members may disrupt continuity of work, particularly problematic as recent measures require prompt action by the Secretariat to avoid loss to external parties.

Few tasks with inherent risks are controlled at all key stages by one individual, but many tasks may be controlled by a department or “team”, particularly those relating to statistics and finance.

Error risks may be reduced by segregation of duties through peer review and supervision, but in many cases staffing levels do not allow for thorough segregated verification processes. While major risks are reduced by supervision by the Executive Secretary and external controls, increased staffing has been identified by the Statistics department as a means of better controlling these risks.

8.1.3 Controls over access to resources and records

Access to resources and records is limited to authorized individuals who are accountable for the custody and/or use of the resources. Restriction depends upon vulnerability.

Secretariat resources are as follows: human resources (staff), financial resources (budgetary contributions), material resources (furniture, computer equipment); information resources (data, electronic publications). The risks inherent in access to staff resources are those mentioned in organizational structure, and are characteristic of small organizations.

The most vulnerable resources at the Secretariat in the concept of control activities are financial resources and information resources. Access restrictions are in place for both these resources. Access to data bases and other files on the computer network is restricted to only those staff who enter data or who require access to initiate direct outputs. Access to financial resources is restricted to the Executive Secretary, Assistant Executive Secretary and the Head of the Department of Administration and Finance. Accounts records are available only to staff directly involved in the accounting tasks to ensure respect of confidentiality, although the auditors report and financial report are made available to the Commission and are accessible to staff members.

Access restrictions require a balance between the need for adequate communications and segregation of duties and the need to protect vulnerable resources.

8.1.4 Reviews of operations and activities

Operations processes and activities should be periodically reviewed to ensure that they are in compliance with current regulations, policies, procedures and other requirements.

The changing mandate of the Secretariat, which is determined by Commission decisions, requires constant review of processes and activities. While increases or changes in activities is decided “externally” by the Commission, the review of processes required to implement Commission decisions is taken internally within the Secretariat. These processes are of necessity *ad hoc*, as the Secretariat cannot foresee the decisions which will be taken by the Commission, and adaptive action is restricted by budgetary resources.

8.1.5 Supervision

Most literature cites the accepted understanding of competent supervision including: clearly communicating the duties, responsibilities and accountabilities assigned to each staff member; systematically review of each members work; approving work at critical points to ensure that it flows. Delegation does not diminish accountability of supervisor responsible.

The application of comprehensive supervision is difficult in small organizations. The supervisory structure in place at the Secretariat reduces risk of error and ensures accountability, but also reduces time available to senior

staff to carry out other tasks, and may also lead to bottlenecks in work flow. Supervision of the work of the Secretariat as a whole is carried out externally by the Commission.

8.2 Detective controls

8.2.1 Verifications

Most verification processes in the Secretariat are limited to peer review and spot-checking, usually within the same department, although in some cases, such verifications are carried out by staff from a different department, and may be subject to various controls. Current low staffing levels means that verification processes are not always carried out at an optimal level, as identified by the Statistics department. This is particularly important given that the statistics department is heavily involved in the publication of compliance as well as statistical data, a task which could involve serious third party risk (see Section 7.3).

Some tasks are subject to external review. The main areas which are subject to external detective controls include:

Department of Finance & Administration: Accounting procedures and transactions are subject to review by external auditors and reported to the Commission; expenditures, budgetary calculation and contributions by the Commission delegations and research program administration/accounting procedures by the program coordinators.

Statistics Department: Data verification and control, standards for submission, statistical data set preparation and tagging inventory are all subject to review by national scientists and SCRS.

Publications: Meeting report adoption and translation is reviewed by delegates; scientific reports and documents are reviewed by SCRS scientists and rapporteurs/authors.

Scientific Coordination: Research program administration is subject to control by program coordinators. Other tasks are subject to review by national scientists/SCRS.

Compliance: Almost all tasks related to the compliance department are subject to external control. Most information is made available through the web site and can be reviewed by the Parties concerned. Other information is made available through circulation, and may be subject to review and correction by Contracting Parties.

8.2.2 Reconciliations

Finance & Administration: Records are reconciled with appropriate documents e.g. bank statements and receipts / invoices with accounting entries. All accounting transactions are required to be reconciled with official receipts, and are verified by the external auditors. Reconciliation of records and documents also applies to the post registration system in ICCAT, and to meeting documents.

Statistics: Reconciliation is used extensively to ensure that all data can be traced to the appropriate source.

Publications: The identification of documents by number assignment ensures that all documents are translated and incorporated into the relevant publications.

Scientific coordination: Research programs subject to accounting reconciliations.

Compliance: Reconciliation is not used extensively, although cross-referencing of correspondence and documentation is employed to facilitate work of the Commission in the reports presented. Increased use of reconciliation would require major re-programming of data bases.

8.2.3 Reviews of operating performance

Operating performance is reviewed against a set of standards on a regular basis, assessing effectiveness and efficiency. Do accomplishments meet objectives?

The objectives of the Secretariat are determined by the Commission. To date, all additional tasks assigned by the Commission have been absorbed by the Secretariat, offset by the hiring of additional staff as considered appropriate by the Commission or, where feasible, by the Executive Secretary. Whether the Secretariat can continue to render satisfactory operating performance is dependent upon future Commission decisions in relation to increased mandate and staffing levels. A considerable number of new tasks have been assigned to the Secretariat through the adoption of measures in 2005 (implementation of observer program and associated reports; establishment of Record of carrier vessels; establishment of Record of BFT Farming vessels; preparatory work for strengthening ICCAT, list of specific data elements lacking for each stock; preparatory work for review of Secretariat...) but with zero increase in staff resources.

9. Information and communication

A precondition for reliable and relevant information is the prompt recording and proper classification of transactions and events. All transactions and significant events should be fully documented.

In accordance with current standard procedure, all information received should be first registered at reception and then reviewed by the Executive Secretary, with the exception of information relating to accounting transactions (bank statements etc.), which are received directly by the Department of Finance and Administration and not included in the general register or archive, given that some of the data may be of a personal or confidential nature. The Executive Secretary designates the staff member(s) to receive the information. In general, most information is assigned to the heads of department, who then pass it to the relevant staff member within the department, together with the instructions for action.

Since 2006, a copy of information so assigned is circulated to all departments, so that incorrect assignment can be rectified, and all departments are aware of communications received which may affect them either directly or indirectly.

Information may be received from 1) Contracting Parties, 2) non-Contracting Parties, entities or fishing entities 3) Other international bodies (UN, RFMOs), 4) Financial institutions, 5) Service providers 6) NGOs or private institutions.

Information received from Contracting Parties may be in direct response to a request sent by the Secretariat for information required in accordance with the mandate or may be initiated directly from the Contracting Party for circulation to other members or requesting response from the Secretariat.

Outgoing correspondence is registered and documented in a similar manner to information received.

The Secretariat publishes twice-yearly Newsletters containing information on salient events relating to the activities of the Commission.

10. Monitoring

Ongoing monitoring of internal control is built into the normal recurring operating activities of an entity. It includes regular management and supervisory activities, and other actions personnel take in performing their duties.

Ongoing monitoring is carried out at both internal Secretariat level and at Commission level. Secretariat management and supervisory activities are built into the departmental structure of the organization (see organization structure, Section 5, above).

The Commission monitors Secretariat performance through the reports prepared by the Secretariat, and through the results of tasks commended.

Conclusion

The above is largely descriptive of the current situation in relation to the structure and functioning of the ICCAT Secretariat, and the risks to which it is exposed in the case of bad management.

In order not to usurp the role of the Commission, the Secretariat has deliberately avoided a discussion on future prospects in relation to the challenges which will arise if the tasks are to increase in the future.

It is obvious that, in light of the pressure emerging from the debates taking place in international fora, ICCAT has been called upon to tune in with current demands in relation to tuna fisheries management in its Convention area. This has necessarily resulted in the adoption of a series of measures relating to the record of vessels of various dimensions involved in tuna fisheries, satellite control systems, trade related documentary requirements, transshipment operations and on-board observers.

As can be seen from **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**, it is evident that the number of tasks being assigned to the Secretariat by the Commission through the adoption of Recommendations and Resolutions has increased greatly in recent years, especially since 2003, year in which the Recommendations in relation to the ICCAT Vessel Register, IUU list and Chartering Arrangements became active. Since 2004 (following entry into force of 2003 Recommendations), the Secretariat has also been charged, *inter alia*, with:

- The creation and publication of lists of Farming Facilities
- The creation and publication of lists Vessels involved in Bluefin Tuna Farming
- The administration of a Special Data Fund
- The drafting of an Abridged Compendium in accordance with the criteria established by the Working Group
- The creation and publication of a data base containing seals and signatures of institutions and individuals authorized to validate Statistical Documents
- The implementation of an observer program
- The creation and publication of lists of Carrier Vessels Authorized to Receive Transshipments from LSTLVs
- The Compilation of a list of provisions of the relevant international fisheries instruments and corresponding ICCAT provisions
- Preparation of a list of specific data elements that are lacking for each stock.
- Technical assistance to developing countries

If the actions to be undertaken by the Commission continue to increase at the pace observed since 2003, it is very probable that the capacity of the Secretariat will be insufficient to meet the ensuing workload.

The quantitative outputs shown in **Addendum 2 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8** are based on the year 2005 (with the exception of web page statistics, which show April 2006 figures), a year in which no stock assessments were carried out and the number of inter-sessional meetings was lower than usual. The workload and outputs for some departments, therefore, would probably normally be even greater than the reference year.

In addition, measures have been adopted which may require, in the future, additional work in the area of statistical data collection in relation to turtles, sea-birds, sharks and possibly other species in the future.

To face up to this string of measures and presuming that the Secretariat will be involved to a greater or lesser extent, the workload will, without doubt, rise abruptly. In the current international context, there is talk of proceeding with an evaluation of RFMO performance. This evaluation will no doubt increase the involvement of the Secretariat in the application of management measures not only adopted by the Commission, but also those adopted by international fora.

It should be noted that these additional tasks increase the workload not only of the Statistics and Compliance departments, but also affect other areas such as translation, accounts, mailing etc. As mentioned in Section 6.1, however, no additional personnel have been hired since March 2004, and even the position filled at that time had, in fact, been vacant since 1991. In the event that the amount of new tasks assigned to the Secretariat increases at the rate seen in recent years, the Secretariat will not be able to guarantee the maintenance of a continued standard of acceptable output without additional staff resources.

It goes without saying that any decision relating to the application of management measures in accordance with international instruments will have a direct implication on the capacity of the Secretariat in relation to personnel resources, both in quantity and quality.

As far as the internal management of the Secretariat is concerned, it appears that the financial difficulties seem to have been overcome temporarily since over two years ago, thanks to the efforts made by the Contracting Parties to pay their contributions and arrears. Nevertheless, it should be noted that this situation may become precarious if the procedures for payment are not respected by all Contracting Parties.

Furthermore, the current structure of the Secretariat allows the identification of job descriptions for each staff position at the Secretariat. This procedure should be continued in order to ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness.

As regards the stability of the Secretariat, the projected new Seat graciously offered by the Spanish Government will make available more space and better facilities.

The risks inherent in some of the tasks carried out by the Secretariat, particularly in relation to compliance related issues, not only affect the Secretariat and the Commission, but may also have adverse effects on third parties if not sufficiently controlled. Proper risk control implies verification procedures and a staffing level which can ensure continuous service in a timely manner. For this reason, increased staffing levels will be required in the future, and the inclusion of a Legal Advisor in such staffing is considered appropriate and priority. Evidently, any increase in staffing levels will have budgetary impacts, but whether or not the Commission makes available resources will depend on its own risk appetite.

References

INTOSAI, 2005. *Guidelines for Internal Control Standards for the Public Sector*.

COSO, 2004. *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (Executive Summary)*.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Mandate and Tasks of the ICCAT Secretariat

TASK (BY DEPARTMENT)

DEPT OF TRANSLATION & PUBLICATIONS

Translation of Circulars from the Executive Secretary

Translation of Biennial Reports

Translation of Abstracts in the Collective Volume of Scientific Papers

Translation of Detailed Reports of assessment meetings

Translation of Working papers during SCRS and Commission meetings

Review and maintain layout standards for the publications. Rapporteur certain sessions of Commission and SCRS meetings.

Facilitating the adoption of reports by correspondence

Compilation of Biennial Reports

Compilation of Collective Volume series

Compilation of Basic Texts

Compilation of Staff Rules

Compilation of Field Manual

Compilation of Compendia of Recommendations

Preparation of ICCAT entries to the ASFA

Maintain a database of scientific papers

Preparing inputs to FIGIS-FIRMS

Coordination of peer reviews of scientific papers

Electronic posting of documents

Communications with external authors of reports

Diplomatic contacts, including personnel id cards etc

MANDATED BY

Convention Article 3 paragraph 7

Convention Article 3 paragraph 7; Rules of Procedure 15

Convention Article 3 para 7, Article 4, paragraph 2d

Convention. Article 3 paragraph 7; and Art 4 2d , Rules of Procedure. 15

Convention Article 3 paragraph 7 and Art 4, paragraph 2d

Decision taken at 2nd regular meeting of the Commission Mandate as requested by Commission or auxiliary bodies

Convention Art 7g) and Rules of Procedure 15

Convention Art 7g) and Rules of Procedure 15

Convention Article 4 paragraph 2d

Decision taken at 2nd regular meeting of the Commission Rules of Procedure 14

Council recommendation 1971

Logistical requirement

Support task, Article 4 paragraph 2d

Support task under Convention Art 4, paragraph 2d

Commission decision 2003

Support task

SCRS decision 2003

Logistical requirement

Logistical requirement

COMPLIANCE DEPT

Compilation of Compliance Tables

List of albacore vessels

Vessel chartering

Bluefin tuna farming reports

Bluefin tuna farming vessel record

Register of authorized BFT farms

Information in accordance with Resolution 03-15

Rec. 98-14

Rec. 98-08

Rec. 02-21

Rec. 05-04

Rec. 05-04

Rec. 05-04

Res. 03-15

Internal procedures for compliance with closed area / season in the Gulf of Guinea	Rec. 04-01
List of vessels greater than 24 meters and internal reports	Rec. 02-22
Vessels involved in IUU Fishing	Rec. 02-23
Request & circulate data from ICCAT Statistical Document Programs	Res. 94-05; Rec. 01-21; Rec. 01-22
Validation information for SDPs	Res. 94-05; 97-04; Rec. 01-21; Rec. 01-22
Active Compendium	Logistical requirement
Abridged Compendium	Res. 02-29
Responses to Chairman's "Special" letters	Correspondence distribution-inherent task.
Requests for Observer Status	Ref. 98-19
Request for Annual Reports	Ref. 04-17
Answering general compliance queries	Support task
Summary table of actions and compendia of background info.	Request of PWG Chair
Comparison of ICCAT measures & Int. Law	Res. 05-10
ICCAT "Internal Review"	Support task
Responses to UN and other questionnaires	Support task following from Commission Decision 1969
Preparation of "Compliance" report(s) to the Comm.	Information distribution – inherent task under Convention Article 7g
Record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments	Rec. 05-06
Operation of ICCAT transshipment observer program	Rec. 0-06
Requests for Cooperating status	Rec. 03-20
STATISTICS	
Data requests	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Standards for data submission	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Database – Statistical data	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Database – vessel records	Rec. 02-22
Database – FFB Register	Rec. 05-04
Database – Stat Doc Validation	Commission Decision, 2004 (see plenaries)
Database – Trade data, including estimates of unreported catch	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Database – contacts	Support task
Database – post registration	Support task
Database user interfaces	Support task
Data quality control	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Data extraction and publication	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Management of internet access and webpage	Logistical requirement
Routines for the backup of all the data	Logistical requirement
Manage the Secretariat's hardware and software resources.	Logistical requirement
Maintain the tagging data serial number catalogue, prepare the annual lottery during the SCRS plenary.	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Manage an inventory of tags at the Secretariat and their distribution. (includes purchase of tags)	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Maintain the list of the statistical and tagging correspondents.	Support task
Maintain a database with an inventory of archival tags.	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Secretariat report on Statistics	Convention Article 7 g
Preparation of data sets for assessment	Implicit in Articles 4 and 9 of the Convention
Liaise with other bodies (FAO/CWP)	FAO Agreement, Article 3, paragraph 2
Preparation of the Statistical Bulletin and Data Record	Commission Decision 1969 and Convention Article IV 2d
Meeting document control	Support task
Administration of Local Area Network	Logistical requirement
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	
Calculation of the annual Commission budgets	Convention Article 7 b) and Article 10, paragraph 4; Financial Regulation. No. 4

Calculation of contributions of the Contracting Parties	Convention Article 10 paragraph 4; Financial Regulation No. 2
Budgetary control	Convention Article 7 c); Financial Regulation No. 3
Maintaining an accounting register of all transactions	Convention Article 7 d). Financial Regulation No. 9
Calculation of tax payment on a quarterly basis.	Rule of procedure 14, staff rules Art 10.
Writing the Financial Report	Financial Regulations No. 9
Writing the Administrative Report	Convention Article 7g
Rapporteur STACFAD sessions during Commission meetings	Mandate as requested by Commission or auxiliary bodies
Financial and logistics arrangements of the Commission meetings.	Logistical requirement
Administrative and financial control of the special research programs	Part of budgetary control task under Article 7 of the Convention and Financial Regulation No. 3
Calculation and payment of the salaries of the Secretariat staff.	Rules of Procedure 14
Control and delivery of the funds for staff Pension Plan	Rules of Procedure 14
Payment to the Spanish Social Security and Income Tax (IRPF)	Rules of Procedure 14 and Staff rules 6.2c
Personnel archives	Rules of Procedure 14
Maintaining vacations, sick-leave and overtime registers	Rules of Procedure 14
Purchasing and leasing	Logistical requirement
Travel requests	Rules of Procedure 14
Reception	Logistical requirement
Correspondence archives	Logistical requirement
Document archives for documents distributed during meetings	Logistical requirement
Contact information management	Logistical requirement
Maintenance of the ICCAT Library	Support task
Managing the stockpile of ICCAT publications	Logistical requirement
Photocopying of documents	Logistical requirement
Scanning of ICCAT documents for electronic archiving	Support task
Mailing of correspondence	Logistical requirement
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION	
Facilitate setting dates for inter-sessional meetings.	Logistical requirement
Prepare draft agendas for meetings and meeting announcements.	Rules of procedure no. 8
Prepare meeting reports, including rapporteuring.	Convention Article 7 g
Maintain guidelines for the preparation and presentation of scientific documents	Decision taken at 2nd regular meeting of the Commission
Implement quality control procedures for stock assessments	Implicit in Article 4 of the Convention
Maintain the catalogue of ICCAT stock assessment software	Support task implicit in Article 4 of the Convention
Maintain an electronic archive of inputs, outputs and software.	Support task
Special research programs communication	Convention Article 7a
Scientific communications	Support task / logistical requirement
Exchange of scientific information with sister organizations.	Commission decision 1969
Participation in scientific meetings of other bodies.	Commission decision 1969
Design of common policies for information sharing between RFB	Convention Articles 7 and 11.
Report adoption	Convention Article 7 g

ICCAT Secretariat Quantitative Outputs for 2005

Quantitative outputs are estimates of quantifiable indicators of work, but in many cases, cannot be calculated with any precision. Some entries reflect the true number. e.g. number of publications mailed by regular post, while other figures do not show all items, for example, from the figures on the table, the total estimated number of words translated is around 525,000, but this does not take into account *ad hoc* translations and individual letters. It is considered useful to include some quantitative analysis, however, as an indication of the work load of the Secretariat.

Quantitative Outputs for 2005

	<i>Quantity</i>
<i>PUBLICATIONS</i>	
Number of Collective Volume Papers published	125
Number of words translated (minimal estimate) [TOTAL]	525,000
- Biennial Reports;	375,822
- Red book abstracts	24,150
- Red book detailed reports	37,720
Approximate number of words translated circulars nei	7,000
Number of tables formatted/edited	204
Number of figures formatted/edited	613
<i>SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH</i>	
Number of requests for scientific information	60
Number of documents/reports edited (with figures & tables)	4 (286 pages)
Number of Secretariat reports prepared	1 (114 pages)
Number of requests for research program funds (excluding JDIP)	21
Approximate number of words translated circulars	5,500
<i>STATISTICS</i>	
Number of files processed by Statistics:	730
Size of each database	
- Task I	20 MB
- Task II (catch & effort and size)	1.5 GB
- Tagging data	1.2 GB
- Trade data	8 MB
- CATDIS	97 MB
- CAS	2 GB
Number of requests for statistics (data base outputs)	53
Number of figures generated	100
Number of tables generated	200
Number of tags distributed	2,300
Number of Secretariat reports were prepared	5
Approximate number of words translated circulars	3,500
Approximate number of words translated Secretariat documents	700
<i>COMPLIANCE</i>	
Number of files processed by Compliance:	
- Vessels 24m (number of updates)	53
- SDP Reports data	19
- Statistical Document Validation Initial entries	1,522
- Statistical Document Validation (times updated)	61
- FFB facilities	9
- Chartering	23
Other data '(including ALB vessels and BET vessels)	57
Approximate size of each database (2006)	

- Vessels 24m	110 MB
- FFB facilities	2.5 MB
- Statistical document validation	95 MB
- Recommendations and Resolutions	8.8 MB
Number of Secretariat reports prepared	11
Approximate number of words translated circulars	60,500
Approximate number of words translated Secretariat documents	8,520
Number of documents / questionnaires prepared for UN & other international organizations	5
Number of questions received in relation to interpretation of Recommendations and Resolutions	60
<i>FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION</i>	
Number of financial / accounting transactions registered	1,300
Number of banking operations	1,250
Number of travel arrangements	30
Number of Secretariat reports prepared	10
Number of purchases processed	60
Approximate number of words translated circulars	1,500
Number of internal notes	27
<i>MEETING ORGANIZATION & ATTENDANCE:</i>	
Number of participants registered at ICCAT meetings	728
Number of photocopies made during SCRS	53,490
Number of photocopies made during Commission	370,000
Approximate number of words translated circulars (meeting announcements, etc)	6,000
<i>OFFICE LOGISTICS & SUPPORT</i>	
Incoming mail	2,701
Outgoing mail	2,004
Size of contacts data base	78.8 MB
Number of letters were mailed by regular post	5,650
Number of publications mailed by regular post	3,322
Number of photocopies made at the Secretariat	1,291,120
Number of documents were scanned	
- Correspondence	848
- Documents	1,172
Number of files on the web site? (2006 data)	8,010
Size of the web site? (2006 data)	4049.2 MB
Approximate average number of weekly visits to ICCAT web site 2006 (excluding staff)	8,600

Addendum 3 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Methodology for calculating percentages of staff time by area of work (See Appendix-Table 2).

In order to calculate approximate amounts of time spent on tasks relating to each area, each head of department was requested to estimate, in consultation with their staff, the approximate amount of time spent on each task carried out within their department. The list of tasks was then classified by major area, and the total amounts of percentages added in each area, and divided by 21. Similar processes were carried out to calculate approximate times for professional and general service staff. The following criteria were used for classifying tasks:

Publications includes all tasks relating to compiling, editing, translating, photocopying and collating, in three languages, of all ICCAT publications, including: three volumes of Biennial Reports (Commission, SCRS and Annual Reports), the Collective Volume of Scientific Papers, Statistical Bulletin, compendia of ICCAT measures, Basic Texts, Staff Regulations and Rules and also the ICCAT Field Manual.

General Office Logistics & Support includes all tasks carried out to enable the Secretariat to function, such as registration of correspondence, filing, mailing, miscellaneous photocopying, computer network and email/internet administration and general clerical & secretarial services.

Statistics has been limited to the processing of scientific data received and related tasks such as data base management, quality control.

Compliance includes all processes of data received in relation to compliance with ICCAT measures, including data base programming and data entry, drafting and translation of compliance related circulars and meeting reports.

Finance & Administration comprises those tasks directly related to budgetary calculation and control, accounting, salaries, purchasing, leave absences and personnel related matters.

Meeting Organization & Attendance is the amount of staff time spent on organizing and attending meetings outside the Secretariat. The estimate of this is considered particularly conservative, and may vary considerably from one year to another.

Legal issues and International Organization issues comprises time spent on answering or re-directing questions in relation to interpretation of ICCAT measures, abridged and active compendia, work carried out in accordance with Resolution to Strengthen ICCAT and answering questionnaires/ correspondence from the United Nations or other International Organizations.

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting of Panel 1 was chaired by Dr. Djobo Anvra Jeanson, the Director of Fishing Resources of Côte d'Ivoire.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Denis Tremblay (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur for Panel 1.

4. Review of Panel membership

With the inclusion of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and the withdrawal of United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Panel 1 is currently comprised of the following 30 members: 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, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, United States, and Venezuela.

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

Dr. Gerry Scott, Chairman of the SCRS, presented the Executive Summaries on bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna. These Summaries can be consulted in Sections 8.1 to 8.3 of the SCRS Report.

The Delegations of Japan and the United States expressed concern about the decline in the abundance indices of bigeye tuna and considered that more caution should be exercised before increasing catches. The results of the next assessment, scheduled for 2007, should clarify the recent state of this stock. The SCRS Chairman indicated that perhaps the previous assessment was too optimistic.

The Delegate of Canada also expressed concern about the important catch of juveniles in the baitboat catches and asked for comments from Dr. Scott. The SCRS Chairman thinks that new fishing techniques should be promoted that will allow effective targeting of skipjack tuna and avoiding incidental catches of bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna. Additional information should be available soon in this regard.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

A time-area closure has been adopted in recent years. Additional time is still needed before the results of this new measure can be seen. Senegal requested a 7,000 t bigeye tuna quota for its tuna fleet.

Belize requested a quota of 2,100 t of bigeye tuna and 2,000 t of yellowfin tuna for its 10 new fishing vessels under 24 m.

Some clarifications on the yellowfin and bigeye tuna catch limits were then provided. There is still no limit on yellowfin tuna whereas for bigeye tuna the level of 2,100 t does not really constitute a limit.

Japan recalled and warned the Panel of past experiences of the Commission concerning one Contracting Party's abuse of bigeye tuna fishing which has contributed to a substantial increase in catches. Belize indicated that the 2,100 t limit was discussed at the 2005 meeting of the Panel and there were no objections at that time from the other delegations *vis a vis* this regulation.

The European Community stated that the conservation and management Recommendations are in force up to 2008. These Recommendations can be consulted in the Abridged Compendium of Conservation and Management Measures, under articles 5 and 6.

Finally, Canada recalled that the yellowfin tuna management recommendations indicate that the Contracting Parties should not increase their catch or fishing effort.

7. Research

Dr. Scott stated there are some SCRS recommendations in force concerning research programs. The existence of observer programs is facilitating precise catch data. He further noted that the considerable improvements of some Contracting in the transmission of data due, in large part, to financing by the Commission, have resulted in improvements in the infrastructures necessary for data collection and transmission of data.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Report was adopted with the changes proposed and the Chairman adjourned the meeting of Panel 1.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of Panel 2, Mr. Julien Turenne (EC-France).

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Dr. David Kerstetter (United States) was appointed as the Rapporteur for Panel 2, with assistance from Ms. Pamela Toschik (United States).

4. Review of Panel Membership

The Chair noted that the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) desired to withdraw from the Panel and Belize indicated that it would like to become a member. Both actions will become effective immediately.

During the course of the Panel meeting, the Secretariat reported that St. Vincent & the Grenadines had joined the Commission and subsequently requested membership in Panel 2. Noting no objections, the Chair also welcomed the new member to the Panel.

With the above changes, Panel 2 is currently comprised of the following 19 members, all of whom attended at least part of the Panel meeting sessions: Algeria, Belize, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Croatia, European Community, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, and United States.

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

5.1 *Albacore (North and Mediterranean)*

The last albacore stock assessment was conducted in 2000. Dr. Gerry Scott, the SCRS Chair, provided a brief summary of the current SCRS Report. He emphasized that there was uncertainty surrounding the estimates of replacement yield and the SCRS had no new information with which to advise the Commission on new management measures. The SCRS Chair further noted that the stock was due to be reassessed in 2007 and that a data preparatory meeting had been held earlier in 2006 in preparation for the assessment.

The SCRS Chair briefly reported on the Mediterranean stock of albacore. He noted that the stock has never been formally assessed, in part because it was so poorly known. No management recommendations were made to the Commission for 2006.

5.2 *Bluefin tuna (West)*

A new assessment of the western and eastern bluefin tuna stocks was conducted in 2006. After reviewing the results, the SCRS Chair noted some trends in the western fishery over time. He then listed the recommendations to the Commission regarding this stock. He also reported that the SCRS recommended to the Commission that the next assessment be held no earlier than five years hence, as to better evaluate the effects of any new management measures.

Upon questioning, the SCRS Chair also reviewed the assumptions of the assessments. He noted that the assessment only included data since 1970, since the data before that period is not age-structured. He further noted that the last year of complete data was from 2005, and if recent poor catch per effort for one fleet had been included in the assessment, the results might have been more pessimistic. The SCRS Chair commented that one of the changes in the most recent assessment is that the previous ones had assumed the impact of several recent

strong age-classes, including the one from 1994. Unfortunately, new catch data suggest that although stronger than the average year-classes of the past two decades, overall the age-classes in question are not as strong as previously estimated.

There was some discussion following a question from Canada on whether the recent decline in catches of the western stock were due to geographic changes in availability or a decrease in the stock itself. The SCRS did not take a strong position on this issue, instead preferring to evaluate this possibility after several more years whereby data will become available.

Several members questioned the impact of the eastern bluefin stock on the western stock and on the general effects of the mixing of the stocks. In reply, the SCRS Chair reported that it was not yet possible to quantitatively analyze the mixing rates of the two stocks. However, he noted that it was possible for a decline in the influx of the eastern fish into the west to result in a decrease in western catches, and that it was also possible that an influx of eastern fish could result in an overestimation of western spawning potential. The SCRS has strongly recommended additional research to quantify the rates of mixing using such methods as otolith microconstituent analyses. Canada volunteered that some of its scientists were working on this problem with archived bluefin tuna otoliths.

Croatia disagreed with some of the SCRS mixing assumptions, noting that the fish from the eastern and western stocks had very different life-histories, such as earlier spawning in the eastern stock. The SCRS Chair replied that the assessments took the different life-history parameters into account when calculating estimates of the spawning stock biomass. He continued by noting that these age-at-spawning differences might also be a reflection of the different methodologies used to assess maturity in the eastern and western stocks. The SCRS has recommended additional research regarding this area.

Some delegates questioned whether the 1998 ICCAT rebuilding plan for the western stock was sufficient and about the current status of this plan. The SCRS Chair reported that the western assessment this year had not included predictions that carried the current catch levels through to 2018, but that the current state of the stock indicated that positive catches could still occur to achieve the long-term rebuilding goal associated with the estimated recent average recruitment level. He further noted that an increase in the spawning stock biomass could result in an increase in recruitment, perhaps to the levels observed in the early 1970s, although such a relationship has not yet been clearly demonstrated. He indicated that to rebuild to mid-1970s spawning stock biomass level would not likely be possible by 2018 unless catches were close to zero.

Several members questioned the effects of the current minimum size regulations. The SCRS Chair replied that the different size and age structures between the various fisheries were incorporated by the analysis. He pointed out that the use of the spawner-per-recruit (SPR) term provided a basis for comparing the conservation equivalencies of different minimum size, area closure, overall catch level combinations or other management measures, as there are many possible ways to achieve the same level of SPR.

Canada questioned whether the “strange occurrences” of bluefin tuna in northern waters were a reflection of global warming. It was noted that the SCRS had a new subcommittee dedicated to ecosystems, which could presumably include such questions, but that it had not yet had the opportunity to address such matters.

The EC inquired about the effects of recreational angling on the western stock, such as post-release mortality in catch-and-release fisheries. The SCRS Chair commented that some limited information on such mortality is available, but that such data also suggests strong gear effects, such as circle hooks decreasing post-release mortality. Given the uncertainty surrounding post-release mortality, the SCRS assumes 100% survival for all fish released alive whether from recreational or other fisheries. The United States reported that the use of satellite tags and submersibles had documented post-release survival for bluefin tuna, even in some cases following brief surgery.

5.3 Bluefin tuna (East)

The SCRS Chair reviewed the eastern stock assessment and noted the complexity of this assessment. For example, although the reported landings are relatively close to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), the SCRS estimated the actual catch to be much higher (around 50,000 t) based on documented fishing vessel capacity and several other assumptions. The SCRS expressed concern specifically regarding the increasing and high fishing mortality rates on both juvenile and spawning size bluefin, especially over recent years. As with the western stock, the SCRS recommended that the next assessment take place in about five years.

The SCRS Chair reported that several methodologies were used in the assessment. These included the use of indicators from fisheries for which high quality data were available as well as an estimate of the overall catch at age for the reported levels of fishing. In all forms of analysis, the results consistently indicated that the recent fishing intensity was more than three times higher than that which would allow the stock to sustainably produce MSY and these fishing levels would drive the spawning stock to very low levels. The SCRS Chair reported that all of the various assessment models applied indicated a high risk of fisheries and stock collapse.

The SCRS assessed multiple management options, including minimum sizes and time-area closures. The SCRS Chair noted that increasing the minimum size alone would not be sufficient to rebuild the stock to safe sustainable levels, but that some combination of increased minimum size, time-area closures, and decreased total allowable catch would likely be required.

The EC thanked the SCRS Chair for the assessment, noting that if recommendations were not followed, this would result in the likely collapse of the stock. The Delegate commented that the failure of eastern bluefin tuna management was a collective responsibility and thus required a comprehensive solution that included decreasing vessel capacity and implementing new market controls. He also suggested that illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing activities are also undermining the effectiveness of ICCAT management measures in the Mediterranean Sea. Several other delegations indicated their willingness to act decisively to create a transparent management regime.

Many delegations questioned the role of bluefin tuna farming regarding data submission. The SCRS Chair noted that the Commission is receiving some size at harvest information from bluefin tuna farming operations, but that it was difficult to use these data for extrapolations on the fishery as a whole. Specific data needs to include: the flag of the harvesting vessel, the size, location, and time at first capture, and the mortality of fish during transport to the farming locations.

The United States recalled the concerns in 2002 as regards to exceeding the SCRS recommended harvest levels and observed that the previous management recommendation had been agreed upon with the best intentions, but that it had simply not been followed. New management measures for the stock, the delegate continued, would include a better statistical document program that would capture domestic markets and the increased protection and documentation of juveniles in the stock.

Regarding the market control measures suggested by the EC, Japan stated that it would not accept IUU bluefin tuna products, and that all CPCs must work together to ensure compliance. There was general agreement that new market mechanisms should be considered.

6. Report of the 4th Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Integrated and Coordinated Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Strategies

The Panel Chair introduced the report (attached as **ANNEX 4.1**), noting that Annex 3 of the document included the assessments of many alternative management scenarios. The Panel Chair concluded his introduction by suggesting that the Commission examine the role and capabilities of the Secretariat to engage in monitoring actions.

The SCRS Chair commented that the scientific committee had only limited data which are inadequate to quantify the actual mixing rates between the stocks, and therefore had to make several qualified assumptions for the various scenario analyses it conducted. Regarding mixing, he noted that the best available information indicated that mixing did occur to an unquantified level, and that the 45 degrees W line might not be optimal, but that currently there were not enough data to provide new guidance to the Commission concerning better management unit boundaries. However, he continued, it was likely, given the relative population sizes of the two stocks, that even with small mixing rates a decrease in the eastern stock, and thus a decline in the numbers of eastern origin fish mixing with western origin fish in the western management unit, would increase the fishing mortality levels on the western stock at current harvest levels.

The United States questioned whether a 2,100 t harvest level in the west was functionally equivalent to a 15,000 t harvest level in the east to achieve the goal of a comparable 20% SPR and the SCRS Chair confirmed this. Several delegations questioned the current boundary line between the eastern and western stocks, although many noted that there was still not quantitative guidance on moving this line from the SCRS.

Croatia questioned whether there was mixing occurring during spawning periods. The SCRS Chair replied that information existed that indicated discrete spawning in eastern and western stocks, although some question remained about spawning sites within the Mediterranean. He suggested that one method to manage the unknown regarding mixing proportions would be to establish total allowable catches (TACs) following an MSY fishing mortality rate strategy which would minimize mixing impacts over the long run.

The European Community indicated its view that the status quo was clearly not working, and that the stock needed a long-term rebuilding plan that included reductions in fishing capacity, new market monitoring schemes, and an addressing of the IUU vessels now prosecuting the eastern stock.

Replying to several delegations that did not apparently wish changes in the current management regime, Canada commented that the scientific advice was quite clear even with the remaining questions regarding mixing between the stocks. The delegate continued by stating that the Commission should act proactively and should address the question concerning the eastern stock.

Norway reviewed the three conditions that would support a 15,000 t harvest, including a closure of the spawning period, an increase in the minimum size, and a complete adherence to the TAC. Based on past poor management performance, the delegate pointed out that perhaps there should be no eastern harvest at all.

7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

7.1 Albacore (North and Mediterranean)

Due to time constraints, the Panel did not discuss any new management measures for these stocks. Therefore, *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation by ICCAT on North Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2004-2006* was discussed by the Commission for adoption in the Plenary (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-04]).

7.2 Bluefin tuna (West)

The United States and Japan jointly introduced a proposal to continue the rebuilding plan for the western bluefin stock through 2010. The US Delegate briefly reviewed the proposal, noting that it established a TAC at 2,100 t as consistent with SCRS advice. He added that this TAC also included dead discards.

Mexico thanked the United States and Japan for the proposal on the western stock. The Delegate then reviewed the history of Mexico's cooperation with the Commission. In light of this management history, and stating that he did not want to increase the current total allowable catch (TAC), the Delegate from Mexico requested a significant level of directed quota for bluefin tuna. After discussion, it was agreed that Mexico would be given two years of directed bluefin quota to explore the feasibility of establishing a bluefin tuna fishery. The U.S. Delegate observed, however, that the Gulf of Mexico remained closed to directed fishing for bluefin tuna.

Several delegations questioned whether the proposed TAC would still allow the rebuilding of the western stock given the different biological parameters of the two bluefin stocks and whether the proposed harvest levels would put more pressure on the eastern stock. The SCRS Chair replied that the general SCRS advice was that possible mixing effects would be minimized if both stocks were managed similarly with F_{MSY} strategies. Within the context of this guidance, he continued, and assuming recruitment constant with current levels, the proposal by the United States was consistent with a F_{MSY} strategy.

Following later agreement among the Parties concerning allocations, the joint U.S./Japan proposal was adopted by the Panel as *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-06]).

7.3 Bluefin tuna (East)

Four documents were introduced by Japan. The first document detailed effective management measures. The second and third documents both assessed the current state of bluefin tuna farming, including the identification of problems, such as mixed cage holdings, and general trends in farming activities. The delegate agreed that the increase in farming activities was understandable, but that these activities should remain transparent and

trackable. The final document addressed some of the problems Japan had identified with farming activities, including an increase of sampling.

The European Community introduced a comprehensive proposal that included a 15-year recovery plan. Noting several similar provisions regarding market control mechanisms, Japan agreed to merge its farming proposal with this one.

Several parties observed that the EC proposal several issues, such as the requirement to eliminate the carry-over of under harvests. The European Community commented that the poor state of the stock precluded the uncertainty of carry-over amounts, to which Canada agreed. Morocco replied that underages were currently allowed, and that overages were more of a problem. The delegate continued by stating that such a carry-over provision allowed the fishermen to average out poor harvests due to environmental changes or other factors.

The EC Delegate recalled the SCRS guidance on the stock, including concerns regarding poor compliance with the past management plan and a level of fishing mortality at approximately three times F_{MSY} . As such, he continued, their proposal addressed these concerns with a comprehensive strategy that included a new joint international inspection scheme to help combat IUU fishing activities and an emphasis on controlling overall harvest capacity.

The EC Delegate noted his disagreement with some of the assumptions by other delegations concerning the SCRS advice to the Commission, stating that more emphasis was placed on effort controls and minimum sizes than on TAC to achieve short-term gains concerning the stock. The EC proposal, he continued, would decrease the juvenile harvest by 50% in the first year through a time-area closure and increase the minimum size, thereby reflecting the range of fisheries and fishing communities affected by the status of the stock. He concluded by commenting that this proposal would achieve both short, and long-term gains.

The U.S. Delegate specifically questioned whether the monitoring and control measures could be implemented and enforced by all the parties participating in the fishery by the time the recommendation went into effect. He continued by asking for an SCRS comment on the EC proposal. The SCRS Chair noted that it would not be possible for an SCRS assessment of the proposal, but that his analyses indicated that the proposal fell within the red range of possible management options from the SCRS assessment.

Norway commented that the EC proposal appeared to have many exceptions. The Delegate expressed the opinion that the eastern management measures should include a TAC no greater than 15,000 t, a minimum size of 30 kg, a seasonal closure from May through July, and a monitoring and control regime capable of enforcement of these provisions. Iceland supported this view, agreeing that fisheries regulations are meaningless without adequate enforcement.

The concerns about the implementation of the monitoring and control measures were echoed by Libya, who noted that it would be difficult for all parties to comply with these provisions.

The European Community indicated that the EC proposal adopted a more realistic and pragmatic approach that accounted for the needs of the various fisheries while remaining consistent with a 10-15 year rebuilding schedule. He added that the proposal would strengthen the current management regime regarding bluefin farming. Comments were provided by many parties, and there was support by all parties for a comprehensive recovery plan.

The United States introduced a proposal for east Atlantic bluefin tuna management to complement the monitoring and control mechanisms in the EC proposed recovery plan. The U.S. proposal suggested conservation measures, including recommendations from the SCRS to increase the minimum size and implement a time/area closure during the Mediterranean spawning period, which would lead to a TAC of approximately 15,000 t, and an additional monitoring and control mechanism, implementation of tail tags. There was no consensus on this proposal, and further discussions focused on the EC proposal.

The delegate from the European Community observed that the Community was of the strong conviction that the current state of data reporting was far from optimal, and that it was unfair that some parties were declaring overages while others were not. He observed that there was no time or inclination to review the scientific basis for the revised plan. He explained that the revised plan clearly demonstrated that the expected catch would be approximately 25,000-26,000 t, and that the recovery plan included catch reporting requirements, inspections at sea, and other measures that would be effective for the management of the fisheries as part of a long-term

rebuilding plan. He further noted that the plan needed to be implemented and assessed, reviewed on a regular basis, and that ICCAT must be prepared to take further measures. He clarified that the plan was meant to be a dynamic instrument, and that caging in particular required further consideration.

Japan noted their interest in including a capacity cap on bluefin tuna farming, and suggested that the closure period for longline be modified to be from May 20 to September 20. Several Parties supported the suggested change in the closure period for long line vessels.

The United States stated it would not be able to join consensus on the proposed recovery plan. They recalled that there had been two years of additional overharvest since the collection of the data used by SCRS to conduct the stock assessment, and that the proposed management plan still lacked any closure of the purse seine fishery during the month of June, the peak of the spawning season when the majority of the catch is taken. Further, it was noted that quota over-harvests were forgiven in this plan. The U.S. delegate recalled that it was clear from the SCRS that the EC proposal would not stop over-fishing, and that the stock could be expected to remain in the "red zone". The United States noted the discussion had reached a point where there was no agreement on the management measures in the proposal, and that the concern for the stock under the current proposal remained.

Canada reminded the Parties of the need to follow SCRS advice, to establish management controls with no leakage, and to reduce capacity. The delegate noted the significant work done, but that they could not join a consensus because the management plan fell short of what was needed to arrest the decline of the stock. The delegate offered to work constructively with all parties to ensure that effective measures were implemented to arrest decline and rebuild the eastern bluefin tuna stock, recognizing the difficulties and sacrifices required. They expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the proposing parties, in particular the European Community.

Norway fully supports the EC proposal regarding the establishment of a comprehensive control regime. It is, however, Norway's view that the management measures were insufficient in light of the serious warnings given by the SCRS and that these measures will not provide for the recovery of the stock to sustainable levels.

No consensus could be reached on the recovery plan for eastern bluefin tuna, despite extensive negotiations. Parties agreed that a roll call vote should be taken because a decision was necessary for a stock at such great risk and where there was clearly no consensus. It was noted that 18 of the 19 members of Panel 2 were present. Many parties expressed regret that ICCAT had to resort to a vote, noting that they could not recall the last time such a vote was taken at an ICCAT meeting. All parties preferred to take a decision by consensus, and many parties made this statement before the vote was taken, and reiterated their regret after the vote was taken.

The statements submitted in writing to Panel 2 are attached as **Appendices 2 to 7 to ANNEX 9**.

The United States joined other parties in expressing their discomfort with having to conduct a vote, however, restated their serious concerns as regards to the stock, and further noted the possibility that parties will return next year with harvests ranging from 45,000-50,000 t. They recognized that the European Community had worked hard on the control measures and this made their decision not to support the proposal difficult. The delegate noted that all Parties will be paying close attention to the implementation of the EC proposal in 2007. He stated that if management measures that would lead to rebuilding had been part of the plan, a possible consensus could have been reached. Finally, the U.S. representative offered to work with Parties in the future to improve the EC proposal.

Before the proposal was put to vote, Norway made a verbal statement to inform the Panel of its demand for a quota share recognizing Norway as a coastal State. Norway underlined that any Norwegian quota will be set aside for conservation purposes until the stock has recovered, and that it considered that the EC proposal denied Norway the possibility to utilize a quota in the future. As a matter of principle, Norway informed the Panel of its intention to object to a proposal denying its rights as a coastal state

Iceland noted their discomfort with the recovery plan. They observed that the plan was for 15 years, but specific measures were proposed only for the next four years. They sought clarification that the control measures could be renegotiated in four years, in particular closures. The delegate from the European Community clarified that the plan is subject to continual review, and that such review was consistent with the goal to ensure sustainability of the fishery and recovery of the stocks. The Panel Chair confirmed that all ICCAT conservation measures can be reviewed by the Commission.

The results of the roll call vote were: ten in favor of the proposal (Algeria, China, European Community, Croatia, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey), four against (Canada, France-St. Pierre & Miquelon, Norway, United States), and four abstentions (Belize, Iceland, Mexico, St. Vincent and the Grenadines). Panel 2 adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (attached as **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-05]**) based on this vote, and submitted the proposal to the Plenary for consideration.

Norway requested a clarification on the voting rules, in particular when a simple majority versus 2/3 majority were required. The Chair noted that in this case Articles VIII.b.i and IX of the Convention applied.

It was agreed to have a further meeting of Panel 2 in early 2007 to discuss allocations of eastern bluefin tuna.

A Resolution limiting the catch of bluefin tuna by large-scale tuna longline vessels was introduced by Canada, who commented that the proposal simply continues the 2002 agreement. There were no comments from the Panel concerning the proposal, and the Chair agreed to forward it to the Plenary session as *Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean* (see **ANNEX 6 [Res. 06-08]**).

8. Research

The Chair of SCRS noted that the research recommendations in the SCRS report were extensive. He observed that many of the recommendations would be addressed by the Commission's requirements for data collection. He indicated that funding opportunities to address further research appear limited.

9. Other matters

The Panel discussed costs beyond the estimated amounts presented by the Secretariat that would be incurred associated with implementing Recommendation **[Rec. 06-05]**. The Secretariat noted that additional funds of approximately 216,000 Euros would be required to implement this management plan. It was agreed that this issue would be addressed in the Plenary.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned.

The Report of Panel 2 was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Panel 3 Chair, Mr. André Share (South Africa).

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Tentative Agenda was adopted without modification (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat served as Rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel membership

At the request of the Chairman, the Executive Secretary explained that Belize had requested to become a member and that the United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) had requested to withdraw from Panel 3. With these changes, Panel 3 currently comprises seven Contracting Parties: Belize, Brazil, European Community, Japan, Namibia, South Africa, and the United States of America, all of which were present.

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

5.1 Southern bluefin tuna

Dr. Gerald Scott, SCRS Chairman, briefly reminded the Panel that southern bluefin tuna was assessed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), and explained that no report on this species was received from that organization in 2006.

5.2 South Atlantic albacore

Dr. Scott reported that the last assessment of the southern albacore stock was conducted in 2003 and the next assessment was scheduled for 2007. The last assessment indicates that the stock is in a healthy state and the most recent reported catches (17,928 t) are below the current catch limit of 29,200 t.

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 CCSBT, there was no discussion on this matter.

6.2 South Atlantic albacore

Belize announced that it would like to request an additional 500 t over its current catch limitation. The Chairman of Panel 3 noted that the multi-year management program currently in effect for this stock is expected to be reviewed in 2007, at which time the catch limits for all Parties could be considered. With regard to its current catch levels, Belize stated that as already notified to the Commission on 11 November 2005, and in accordance with paragraph 6 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limit for 2005, 2006 and 2007* [Rec. 04-04], its annual catch limit is 110% of the average 1992-1996 catch of 327 t, i.e., an annual catch limit of 360 t. The SCRS Chairman requested Belize to submit the Task I and Task II statistics to the Secretariat following the required reporting procedures, to which Belize agreed.

7. Research

Dr. Scott noted that scientific work undertaken in 2007 will focus on the assessment of southern albacore with particular attention to the preparatory work on statistics.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. 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 the Panel was chaired by Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan).

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Ben Cattermole (EC-UK) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel Membership

With the admission of Senegal and Sao Tome & Principe, and the withdrawal of United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Panel 4 is currently comprised of the following 26 Contracting Parties: 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, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

5. Report from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistic (SCRS)

Dr. Gerald Scott, Chairman of SCRS, summarized the pertinent sections of the SCRS Report that are of concern to Panel 4.

5.1 Atlantic swordfish

The SCRS stated that North Atlantic swordfish is considered to be in a good state with reported catch below the estimated maximum sustainable yield of 14,000 t. Due to uncertainty in the status of South Atlantic swordfish, the SCRS recommended that annual catch should not exceed the provisionally estimated MSY of 17,000 t. The SCRS noted that the working group earlier in the year on stock structuring had revealed general support for the current understanding of the structure but that there could be some improvement made on the north/south boundary. However there was insufficient data at present to confirm where any new boundary should be set.

5.2 Mediterranean swordfish

This stock will be assessed in 2007. SCRS expressed concern that there was insufficient data and that the 2005 catch was not yet fully reported. This contributed to unreliable estimates of biomass in relation to B_{MSY} .

5.3 Marlins and sailfish

The Committee reported that assessment of sailfish was inhibited because the stock is reported in combination with spearfish. On billfish SCRS confirmed that they were not making projections based on 2005 catches, but were concerned that catch appeared to be so high above estimated maximum sustainable yield.

The SCRS considers that artisanal fisheries are currently outside the scope of the blue and white marlin recovery plan as the current Recommendation [Rec. 00-13] applies to purse seine and long lining industrial fisheries. The SCRS also recommended that a reduction in mortality in artisanal fisheries would increase the chance of stock recovery.

The European Community suggested that the apparent increase of catches of blue marlin was due to recently improved reporting on a fishery which had long been in existence, and that there would be further undocumented fisheries in the Caribbean where improvement of reporting should be considered.

5.4 Sharks

The SCRS believes catches to be higher than historically reported to ICCAT. This is based on estimates from shark/tuna catch ratio and shark fin trade information. The SCRS recommendation for a data preparatory meeting and Uruguay's generous offer to host this was endorsed by the panel. The European Community and Canada requested that CPCs field wide representation at the data preparatory meeting in order that all relevant stocks and potential management measures could be considered. The United States commended Chinese Taipei for supplying data on sharks.

The Panel deferred decision, to its 2007 annual meeting, on the SCRS recommendation on the 5% fin to body ratio needing better definition regarding type of fins and method of processing.

6. Measures for the Conservation of Stocks and Implementation of ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

6.1 Northern swordfish

A proposal for a *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* concerning allocation and total allowable catch was adopted by the Panel and referred to Plenary (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-02]).

6.2 Southern swordfish

A proposal for a *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits* was made by the Chair on allocation and total allowable catch. This was adopted and referred to Plenary (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-03]). Vanuatu and Chinese Taipei expressed concern over the level of their catch limits.

Statements submitted in writing to Panel 4 are attached as **Appendices 8 to 12 to ANNEX 9**.

6.3 Billfish and sharks

6.3.1 Blue marlin and white marlin

The Chair noted that there was insufficient understanding of the impact of the artisanal fleet on the marlin stocks and therefore a need to improve management strategy on this fleet. In this regard, a proposal for a *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* (PA4-115) concerning a rebuilding plan for billfish, extending and amending the existing rebuilding plan for blue marlin and white marlin was adopted and referred to Plenary (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-09]).

6.3.2 Sharks

A proposed *Supplementary Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* concerning shark conservation and stock assessments was adopted with changes agreed to at the table, and referred to Plenary (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-10]).

7. Research

The Panel endorsed the SCRS recommendations for research on *inter alia*, the boundaries of Atlantic swordfish stocks, historic catch and effort data for billfishes, and observer based sampling on shark catch composition in the tuna fisheries.

8. Other matters

8.1 Concerning a definition of artisanal fisheries

The FAO definition of artisanal fisheries was formally acknowledged, but not adopted, by the Panel. Canada was concerned that management measures would not apply to artisanal fleets under this definition.

8.2 Carry over of overages and underages for annual quota

Discussion on this subject was deferred to the Compliance Committee.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

The Report of Panel 4 was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9

Panel Agendas

Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting
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 4th 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 *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
8. Research
9. Other matters
10. 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 *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. 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)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
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9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**Statement by France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) to Panel 2**

France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) reiterates the statement it made at the last meetings of the Commission. France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) recalled that it supported the Recommendations concerning the conservation of west Atlantic bluefin tuna, with the reservation that, at the 2006 ICCAT meeting, in which the management measures on this stock would be reviewed (*Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Conservation of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* [Rec. 02-07] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 04-05]), the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25] adopted in 2001 would be duly taken into account.

In this context, France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) recalls the request it made in 2002 and reiterated in 2003 and in 2005 for a significant re-evaluation of its quota, which would assure the local continuity of the fishing activity.

In effect, in 1998, France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) was attributed a fixed quota of 4 t of west Atlantic bluefin tuna per year, whilst the overages or underages can be carried over or subtracted two years following the year of the catch. Although since 2003 the carryovers have allowed an increase in the annual catch possibilities, the initial quota is insufficient for our islands whose population of 7000 is dependent on fishing.

The construction of a vessel based on the only quota allocated to France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) is not economically viable and the recourse to chartering associated to the use of carryovers of underages, has been the only means up to now of assuring minimal activity, which has only modest repercussions for the islands (lack of landings in the territory and activities in the local transformation units).

The major concern of this delegation is the sustainable management of fishing in the Convention area. This management should encompass biological and socio-economic criteria. France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) is presently concerned about the current state of the stock of bluefin tuna and is conscious of the efforts that will be required of all the members of ICCAT. Without prejudice to the discussions that will allow us to determine what efforts should be made in order to assure the recovery of the stock, France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) wishes to insist on the vital importance for its fishery as well as for the economy of its territories that that the possibilities of flexibility that chartering offers and the carryovers of underages of its quota, which represents less than 5% of the TAC distributed among all the Parties that carry out this fishing. France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) wishes to continue using these methods, in looking forward to an increase in its quota that will allow a French vessel owner to carry out a continuous and profitable activity, rationally exploiting its part of the fishing possibilities.

Statement by Mexico to Panel 2

Mexico has an historical tradition and ample experience in tuna fishing. For this reason, the conservation and sustainable use of these resources by means of adequate management plans constitute a priority of its fishing policy.

In this sense, the recovery and sustainability of the eastern and western stocks of bluefin tuna require ICCAT's immediate and priority attention. This is why Mexico fully supports the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), specifically the reduction of the TAC from 2,700 t to 2,100 t annually for the western stock.

Mexico underscores the importance of not increasing fishing effort on this resource, including on the stock of western bluefin tuna.

An essential component of the conservation and sustainability of this resource is the adequate protection of the spawning areas, which include the Gulf of Mexico and also the Mediterranean. Therefore, as a member of ICCAT and even before becoming a member, Mexico has adopted strict measures which include the complete suspension of catches directed at bluefin tuna within the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, and with respect to other fisheries developed in the Gulf of Mexico, additional measures have been taken to limit and reduce by-catches that could occur on bluefin tuna.

For this reason and have having abstained for several years to exercise its right to develop a bluefin tuna fishery, Mexico has requested ICCAT, for the next biennial period of the corresponding resolution, a catch quota of 200 t annually, so that it can initiate a sustainable development of the fishery on this fishing resource outside the Gulf of Mexico. Further, considering the reduction in the TAC recommended by the SCRS, this would not imply any additional fishing effort on the western stock, but it is related to the redistribution of the regional quotas of this resource. This initial request should be gradually incremented, finally permitting Mexico to initiate its full right, as a coastal State, to the use of the important fishing resource of the western Atlantic.

Mexico considers that this responsible and moderate approach and its granting constitutes recognition of Mexico's efforts for the conservation of the resource the sustainability of the stock according to Resolution [Res. 02-07], which also constitutes a positive incentive in favor of achieving the Commission's objectives and also corresponds to the objectives of fishing sustainability and management, derived from the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. In the same way, Mexico affirms that access to the resources should not be subject to any condition other than equity, sustainability and conservation programs for the corresponding fishing management.

Mexico reiterates its legitimate right to develop and participate in the bluefin tuna fishery and to attain a redistribution of the catch quotas that are equitable and which now urgently consider the allocation criteria adopted by the Commission which are not yet reflected.

Likewise, Mexico affirms that the fishing resources do not pertain to a limited group and that they should be available to the countries, as established in the Law of the Sea, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, the ICCAT Convention, and other applicable international instruments.

Finally, Mexico invites the Contracting Parties of this Commission to recognize the need to achieve an equitable redistribution of the allocations of the resources regulated by the Commission, which permit more participation of its members, an aspect that is imperative to revise as soon as possible.

Statement by the United States to Panel 2

"High risk of fishery and stock collapse." This is the situation facing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. In fact, the eastern stock is amongst the ICCAT stocks in the worst shape. And the fishery is apparently unconstrained. Despite a 32,000 t Total Allowable Catch (TAC), conservative estimates from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) put catches in this fishery at around 50,000 t.

In 2002, we reluctantly joined in consensus on a plan that eastern harvesters stressed would get the eastern fishery under control. Although we were very concerned that the proposed TAC was much higher than the scientific advice, we agreed with the plan given assurances that it would result in better data and would reduce small fish harvests. Here we are, four years later, and the situation has simply gotten worse. Some of the eastern harvesting countries have been either - unwilling or unable to meet the requirements of the plan. Major problems with compliance, including data reporting and quota management, continue unabated.

Effective conservation measures must be implemented now to address this critical situation. We must see conservation and management proposals that take clear heed of the scientific advice and recognize the need for precautionary management. Moreover, we absolutely must have oversight elements in any management plan - including for the farming sector - to ensure its effective implementation by all parties. Strict requirements, similar to those adopted for Chinese Taipei in 2005, should be applied to the eastern bluefin harvesters. Equity demands a similar approach to similar problems.

Let me be clear, the United States is not prepared to accept more promises this year. Given the dire state of the resource, the United States will be unable to support any fishery for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna if no sound rebuilding plan with enforceable monitoring and control measures is adopted.

In the West, fishery participants have followed the science and closely complied with the terms of the rebuilding program, yet the stock is not recovering as expected. We believe that this is, in part, due to the dynamics of stock mixing. SCRS has clearly noted that poor management of the eastern stock/fishery is negatively impacting our western stock/fishery. And it cannot be disputed that the eastern fishery is suffering a severe management failure.

The priority for the 2006 meeting of Panel 2, Mr. Chairman, should be improving conservation and management -- and compliance -- in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. As for the West, we can assure you that we will support measures consistent with scientific advice, and we will continue to implement agreed measures vigorously.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS) To Panel 2

The *Confederation Internationale de la Pêche Sportive*, CIPS (International Confederation of Sport Fishing), which groups together the International Federations carrying out sport fishing in fresh water and at sea has once again, at the request from the *Federation Francaise des Pecheurs en Mer*, FFPM (French Federation of Sea Fishers) provided proof to the SCRS (Document SCRS/2006/160) that bluefin tuna over 100 kg have totally disappeared from the French Mediterranean coasts. The Italian and Spanish sport fishery have recently pointed out the same phenomenon.

Sport fishing, which is not very prevalent (in France, less than 1% of the quotas allocated to French professional fishing), still has very important socio-economic weight for the areas where it is carried out, cannot be insensitive to the disappearance of these large spawners considered by the scientists as the most capable of reproducing.

We have looked carefully at the SCRS Report and its conclusions, and therefore we would like to approve the request for support of the following points:

- a) That important measures be implemented to curb all illegal fishing.
- b) That the minimum size of 10 kg be extended to the overall Mediterranean and east Atlantic stock in order to avoid all fraud in commercialization. We also request the countries concerned to respect this minimum size recommended by ICCAT and GFCM by severely sanctioning professional sport or recreational fishers who may be guilty of fraud. Too many under-sized catches are still taken.
- c) That if the minimum size is to be lifted (up to 25 kg) it be carried out in a progressive manner and spread out over 3 or 5 years.

Sport fishing is, if this is necessary, open to full withdrawal from the major spawning areas, defined by the scientists, and this during the period from May 1 to July 15, with the condition that this measure be respected and extended to all the Mediterranean and east Atlantic fisheries.

The International Federation of Sport of Sport Fishers at Sea (FIPS-M) will endeavor to record the catches made by the sport fishery of at least the three major fishing countries: France, Italy and Spain, whilst requests for information will be made to Croatia, Greece and Malta. All this information will be transmitted to the ICCAT scientists.

The sport fishery, which is a responsible fishery, conducted a tagging campaign in 2006 in accordance with ICCAT, in which some bluefin tuna were tagged. If ICCAT grants us its consent, we will pursue this program in 2007 in the Mediterranean and east Atlantic.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Medisamak to Panel 2

The Mediterranean fishing professionals wish to communicate the following proposals regarding any ICCAT recommendation for a multi-annual recovery plan for the bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Regarding the minimum size and in order to better protect the bluefin tuna stock and in particular juveniles, the fishing professionals request the harmonization of the minimum size at 10kg.

In order to better protect the bluefin tuna stock, the fishing professionals also request an important biological rest starting on 15 July until 31 December for all fishing gears including sport/non commercial/recreational fishing (except for longliners under 24m, and baitboats). They underline the enormous joint effort made and economic sacrifice in order to respond to the ICCAT preoccupation to ensure a better management and protection of the resource and they request that the politicians take these efforts into account.

Regarding IUU fisheries, the fishing professionals, satisfied that the IUU issue is a priority within the UN, request the immediate adoption of an intervention scheme against the IUU vessels flying flags of convenience and operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

The aim is to stop the vessels fishing in impunity, not complying with the international regulations, and damaging the state of the resource as well as provoking the collapse of prices which must keep on being a species with high commercial value.

Imposing new restrictions on professional fishermen without progressing in this field would be absurd.

The fishing professionals reiterate that all the scientists and NGO's denounce illegal fishing as well.

These proposals made by professionals prove their will to contribute to the sustainable management of fish stocks.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) to Panel 2

As ICCAT crucial meeting approaches its closure, the WWF would like to remind all attending delegations their enormous responsibility in front of world citizens for adopting the right measures to ensure the recovery of bluefin tuna stock and avoid its collapse.

WWF is extremely concerned by the progress of negotiations and would like to make the following remarks:

- SCRS established a clear framework for assessing management policy options based on the green/yellow/red criteria. Green: "safely sustainable"; yellow: "caution zone, overfishing/overfished" and red: "danger zone, substantial risk of severe decline and stock collapse".

- The bluefin tuna recovery plan the world is expecting from this meeting must forcedly fit within the “green” SCRS area. Any other outcome will mean the failure of ICCAT as a responsible fisheries management organization.
- Including June in any seasonal closure of industrial fishing (longlining and purse seining) is a must for any meaningful recovery scenario according to SCRS advice.
- Protection of spawners is the most effective management measure in the short-term to avoid stock collapse.
- Any TAC higher than 15,000 t would entail the collapse of the stock as established by SCRS.

WWF hopes ICCAT Contracting Parties will assume its high responsibility in this historical moment. We strongly believe there wouldn't be a second chance.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Angola to Panel 4

As a member of ICCAT since 1979, Angola continues to contribute to the financing of the organization.

Angola, a southeastern Atlantic coastal country, has always honored its financial commitments, since it has never been in arrears. On the contrary, it currently has a positive in its favor.

The Angolan Government has already approved a special program for the development of the fishing sector which is on-going, in particular, the development of the most important fisheries, which includes tuna and tuna-like species.

Taking these considerations into account, Angola requests an annual quota of 500 t of South Atlantic swordfish.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

Statement by France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) to Panel 4

In 2003, France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) was allocated a fixed quota of 35 t per year of North Atlantic swordfish in 2003, whose overages or underages could be carried over or deducted two years following the year of the catch.

While since 2003 the carrying over of underages has permitted an increase in the annual catch possibilities, the initial quota is insufficient for our islands whose population of 7,000 is dependent on fishing.

The construction of a vessel based on the only quota allocated to France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) is not economically viable and the recourse to chartering associated to the use of carryovers of underages has been the only means up to now of assuring minimal activity, which has only modest repercussions for the islands (lack of landings in the territory and activities for the local transformation units).

Thus, the outcome of the stock assessments foreseen for 2006 by the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish and South Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 03-03], France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) will request a significant increase in the catch quota of North Atlantic swordfish than that which is currently allocated, in order to respond to the needs of the population of St. Pierre & Miquelon.

The objective is to have resources available capable of making the activity of one fishing vessel profitable. The employment generated by this vessel (crew, maintenance of transformation machinery) will have important repercussions for the islands.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Senegal to Panel 4

Senegal does not agree with the proposal of maintaining the current quotas on North Atlantic swordfish up to 2007.

Senegal believes that the Panels can carry out a re-distribution to those States that have not benefited from the quotas.

This matter merits a very thorough review.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the United States to Panel 4

The United States would like to recognize the historic accomplishment of all Parties who have contributed to the rebuilding of North Atlantic swordfish. In a short period of time, we have reversed the fortunes of this valuable and once declining species and now stand on the verge of achieving success unprecedented in the history of this organization or any other regional fishery management fishery organization. The rebuilding of North Atlantic swordfish is an example of what can be accomplished when sound scientific advice, strong science-based management, and Parties work cooperatively.

The United States has played a pivotal role in this effort and U.S. fishermen, in particular, have made substantial sacrifices. Under an ecosystem approach, time/area closures and other measures for the protection of juvenile swordfish, marlin, and endangered sea turtles have significantly reduced the mortality from the U.S. fishery.

The United States fleet has been in a transition during rebuilding. While maintaining our commitment to an ecosystem management approach, we are now actively engaged in restructuring and strengthening our fleet.

It also appears that declines with regard to Atlantic blue and white marlin may have been arrested. This is good news for ICCAT and these severely overfished species, but the science on which these conclusions are based is uncertain because of data deficiencies. It is the hope of the United States that the declines of these species have indeed been halted. The United States believes that ICCAT must, at a minimum, maintain current management measures until stock status improves and data deficiencies are resolved.

We remain concerned about the status of sharks. ICCAT must continue to improve data collection regarding these vulnerable animals. The United States intends to revisit shark conservation and management after the next assessment.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Vanuatu to Panel 4

As a member of the esteemed ICCAT since 2002, the Republic of Vanuatu continues to contribute to the financing of the organization and remains unequivocally committed to the work and the vision of the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Vanuatu, a southwestern Pacific Ocean coastal State and equally a distance fishing nation has always honored and respected its financial commitments to ICCAT and is in the process of completing its outstanding dues (around €16,000) in the next few days to the Secretariat as an integral part of its obligations as enshrined in the ICCAT standing regulations.

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu is committed to the long-term development and promotion of its fisheries sector through its development plans and programs, particularly in the growing fisheries sector which *inter alia* includes tuna and other related tuna-like species.

On the basis of the above consideration, Vanuatu requests an annual quota of 500 t of both southern and northern Atlantic swordfish. Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this important regard.

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 15th Special Meeting of the Commission (Dubrovnik, Croatia, November 17 to 26, 2006). Mr. Friedrich Wieland (European Community) chaired the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Tentative Agenda was adopted without any changes and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mr. Robert Thomas (European Community) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. National rules for the application of ICCAT measures

The Delegates' attention was drawn to the document distributed by the Secretariat containing a compilation of Contracting Parties' Annual Reports.

The United States noted that only 29 Contracting Parties had submitted their Annual Reports as of November 11, 2006. There was no further discussion on this point.

5. Status of the compliance of Contracting Parties concerning statistics including the application of Recommendation [05-09]

The Secretariat introduced its Report on Statistics and Coordination of Research in 2006.

Addressing the issue of the application of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Statistical Reporting Obligations* [Rec. 05-09], the Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stressed the importance of data submission. He noted a general decline in both the quantity and the quality of data received and the implications this had for stock assessment and management purposes.

The United States thanked the Secretariat and SCRS Chair for their work but questioned whether the data could be presented in a more accessible way. The United States underlined the importance of data submission for stock assessments and the work of the Committee and reminded other Contracting Parties of their obligations under Recommendation [05-09] to explain the reasons for their data deficiencies. It suggested that effective remedies needed to be found to address Contracting Parties' compliance shortcomings.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Brazil, Ghana, Morocco and Japan.

6. Status of the compliance of the Contracting Parties concerning ICCAT conservation and management measures

The Chair drew Delegates' attention to a document prepared by the Secretariat that summarized information received since the last Committee meeting on Contracting Parties' compliance with and observance of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Before turning to an examination of the Compliance Tables, the Committee had a preliminary exchange of views on the issue of the treatment of under and over harvests.

6.1 Review of the Compliance Tables

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]. In response to a question from the United States on the calculation of its adjusted quota and the application of its under-harvest, the European Community replied that the relevant explanations could be found in its Annual Report.

A number of Delegates questioned the reported catch figure for Vanuatu and requested more detailed information on how the figure had been determined and reported to the Secretariat. Japan drew the Committee's attention to information submitted by Chinese Taipei pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Fishery* [Rec. 05-02] in which 14 Chinese Taipei longline vessels were reported as being active in the Atlantic under the flag of Vanuatu. It considered that Chinese Taipei had doubled its entitlement by resorting to the use of a flag of convenience.

Vanuatu stated that it respected its ICCAT and UNCLOS obligations and would endeavor to provide an accurate figure to the Committee. It was agreed that the figures would be subject to review in 2007.

The United States inquired as to the measures undertaken by Venezuela to reduce its catches. In response, Venezuela requested flexibility for its by-catch. This request for flexibility was endorsed by Japan which called for this issue to be included in the next management plan.

South Atlantic albacore

The Chair reminded Delegates that no carry-forward of under-harvests was permitted for this stock under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limit for 2005* [Rec. 04-04].

The majority of Delegates who intervened on this table concurred with the Chair's interpretation and suggested that the table be amended accordingly.

Japan suggested that the initial catch limit shown for Belize should be 100 t, as catches recorded in the reference years came from IUU fishing activities.

Belize refuted this allegation and referred to earlier Panel discussions on this issue. It stated that it would supply catch information to the SCRS in support of its claim.

North Atlantic swordfish

The Chair noted that there was an error in the figures for Canada that would be amended.

Morocco expressed concern at the high level of carry over of under harvests and called on the Committee to address this issue.

The Chair ruled that the issue should be dealt with by the appropriate panel and stressed that the Committee's role was to assess compliance with recommendations in force.

The European Community expressed its intention to carry forward its under-harvest as permitted by the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 04-02].

Japan highlighted discrepancies between the figures shown in the table in respect of the Philippines and Vanuatu and data as reported elsewhere by the countries concerned.

South Atlantic swordfish

The Chair noted that the 2005 catch figure for Cote d'Ivoire would be amended as requested and reminded delegates of the need to address the pending interpretative issue regarding the carry forward of under harvests for this stock.

The European Community questioned the carry forward of under-harvests as it did not believe this practice to be permitted by the relevant Recommendation. It believed the same rules should apply to all and if Contracting Parties objected to a particular Recommendation that this should be reflected in a footnote to the table.

Namibia also requested clarification of this issue.

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. Brazil noted that this was also the interpretation reached by the compendium working group. The United States expressed concern about that interpretation.

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]. Japan highlighted discrepancies between the figures shown in the table in respect of the Philippines and data as reported elsewhere by the country concerned.

The United States requested clarification from Uruguay regarding its over harvest. Uruguay responded that like Brazil and South Africa, it had objected to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Compliance in the South Atlantic Swordfish Fishery* [Rec. 97-08].

The Chair concluded that this remained a difficult interpretative issue. In view of the fact that Panel 4 had been requested to advise on the interpretation and to consider any necessary follow-up actions, the Chair suggested that the Committee should revert to this issue once Panel 4 has completed its deliberations.

There was also some longer discussion about unrestrained carry-overs of under-harvests over an undetermined period of time. Views were expressed that such unlimited piling-up of under-harvests would conflict with conservation requirements and therefore, that some strings should be attached to such carry-overs. Others opined that applicable measures did not provide for restrictions of carry-overs of under-harvests over many years but that conservation considerations might warrant the introduction of restrictions in the future.

The Chair concluded that this was indeed a topic worth considering and, as appropriate, addressing in the formulation of future general carry-over policy.

Ghana stressed the developmental role of its fisheries sector and recalled its request for a quota for this stock.

East Atlantic bluefin tuna

The United States expressed grave concern at the situation of this stock. It questioned the utility of reviewing the compliance table given the SCRS's estimate of the true catch level. It suggested that a future management plan should address the 'payback' of over harvests and noted that catches under the 'others' heading exceeded the 'others' quota.

The European Community stressed the collective responsibility of Parties for this stock and the need to reinforce and implement effective control measures at all points along the chain.

Japan drew Delegates' attention to the results of its study undertaken with Turkey on Turkish bluefin tuna farming. It noted that the two Parties had not been able to reach a consensus regarding the level of Turkey's bluefin tuna catch in 2004 and that the catch data reported under the 'others' heading continued to exceed the 'others' quota.

Turkey stated that ICCAT conversion factors were not realistic and that this should fact should be taken into account.

Japan also expressed concern at the level of Libyan catches and asked what measures had been taken to address the situation.

Libya noted that it had objected to its quota allocation and asked the Secretariat to confirm this fact. It regretted the non-transparent manner in which quotas were determined. It made a number of allegations of IUU fishing activities by certain Japanese vessels in Libyan waters. It provided figures to the Committee distinguishing between catches made by Libyan and foreign vessels in Libyan waters for the period 2002-2005 and requested a number of amendments to the table.

Japan contested the allegations and asked Libya to provide additional information so the matter could be investigated. It did not agree that the Japanese market should be singled out as being the sole destination for bluefin tuna. It recalled that the Statistical Document Program did not apply to the EC domestic market and information from China was lacking in spite of that country's assurance at the 2005 Committee meeting to implement the program.

In response to questions from a number of delegates concerning the correct procedures for lodging an objection, the Secretariat informed the Committee of correspondence received from Libya in 2002 and 2003 in which Libya expressed its disagreement with its quota allocation and the difficulties it had encountered in attending Commission meetings because of visa problems. The Secretariat believed that Contracting Parties would have been informed of such correspondence at the time in accordance with normal Commission procedures. The United States requested a ruling from the Chair with regard to whether or not the objection by Libya had followed the procedures established under the Convention. If not, Libya was bound by the allocation set forth in Recommendation 02-08. The Compliance Committee Chair asked that the matter be referred to the Commission.

Morocco and Tunisia announced their intention to carry over 2005 and 2006 under harvests to 2007 and 2008 respectively in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08].

West Atlantic bluefin tuna

Japan gave an explanation for its 2005 over harvest and the measures it had implemented to address the situation. The United States queried the absence of a 2005 catch figure for the European Community although a figure of 62 t was reported in information provided to the SCRS. The European Community noted that this information was erroneous and that it had no catches of the western stock.

Atlantic bigeye tuna

In response to a question from Japan, it was noted that the catch limit for the EC was 24,500 t for 2006, and that the table would be amended accordingly. Japan objected to the inclusion in the table of unilaterally declared catch limits by Belize. It noted that the balances in respect of Chinese Taipei had not changed since the 2005 Compliance Tables and proposed that a footnote be added to the 2006 tables reflecting the provisional nature of Chinese Taipei's 2003 and 2004 catches.

The United States expressed concern at the European Community's adjusted catch limit.

The European Community responded that its carry over was calculated in accordance with applicable Recommendations and that no limitation applied prior to the entry into force of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01].

Belize considered that Parties adhering to organizations such as ICCAT should have an incentive to do so and were entitled to a share of quotas.

Chinese Taipei informed the Committee of work undertaken since the 2005 Commission meeting to review its catch data for 2003 and 2004. It noted that revised estimates had been submitted to the SCRS and opposed the idea of a footnote to the table referring to the provisional nature of its catch data. Chinese Taipei's explanation of its bigeye tuna catches in 2003 and 2004 is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.

Billfishes

Brazil expressed its concern at the stockpiling of carry overs by certain Contracting Parties.

Japan observed that its carry over policy respected applicable rules but it would be ready to discuss a future policy for carryovers.

Mexico, in response to an observation on its data from the United States, concurred with Japan as to the need to revise the carry-over policy. Mexico noted that the data shown for the reference years of 1996 and 1999 predated its membership of ICCAT. It had begun a process to assess the accuracy of this data and reserved the right to make amendments to it. Mexico recalled that it had no directed fishery of marlin and outlined a number of measures it had implemented to reduce by-catch.

Size limits for species with size regulations for 2004

The European Community expressed regret that so few Contracting Parties had submitted data on minimum sizes and recalled that this was obligatory.

The United States agreed with the sentiment expressed by the European Community. It then noted how conversion factors explained why the zero percent tolerance for North Atlantic swordfish had been exceeded. It inquired what actions had been taken by Morocco and the European Community to ensure their landings of the same species respected the 15% tolerance figure.

In response, both Parties acknowledged they had exceeded the tolerance figure but expressed the hope that they would be in compliance with the measure in future.

Adoption of the Compliance Tables

The Committee adopted the Compliance Tables with the exception of those for the southern Atlantic swordfish, southern Atlantic albacore and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna and forwarded them to the Plenary for final approval (attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**).

6.2 List of vessels over 24 m authorized to operate in the Convention area

The European Community noted that some Contracting Parties had not submitted information as required on control measures and encouraged them to do so.

The United States highlighted the problem of determining vessel length when interpreting the Recommendation.

6.3 List of vessels fishing for northern albacore

The European Community noted that it had 1,199 vessels in the fishery and had therefore respected the limitation on capacity.

6.4 Status of closed season/area in the Gulf of Guinea

The European Community noted that it was the only Party to have submitted a report as required by *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01]. It wondered how other Parties had implemented the recommendation and stressed its importance for the bigeye tuna fishery.

6.5 Review of implementation of Recommendations [04-06 and 05-04] on bluefin tuna farming

Japan expressed its concern that only four Contracting Parties had submitted data on size sampling.

The European Community echoed Japan's concern and underlined the importance of sampling. The manner in which EC Member States' data should be presented by the Secretariat was also considered.

6.6 Vessel chartering and review of Recommendation [02-21]

There were no comments relative to vessel chartering and review of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* [Rec. 02-21].

6.7 Review of implementation of Recommendation [05-06] on transshipments

The Secretariat informed the Committee of progress to date on the implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Program for Transshipment by Large-Scale Longline Fishing Vessels* [Rec. 05-06]. The Secretariat underlined the necessity of having sufficient funds in place before any contract could be signed with an external agency selected to manage the program. Contracting Parties' attention was also drawn to a number of points relating to the practicalities of the implementation of the program on which additional clarification was required.

6.8 Other

The European Community noted that only eight Contracting Parties had submitted information pertaining to the implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning a Management Standard for Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishery* [Res. 01-20] and encouraged others to follow suit.

The United States suggested that the Committee review compliance with the prohibition of driftnets at its future meetings.

7. Issues of non-compliance by Contracting Parties

Panama

The European Community commented on sightings of large-scale longline vessels flagged to Panama but not entered into the ICCAT Record of Vessels fishing in the ICCAT Convention area. Panama informed the Committee that the vessels named were either no longer on the Panamanian registry or had never been so and offered to provide additional information to the Committee. The Committee resolved that the vessels in question should be treated as stateless vessels and that no further action vis-à-vis Panama was deemed necessary.

Honduras

The European Community commented on sightings of large-scale longline vessels flagged to Honduras but not entered into the ICCAT Record of Vessels fishing in the ICCAT Convention area. Following explanations given by Honduras, no further action vis-à-vis Honduras was deemed necessary.

Equatorial Guinea

Equatorial Guinea reminded Contracting Parties of the measures it had implemented to prevent the fraudulent use of its flag and called for concerted action against offending fishing vessels.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

As St. Vincent and the Grenadines became a Contracting Party to ICCAT during the 2006 Commission meeting, it was deemed appropriate to examine the country's compliance status in the Compliance Committee. In this regard, St. Vincent and the Grenadines drew delegates' attention to its opening statement to the Plenary (see ANNEX 3.2) and requested that the identification adopted at the 2005 meeting of the Commission pursuant to the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] be lifted.

Japan and the United States supported the lifting of the identification and encouraged St. Vincent and the Grenadines to continue efforts to improve the monitoring, control and surveillance of its vessels and the quality of its catch data.

The Committee thus resolved that the identification be lifted.

East bluefin tuna

The United States raised a number of issues relating to compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean. The United States noted that only three Contracting Parties had reported over harvests although the SCRS had estimated over fishing to be significant. The United States proposed the creation of a working group to examine the level of over harvests for the period

2003-2005 and how these could be attributed to specific flag States. Highlighting action taken against non-Contracting Parties for compliance failings, the United States moved that the European Community be identified pursuant to the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] for data reporting shortcomings and lack of compliance with catch limits.

The European Community objected to the proposed working group and identification. It noted proposals for a number of other working groups and stressed the need for the Commission to prioritize its work. It acknowledged its part in the over harvest but stressed that other Parties were also responsible. It highlighted the active role it had played in ICCAT and called on Parties to support its proposal to reinforce controls in the fishery.

China also opposed the proposal to identify the European Community. It noted that the European Community had reported an over harvest and was now playing a leading role in the rebuilding of the stock.

8. Matters pending from 2005 Meeting

8.1 Treatment of under/over harvests

The Committee took note of a revised proposal from the United States for a “Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance of Quotas and Catch Limits” (see **ANNEX 12.2**). After some discussion of the draft proposal, the Committee agreed that the issue be deferred to the 2007 Commission meeting where it should be treated as a priority.

A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Management and Application of Underages and/or Overages of the Quotas/Catch Limits”, originally proposed in 2005, was postponed for review in 2007 (see **ANNEX 12.1**).

8.2 Definition of large-scale fishing vessels

In view of the number of other important issues to be addressed by the Committee, it was agreed to defer further consideration of the draft “Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Definition of Large-Scale Fishing Vessels” to the 2007 Commission meeting (see **ANNEX 12.3**).

The Committee also took note of a proposal by the United States for a “Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Measures Pertaining to Large-Scale Fishing Vessels” (see **ANNEX 12.4**).

8.3 Draft Resolution by ICCAT to establish a Capacity Working Group

Although there was a large degree of support for the United States proposal, the Committee was unable to endorse a final version of the proposed resolution. The Committee therefore agreed to submit the *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Capacity Working Group* to the Plenary for further consideration (see **ANNEX 6 [Res. 06-19]**).

8.4 Draft Recommendation on Additional Measures for Compliance

The Committee took note of a revised proposal from Japan on additional measures for compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. The Committee decided to forward the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Additional Measures for Compliance of the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-15]**) to Plenary for further consideration so as to allow interested Parties additional time to work on the text of the proposal.

8.5 Draft Recommendation on Cooperation in the Fight and Persecution of IUU Vessels

In view of the proposed adoption of an amendment to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-23] (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-12]**), the Committee agreed that discussion of this proposal was no longer warranted.

9. Other matters

The Committee took note of a proposal from the European Community and Japan to replace the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15] by a recommendation. The Committee decided to forward the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-13]) to the Plenary for further consideration so as to allow interested Parties additional time to work on the text of the proposal.

The Committee took note of a proposal from the European Community for a “Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonize the Measurement of Length of the Vessels Authorized to Fish Area of the Convention”. The Committee agreed to defer this proposal to the 2007 Commission meeting for further consideration (see ANNEX 12.5).

The Committee took note of a proposal from the European Community to amend the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Program for Transshipment by Large-Scale Longline Fishing Vessels* [Rec. 05-06]. In view of the concerns expressed by the Russian Federation regarding the possible impact of the amendment on certain vessels, the Committee agreed to forward the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Program for Transshipment* to the Plenary for further discussion (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-11]).

The Committee took note of a proposal from the European Community for a recommendation on bluefin tuna farming. In view of discussions in Panel 2 on conservation and management measures for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean, the Committee decided to forward the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* to Panel 2 for further consideration (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-07]).

The Committee discussed a proposal from the European Community for a *Recommendation by ICCAT to Promote Compliance by Nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures*. Brazil expressed concerns regarding the legal implications of the proposal and the Committee agreed to forward the aforementioned Recommendation to the Plenary for further consideration (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-14]).

Canada, noting continued frustration with the annual review exercise of the Compliance Tables, suggested that the Tables had little to do with compliance and was more of a bookkeeping exercise where most of the discussion centred on interpretative questions that were continually referred to Panels for clarification. Canada suggested that these tables might better be dealt with by the Panels leaving the Committee time to deal with the real compliance issues. Canada noted that the SCRS had clearly identified a major compliance issue regarding statistical reporting obligations that had yet to be addressed by the Committee.

10. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The 2006 meeting of the Compliance Committee adjourned on November 26, 2006.

The 2006 Report of the Compliance Committee was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of Annual Reports and national rules for the application of ICCAT measures
5. Status of the compliance of Contracting Parties concerning statistics, including application of Rec. [05-09]
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 Status of closed season/area in the Gulf of Guinea
 - 6.5 Review of implementation of Recommendations [04-06 and 05-04] on bluefin tuna farming

- 6.6 Vessel chartering and review of Recommendation [02-21]
- 6.7 Review of implementation of Recommendation [05-06] on transshipments
- 6.8 Other
- 7. Issues of non-compliance by Contracting Parties
- 8. Matters pending from the 2005 Meeting
 - 8.1 Treatment of under/over harvests
 - 8.2 Definition of large scale fishing vessels
 - 8.3 Draft Resolution by ICCAT to Establish a Capacity Working Group
 - 8.4 Draft Recommendation on Additional Measures for Compliance
 - 8.5 Draft Recommendation on Cooperation in the Fight and Persecution of IUU Vessels
- 9. Other matters
- 10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Compliance Tables Compliance with Catch Limits and Quotas in 2005

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 October 27, 2006 through ICCAT Circular #1985/06, compiled on the basis of the Reporting Tables received before that date. Updated tables containing changes received before the start of the Commission meeting were circulated for review by the Compliance Committee, and the attached tables are those adopted by the Commission following this review.

The figures entered on the Compliance Tables are as reported by the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) are shown in **bold**. Shaded cells indicate autonomous catch limits and quotas. Where no compliance report was received the Secretariat has used Task I data, where available.

North Atlantic Albacore Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

YEAR	Initial catch limits / Quotas						Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
TAC	34500	34500	34500	34500	34500	34500															
BARBADOS	200	200	200	200	200	200	2.0	5.2	5.0	8.2	10.9	198.0	194.8	195.0	91.8	189.1					
BELIZE						100					0.0					100.0					100.0
BRAZIL	200	200	200	200	200	200	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0			300.0	300.0	300.0
CANADA	200	200	200	200	200	200	51.0	112.7	55.7	27.1	52.1	149.0	87.3	144.3	172.9	147.9					
CHINA	200	200	200	200	200	200	56.5	195.8	155.2	32.1	111.6	143.5	4.2	44.8	167.9	133.2					244.8
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	28712	28712	28712	28712	28712	28712	18786.4	16295	17296.0	16912.6	34947.5	9925.6	12417.5	21341.6	24216.9	15106.0	28712.0	38637.6	41129.5	50053.5	40820.5
FRANCE (St. P & M)	200	200	200	200	200	200	0.0	3.8	0.0	7.0	2.1	200.0	396.2	400.0	293.0	297.9	400	400.0	300.0	300.0	300
JAPAN	761	617	756	618	454	?	1074.0	698.0	781.0	1317.0	1723.0										
KOREA			200	200	200	200					59.0										
MAROC				200	200	200			81.0	120.0	178.0			119.0	80.0	22.0					
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	200	200	200	200	200	200	11.0	9.0	12.0	12.2	9.0	189.0	191.0	188.0	187.8						
UKOT	200	200	200	200	200	200	2.0	2	0.1	1.0	1.0	198.0	198.0	199.9	199.0						
USA	607	607	607	607	607	607	453.1	487.8	446.3	628.2	487.3	153.9	119.2	160.7	139.5	259.2			765.20	746.5	866.2
VANUATU					200	200				[4098]						[-3898]					
VENEZUELA	200	200	270	270	270	270	349.0	161.5	423.5	457.0	175.0	-149.0	38.5	-153.5	-340.5	-245.5			116.5	-70.5	24.5
CHINESE TAIPEI	4453	4453	4453	4453	4453	4453	4399.0	4305.0	4539.0	4278.0	2540.0	54	148	116.0	175.0	1913.0					
TOTAL CATCH							25184.0	22275.3	23794.9	23800.4	40296.5										
Recommendation number	00-6	01-05	02-05	03-06	03-06	03-06											01-05	02-05	03-06	03-06	03-06

JAPAN is to endeavor to limit north albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch. (5.6 % in 2001; 4.5% in 2002; 4.1% in 2003; 8.5% in 2004 and 15.2% in 2005).

VANUATU: Provisional figures to be reviewed.

South Atlantic Albacore Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

YEAR	Initial catch limits / Quotas						Reference years	Current catch					Informative balance					Adjusted catch limit (over-harvest)						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		
TAC	29200	29200	29200	29200	30915	30915																		
BRAZIL	TAC Share 27,500							6680.0	3228.1	2647.5	286.1	555.8	not applicable											
NAMIBIA	TAC Share 27,500							3419.0	2962	3152.3	3413.0	3107	not applicable											
SOUTH AFRICA	TAC Share 27,500							7236.0	6507.0	3468.7	4502.0	3198	not applicable											
CHINESE TAIPEI	TAC Share 27,500							16650.0	17222.0	17147.0	13288.0	10730	not applicable											
BELIZE					180.0	360.0															180.0			
CHINA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		26.2	29.9	26.4	112.2	94.9	73.8	70.1	73.6	-12.2	5.1	not applicable, as no adjustments to over/harvest were reported						
EUROPEAN COMMUNIT	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1914.7	1740.6	866.9	1286.6	854.4	512.4	621.2	1047.8	638.1	2108.1	1402.3	1293.5							
JAPAN	298	336.5	498.6	283	123			315	210	309	381.0	387												
KOREA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		1.4	0.0	5.0	37.0	42	98.6	100.0	95.0	63.0								
PHILIPPINES					100.0	100.0						61												
UKOT	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		49.0	2.0				51.0	98.0										
URUGUAY	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		135.0	111.0	108.0	120.0	32												
USA	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	100.0	100.0							
TOTAL CATCH								35380.5	31560.9	27720.3	22651.7	18828.9												
Rec. number	99-06	00-07	01-06	02-06	03-07	04-04																		

JAPAN is to endeavour to limit its total south albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch in South of 5 degrees North. (4.2% in 2001; 2.5% in 2002; 2.5% in 2003; 5.4% in 2004 and 12.5% in 2005).

North Atlantic Swordfish Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

YEAR	Initial catch limits / Quotas						Reference 1996 (SCRS-97)	Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota / catch limit						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		
TAC	10500	10400	14000	14000	14000	14000																		
BARBADOS	0	0	25	25	25	25	0		19.0	10.4	10.0	23.5	38.7	-19.0	-42.4	-27.4	-25.9	-13.7	-32.0	-17.4	-2.4	-0.9	-39.6	
BRAZIL	0	0	50	50	50	50			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		50.0	50.0	50.0			100.0	100.0	100.0		
CANADA	1018	1018	1338	1348	1348	1348	739		1078.9	959.3	1284.9	1248.1	1664.2	-29.5	59.3	178.7	245.0	-46.2	1018.6	1463.6	1493.1	1618.0	1373.0	
CHINA	100	100	75	75	75	75	0		101.7	90.2	36.8	55.8	108.0	-1.7	9.8	38.2	19.2	5.2				113.2		
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	5073	5073	6665	6718	6718	6718	7255		4810.4	4802.2	5763.2	6798.8	6600.3	80.6	123.3	982.4	42.5	1100.0	4925.5	6745.6	6841.3	7700.4	6760.5	
FRANCE (St. P & M)		24	35	35	35	35				10.1	2.8	35.6	48.4		13.9	32.2	13.3	18.8	24.0	35.0	48.9	67.2	53.8	
JAPAN	636	636	835	842	842	842	1451		500.0	266.0	530.0	711.0	778.0	342.0	479.0	523.0	531.0	456.0						
KOREA	14	14	0	0	0	0			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.0	66.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-51.0						
MAROC	206	206	335	335	335	335			523.9	223.0	329.0	335.0	325.0	18.7	1.2	7.2	7.2	17.2	224.2	336.2	342.2	342.2	342.2	
MEXICO		110	110	110	110	110			27.0	34.0	32.0	44.0	41.0	-27.0	76.0	78.0	66.0	69.0						
PHILIPPINES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	64	64	125	125	125	125	157.7		75.0	92.0	77.7	82.7	91.0	-38.9	-66.7	-19.5	22.9	56.9	25.3	58.3	105.6	147.9		
UKOT	24	24	35	35	35	35			2.0	26.0	0.5	0.5		64.8	63.0	97.5	132.0		88.8	98.0	132.5			
USA	2951	2951	3877	3907	3907	3907			2318.7	2323.8	2423.9	2545.5	2423.6	1195.3	2337.6	3050.6	4412.2	5895.5	4473.2	5670.6	6927.6	8319.1	9802.5	
VENEZUELA	63	63	85	85	85	85			21.0	33.8	44.7	46.1		179.5	29.1	40.3	79.2		242.4	85.0	125.3			
CHINESE TAIPEI	213	213	310	310	310	310			281.0	286.0	223.0	30.0	140.0	-67.7	-206.4	2.4	22.0	170.0	79.6	225.4	52.0			
TOTAL LANDINGS									9759.6	9160.8	10758.5	11956.6	12309.2											
<i>Recommendation number</i>	99-02	99-02	02-02	02-02	02-02	02-02													99-02	02-02	02-02	02-02	02-02	
DISCARDS																								
<i>Canada</i>									26.4	32.7	78.6	inc in catches												
<i>USA</i>									428.3	408	347.9	inc in catches												
TOTAL DISCARDS									454.7	440.7	426.5													
TOTAL CATCH									10214.3	9601.5	11185.0	11956.6	12309.2											

CANADA: Includes 25 t transfer from USA in 2002-2006. 2004 and 2005 catch figures include dead discards, which have been deducted from adjusted quota.

JAPAN: Balance for 2001 includes 206 t allowance from USA quota (Rec. 00-03). Balance for 2002 includes 109 t allowance from Japanese S. SWO quota (Rec. 00-03). Balance for 2003 includes 218 t allowance from

Japanese S. SWO quota (Rec. 00-03). Balance for 2004 includes 400 t allowance from Japanese S. SWO quota (Rec. 00-03). Balance for 2005 includes 392 t allowance from Japanese S. SWO quota (Rec. 00-03).

USA: Catches in 2004 and 2005 include discards.

South Atlantic Swordfish Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

YEAR	Initial catch limits / Quotas						Ref. years		Current catch					Balance					Adjusted quota / Catch limit				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1995	1996	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
TAC	14620	14620	15631	15776	15956	16055																	
ANGOLA													3.0										
BRAZIL	4720	4720	4086	4193	4296	4365			4081.8	2909.9	2919.9	2998.0	3785.5	638.2	1810.1	1166.1	2361.1	2871.6		4086.0	5359.1	6657.1	7236.6
COTE D'IVOIRE			100	100	100	100			18.9	19.0	43.0	54.0	75.0			57.0	46.0	25.0					
CHINA	480	480	315	315	315	315			200.3	423.0	192.2	277.8	91.3	279.7	n/a	122.8	37.2	260.9					
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	6233	6233	5950	5850	5850	5780			6181.0	6120.7	4885.3	5828.8	5894.6	52.0	114.3	1116.7	21.8	1072.1	6235.0	6002.0			
GABON	0	0	0	0	0	0					8.6												
GHANA			0	0	0	0			531.0	371.7	576.0	343.0	55.0			-576.0	-343.0	-55.0					
JAPAN	3765	3765	1500	1500	1500	1500	3619	2197	726.0	1127.0	972.0	462.0	269.0	3038.6	2419.6	3247.6	3638.0	3839.0	3546.6	4219.6	4100.0	4108.0	4500.0
KOREA			0	0	0	0				1.5	24.0	61.0	65.0			-24.0	-70.0	-65.0					
NAMIBIA	2000	2000	890	1009	1070	1140			751.0	503.7	191.5	231.5	919.0	1249.0		817.5	839.5	221.0					
PHILIPPINES	0	0	0	0	0	0			6.0	0.8	52.4	5.0	1.0			-52.4	-5.0	-1.0					
RUSSIA	0	0	0	0	0	0			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0										
SOUTH AFRICA	1500	1500	890	1009	1070	1140			547.0	649.0	292.0	277.0	199.0	953.0	851.0	598.0	793.0	884.5					
UKOT	100	100	25	25	25	25	0.0	0.0	20.0	3.9													
URUGUAY	800	1000	850	850	850	850			789.0	768.0	850.0	1105.0	843.0			0.0	-255.0	-248.0				595.0	
USA	384	384	100	100	100	100			384.0	92.8	20.5	15.0	0.0	291.2	363.5	85.0	100.0	100.0		359.6	444.6	544.6	644.6
CHINESE TAIPEI	1170	1170	925	825	780	720			1167.0	1073.0	1089.0	745.0	744.0	2.6	96.6	-64.0	16.0	36.0		1025.0	761.0		
TOTAL CATCH									15111.8	13991.7	12110.9	12388.1	12945.4										
Recommendation number	00-04	01-02	02-03	02-03	02-03	02-03															02-03	02-03	02-03

No carry over is allowed for southern swordfish in 2002-2006 unless specifically stated in Rec. 02-03 or in cases where a party objected to Rec. 97-08, as in the case of Brazil, South Africa and Uruguay.

NAMIBIA became a Contracting Party in 1999 and did not retrospectively lodge an objection to Rec. 97-08.

JAPAN. Adjusted quota in 2002 excludes 109*2 t to count as Japanese N. SWO catch (Rec. 00-03). Adjusted quota in 2003 excludes 218 t to count as Japanese N. SWO catch (Rec. 00-03).

Adjusted quota in 2004 excludes 400 t to count as Japanese N. SWO catch (Rec. 00-3). Adjusted quota in 2005 excludes 392 t to count as Japanese N. SWO catch (Rec. 00-03). Adjusted quota in 2003 excludes 100 t transferred to Chinese Taipei.

Catches in 2003 was revised in line with fishing year. 2003, 2004 and 2005 underages are adjusted to 3000 t, and carried over.

East Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

YEAR	Initial catch limits / Quotas						Current catch					Balance					Adjusted quota / catch limit					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
TAC	29500		32000	32000	32000	32000																
ALGERIE	4000		1500	1550	1600	1700	2407.0	1710.0	1586.0	1541.0	1530.0			-86.0	-77.0	-7.0			1464.0	1523.0	1693.0	
CHINA	76	76	74	74	74	74	68.1	39.1	19.3	41.0	23.7	7.9	n/a	54.7	33.0	105				128.7	179.0	
CROATIA	876	876	900	935	945	970	903.0	977	1139.0	827.0	1017.0	356.0	255.0	16.0	124.0	52	1232.0	1155.0	951.0	1069.0	1022.0	
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	18590	18590	18582	18450	18331	18301	17912.3	18129.0	16607.3	17284.3	20600.3	649.7	2157.0	2624.4	1165.7	-2269.3		19231.7	18450.0	18331.0	19821.8	
ICELAND			30	40	50	60		1.1	0.0	0.0				30.0	40.0		Underage to be allocated to E.C.					
JAPAN	2949	2949	2949	2930	2890	2830	2344	2641	2829	2958	3022.0	605	172	120	92	-40	2813.0	2949.0	3050.0	2982.0	2790.0	
KOREA	619			2428.9	1728.9	741.9	0.5	0.0	0.0	700.0	987.0	2428.9		2428.9	1728.9	741.9	2429.4		2428.9	1728.9	741.9	
LIBYA	1570		1286	1300	1400	1440	1940.5	637.4	752.2	1299.6	1090.7			533.8	534.2	843.5			1833.8	1934.2	2283.5	
MAROC	3028	3028	3030	3078	3127	3177	3008.0	2986.0	2557.0	2780.0	2497.0			473.0	771.0	1054				3551.0	3948.0	
TUNISIE	2144	2543	2503	2543	2583	2625	2493.0	2528.0	792.0	2639.0	3249.0	20.3		1711.0	1615.0	948			4254.0	4197.0	3573.0	
TURKEY	Fishing under "others" quota						2100.0	2300.0	3300.0	1075.0	990.0											
EC-MALTA	Fishing under "others" quota							240.0	255.2	264.2	345.6											
EC-CYPRUS	Fishing under "others" quota						85.0	91.0	78.9	104.7	148.8											
CHINESE TAIPEI	658	658	827	382	331	480	633.0	666.0	445.0	51.0	277	835.0	827.0	382.0	331.0	54	1493.0	827.0	382.0	331.0	480.0	
TOTAL CATCH							33894.4	32945.6	30360.9	31564.8	35778.1											
Recommendation number	00-09		02-08	02-08	02-08	02-08												02-08	02-08	02-08	02-08	

CHINESE TAIPEI: Chinese Taipei have activated the 1.5% TAC share and reported 2006 quota of 480 t (32,000 t x 1.5%).

LIBYA: Figures shown may be subject to review.

CHINA and EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: Adjusted quotas are not reported, and may be subject to change in accordance with paragraph 4 of Rec. 02-08

West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

YEAR	Initial catch limits						Current catch					Balance					Adjusted quota/Catch limit				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
TAC	2500	2500	2700	2700	2700	2700															
BRAZIL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.22	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
CANADA	573.0	573.0	620.2	620.2	620.2	620.2	523.7	603.6	556.6	536.9	599.7	21.7	-8.9	25.8	111.6	134.9	594.7	580.0	645.9	731.8	755.1
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	2.6	0.9	9.8	4.9	11	12.4	15.51	9.71	8.81	15.0	16.4	19.5	13.7	12.8
JAPAN	453	453	478.25	478.25	478.25	478.25	676	363	376	460	592.0	-217	90	-24	18	-119	453.0	352.0	478.3	473.0	359.0
MEXICO		25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	10.0	12.0	22.0	9.0	10.0	-10.0	13.0	3.0	16.0	15.0					
UKOT	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	0.3			9.0	12.0	15.8			13.0	16.0	19.8		
USA	1387.0	1387.0	1489.6	1489.6	1489.6	1489.6	1589.0	1846.8	1472.9	863.2	717.5	248.3	-211.5	-194.8	431.6	1203.7	1635.3	1283.7	1294.8	1881.4	
TOTAL LANDING							2799.9	2829.0	2428.7	1878.9	1924.1										
Discards	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005					
CANADA	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	13.2	36.9	0.9	0.4	0	-7.6	-31.3	4.8	5.2	5.6					
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	41.4	56.4	57.6	66.5	46.4	26.3	11.3	10.1	1.2	21.3					
TOTAL DISCARDS							54.6	93.3	58.5	66.9	46.4										
TOTAL CATCH							2854.6	2922.2	2487.1	1945.8	1970.5										
Recommendation number	98-07	98-07	02-07	02-07	02-07	02-07											98-13	02-07	02-07	02-07	02-07

CANADA: Balance and adjustments for 2004-2006 include 50% of unused dead discard allowance from the previous year.

Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

YEAR	Initial catch limits / Quotas						Reference years		Current catches					Balance					Adjusted catch limit					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Average (91-92)	1999 (SCRS/00)	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
TAC	90000 90000																							
ANGOLA											476.0	75.0												
BARBADOS							0.0	0.0	6.0	10.5	10.5	16.5	21.8	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
BRAZIL							570.0	2024.0	2622.3	2581.5	2455.1	1378.7	1080.7	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
CANADA							46.5	263.0	241.0	279.3	181.6	143.1	186.6	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
CAP VERT							128.0		0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
CHINA	7300	4000	5000	5000	5400	5700			7210.0	5839.5	7889.7	6555.3	6200.2	90.0	-739.5	-1369.7	-2925.3	699.8	5100.0	6250.0	3630.3	6900.0		
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	26672	26672	26672	26672	25000	24500	26672.0	21970.0	16504.0	17406.8	17362.6	13929.5	19496.4	10168.0	9265.2	19477.4	22007.7	24979.0		36840.0	35937.2	44475.4	46507.7	
FRANCE (St. P & M)										20.7	0.0	28.2	5.8	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
GABON									121					NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
GHANA	3478	3478	3478	3478	4000	4500	3478.0	11460.0	2358.0	2034.0	4816.0	6944.0	2333.0	1120.0	2564.0	2140.0	-1326.0	341.0	4598.0	6596.0	5618.0	2674.0	4602.3	
GUATEMALA							0.0	0.0			831.0	998.0		NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
ICELAND							0.0	1.0						NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
JAPAN	32539	32539	32539	32539	27000	26000	32539	23690	19030	18977	18909	15450.0	11338.0	13509.0	12462.0	11130.0	17089.0	13662.0	31439	30039	32539	25000	24000.0	
KOREA							834.0	124.0	1.3	87.3	143.0	557.0	681.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
LIBYA							254.0		30.9	593.0	593.0			NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
MAROC									857.4	913.0	889.0	919.0	519.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
MEXICO							0.0	6.0	2.0	7.0	3.0	5.0	4.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
NAMIBIA							0.0	423.0	639.8	273.6	214.9	203.9	436.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
PANAMA					3500	3500	8724.5		89.0	63.0		1521.0	2310.0				1979.0	1190.0						
PHILIPPINES							0.0	943.0	377.0	732.0	855.2	1854.0	1743.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
RUSSIA							91.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6		NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
SENEGAL									1308.0	565.0	474.0	561.0	721.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
SOUTH AFRICA							57.5		238.9	340.5	112.5	270.0	221.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO							131.5		11.0	30.0	6.5	4.8	9.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
UKOT							6.5		10.0	5.0	0.2	1.0	1.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
USA							893.5	1261.0	1363.0	595.6	345.0	432.6	483.4	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
URUGUAY							38.0	59.0	51.0	67.0	59.0	40.0	62.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
VANUATU											635.0	403.0		NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
VENEZUELA							373.2	128.0	708.0	629.1	515.6	1060.0	243.0	NOT APPLICABLE					NOT APPLICABLE					
CHINESE TAIPEI	16500	16500	16500	16500	16500	4600	12698.0	16837.0	16429.0	16503.0	21563.0	17717.0	11984.0	71.0	-3.0	-3816.0	-1217.0	2916.0		17747.0	16500.0	14900.0	4600	
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES							0.0	0.0	2803	1879.0	3202.7	1822.0	1822.0											
TOTAL CATCH									73012	70433.4	80602.1	73356.6	63379.5											
<i>Recommendation number</i>	<i>00-01</i>	<i>01-00</i>	<i>02-01</i>	<i>03-01</i>	<i>04-01</i>	<i>04-01 and 05-02</i>														<i>02-01</i>	<i>03-01</i>	<i>04-01</i>	<i>04-01</i>	

CHINA: 2005 adjusted catch limit includes 2000 t transfer from Japan. Catch limits for 2002 and 2003 include 1,100 t from Japan (bilateral agreement) and 1,250 t, respectively.

2005 adjusted quota has been reduced by 500 t in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 04-01.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2003 adjusted quota includes 1250 t from Japan.

JAPAN: Adjusted quota in 2002 excludes 1100 t transferred to China. Adjusted quota in 2003 excludes 1250 t transferred to China and Chinese Taipei, respectively. Adjusted quota in 2005 and 2006 exclude 2000 t transferred to China [Res. 05-03].

White Marlin Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

	Initial catch (landings) limits					Reference years (landings)		Current landings								Balance*				Adjusted landings limit			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1996	1999	2002		2003		2004		2005	2002	2003	2004	2005	2004	2005	2006	
							(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS				
BELIZE																							
BRAZIL	51.8	51.8	51.8	51.8	51.8	51.8	70.0	157.0	406.9	341.9	265.6	265.6	80.5	80.5	243.7	243.7							
CANADA	1.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	8.0	5.0	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.4	4.7	4.2	0.5	1.3	1.2		-2.4		
CHINA	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.0	30.0	22.8	22.8	4.7	4.7	6.5	6.5	8.6	8.6	-12.9	5.2	3.4	1.3			
COTE D'IVOIRE									1.8	0.0	3.0	0.0	1.0	0.0									
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	104.1	141.0	5.8	5.8	33.8	27.0	20.6	83.0	30.1	30.0	40.7						
GHANA									2.3	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0							
JAPAN	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	37.0	112.0	43.0	28.0	28.0	31.0	31.0	25.0	25.0	19.0	19.0	9.0	5.9	18.0	36	43	55	73
KOREA	0.0	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	59.0				2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	7.0	19.5	17.5	19.5	12.5			
MEXICO	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6		0.0	11.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	28.0	28.0	25.0	25.0	-11.4	-11.4	-24.4	-21.4			
PHILIPPINES	4.0	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	4.0			
SAO TOME E PRINCIPE											3.0												
SOUTH AFRICA	0	0	0	0	0	0			2.0	2.0	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	0.0			5.0	5.0	8.8	8.8	5.9	5.9	5.0	5.0	-5.0	-8.8	-5.9	-5			
UKOT									0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0							
VENEZUELA	14.2	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	151.6	42.9	109.9	93.3	55.0	55.0	23.0	23.0	60.0	47.0	-43.3	-5.0	27	3			
CHINESE TAIPEI	153.5	186.8	186.8	186.8	186.8	186.8	566.0	465.0	178.0	178.0	104.0	104.0	172.0	172.0	56.0	56.0	21.8	84.3	14.8	130.8			
TOTAL									779.6	693.9	528.8	514.4	366.2	425.3	461.1	445.5							
USA(# of fish WHM+BUM)	250	250	250	250	250	250			279		136		155		107		-29	114	95	143			

BRAZIL: Catches include discards difficult to estimate. In 2005 about 40 t of discards were recorded (22.2 t live and 16.9 t dead).

MEXICO: Landings are only retained dead by-catch. All live marlin are released.

Blue Marlin Compliance Table adopted in 2006.

	Initial catch (landings) limits						Reference years (landings)		Current landings								Balance*				Adjusted landings limit		
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1996	1999	2002		2003		2004		2005		2002	2003	2004	2005	2004	2005	2006
							(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	total	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS				
BELIZE																							
BRAZIL	253.8	253.8	253.8	253.8	253.8	253.8	308.0	507.5	386.9	386.9	577.4	577.4	194.8	194.8	611.6	611.6							
CHINA	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	62.0	201.0	87.8	87.8	88.5	88.5	58.4	58.4	96.3	96.3	12.7	12.0	42.1	4.2			
COTE D'IVOIRE									77.9	0.0	109.0	0.0	115.0	0.0	107.0	0.0							
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	100.0	103.0	103.0	103.0	103.0	103.0	206.0	200.0	34.5	34.0	80.9	43.0	40.2	77.0	68.0	47.0							
GHANA							308.0	507.5	999.0	0.0	415.0	0.0	470.0	0.0	759.0	0.0							
JAPAN	839.5	839.5	839.5	839.5	839.5	839.5	1679.0	915.0	422.0	422.0	453.0	453.0	440.0	440.0	393.0	393.0	2217.0	2604.0	3003.0	3450.0	3443.0	3843.0	4289.0
KOREA	0.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	144.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.0	36.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	36.0			
MAROC															12.0	12.0							
MEXICO	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	13.0	35.0	50.0	50.0	70.0	70.0	90.0	90.0	86.0	86.0	-32.5	-52.5	-72.5	-68.5			
PHILIPPINES	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5		71.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	6.1	0	0			35.5	29.4					
SAO TOME E PRINCIPE											7.0												
SOUTH AFRICA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0			3.0	3.0	4.0	4	0.4	0.4			-3.0	-4.0	-0.4				
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	9.0	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	20.5	18.0	16.0	9.0	3.6	3.4	10.9	10.1	5.0	5.0	1.3	6.9	0.2	5.3			
UKOT									2.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0	2.0	0.0							
VENEZUELA	15.0	30.4	30.4	30.4	30.4	30.4	60.7	30.0	75.6	25.6	84.3	29.7	26.0	26.0	138.0	29.0	4.8	0.7	3.6	1.4			
CHINESE TAIPEI	243.0	330.0	330.0	330.0	330.0	330.0	660.0	486.0	294.0	294.0	319.0	319.0	315.0	315.0	151.0	151.0	58.0	35.0	15.0	179.0			
TOTAL									2448.7	1312.3	2221.9	1594.1	1764.7	1211.7	2464.9	1466.9							
<i>Recommendation number</i>	<i>00-13</i>	<i>01-10</i>	<i>02-13</i>	<i>02-13</i>	<i>02-13</i>	<i>02-13</i>															<i>00-14</i>	<i>00-14</i>	<i>00-14</i>
USA(# of fish WHM+BUM)	250	250	250	250	250	250			279		136		155		107		-29	114	95	143			

BRAZIL: Catches include discards difficult to estimate. In 2005 about 50 t of discards were recorded (39.9 t live and 10.6 t dead).

MEXICO: Landings are only retained dead by-catch. All live marlin are released.

Compliance with size limits adopted in 2005.

<i>Species</i>	<i>YFT</i>		<i>SWO</i>		<i>BFT</i>		<i>YFT</i>	<i>SWO</i>		<i>BFT</i>		
<i>Area</i>	<i>ATL</i>	<i>AT.N</i>	<i>AT.S</i>	<i>AT.E+ MED</i>	<i>AT.W</i>		<i>ATL</i>	<i>AT.N</i>	<i>AT.S</i>	<i>AT.E</i>	<i>Medi</i>	<i>AT.W</i>
						Rec. number	72-01	90-02 (95-10)		04-07	04-07	98-07
						Min. weight (kg)	3.2	25 kg or		6.4	10	30
						Min. size (cm)	--	125 cm OR (119 cm)		--	--	115
						Tolerance (% of total)	15%	15% (0%)		10%	0%	8%
						Tolerance type (weight/number)	number	number		number	weight	weight
Algerie				1530								
Angola												
Barbados	181.4	38.7										
Belize												
Brazil		0	3785					0%	11.10%			
Canada	239.5	1664.2			599.7		0%	<1%				0%
Cap Vert												
China*	1185.5	108	91.3	23.7	0		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Côte d'Ivoire												
Croatia	0	0	0	1017	0						0%	
EC		660.3	5895	20600			12.00%	20.00%	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
France (St.P & M)												
Gabon												
Ghana												
Guinea Ecuatorial												
Guinee Republique												
Guatemala												
Honduras												
Iceland												
Japan		778	269	3022	592		<15%	<15%	<15%			<8%
Korea	597	51	65	987			<1%	<1%	0%		0%	
Libya												
Maroc		325	0	2497	0		0%	18%		0%	0%	
Mexico							0%					0%
Namibia												
Nicaragua												
Norway												
Panama												
Philippines	243						0%		0%			
Russia	0	0	1	0	0		0%		0%			
Sao Tome e Principe												
Senegal												
South Africa			185.5						1 ton < 119cm			
Trinidad & Tobago												
Tunisie				3573						0%		
Turkey				990							0%	
UKOT												
USA							0%	1.60%	0%			7.1%
Uruguay												
Vanuatu												
Venezuela												
Chinese Taipei		140	744	277	0		3.2	119 cm	119 cm	10 kg		

**Chinese Taipei's Explanation to the Compliance Committee
on its Bigeye Tuna Catch in 2003 and 2004**

Last year the Commission requested Chinese Taipei to review the 2003 and 2004 catch data and provided the result. A further review on Task I of Chinese Taipei fleet has been done and the revised estimates of 2003 and 2004 have been provided to the ICCAT in the 2006 Inter-Session Meeting of the Tropical Species Working Group, and later reported to the SCRS.

The total catches of 2003 and 2004 were estimated by multiplying average CPUE by overall fishing days. Since in different area, i.e., bigeye area in the tropical region and non-bigeye area in the temperate region, the bigeye CPUE will be different, so the calculations were done separately by areas.

The average CPUE was obtained from logbook data of the most recent years. Chinese Taipei has 100% coverage of VMS data in the Atlantic Ocean since 2003. The overall fishing days by year were calculated from the VMS data.

Based on the above calculations of bigeye CPUEs and fishing days by areas, the annual catches were obtained by multiplication of the two and summation of all areas. These estimates have been provided to the SCRS and published in the Task I table, (see BET-Table 1 of the 2006 SCRS Report).

**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 2006 meeting of the PWG was opened on Saturday, November 18, 2006.

2. Election of Chair

Since it was decided to maintain the *status quo* for this meeting, as regards the merging of the Compliance Committee and the PWG, Mrs. Sylvie La Pointe (Canada) was elected at the Plenary to chair the PWG.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mrs. Delphine Leguerrier Sauboua Surand (France-St. Pierre & Miquelon) was designated rapporteur for the PWG meeting.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**).

5. Implementation and functioning of Statistical Document Programs

5.1 Review of bi-annual data reports

The Secretariat presented a document with a summary of the reports received from the Parties. Turkey's report was received after this document had been prepared.

5.2 Report of the Working Group to Review the Statistical Monitoring Programs, including consideration of recommendations

The Report of the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group to Review Statistical Document Programs (Mallorca, April 24 to 26, 2006), was presented by the Working Group Chair, Ms. Kimberly Blankenbeker (United States). At the Working Group general and long-term viewpoints were exchanged on the programs. Some questions were raised, particularly as concerns the inclusion of catch data in the statistical document, but at this stage no agreement was reached to adopt another system. The Report of the Working Group is attached as **ANNEX 4.2**.

The European Community pointed out that, while there are many points of consensus, there are still many points of non-consensus, and these concern very major issues. The Working Group has not yet completed its work.

5.3 Amendment of the Statistical Document Program

5.3.1 IEC Proposal on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program

The European Community proposed a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program, indicating that the Statistical Document Program does not guarantee effective controls. The proposal will be considered jointly with the management measures under discussion in Panel 2 concerning eastern bluefin tuna, for which this proposal could serve as support.

The proposal is aimed at replacing all the recommendations and resolutions adopted in the past on the bluefin tuna statistical document with a single recommendation whose objective is to assure monitoring of the entire

operation, from the catch to the place of final import, and including all the re-exporting and fattening. The United States recalled that the link between catches and the statistical document was included in their proposal to implement an electronic statistical document pilot program.

One Party requested the inclusion of three elements: (1) the country of import can be the point of final commercialization, as well as the country of fattening; (2) a cage should only contain fish of the same origin; and (3) a definition of internal or national trade should be included. One party pointed out that this system is similar to CCAMLR's system. It was also pointed out that the area of application of the schemes should be clarified and, if warranted, coherence with management of another area should be assured. One Party considered that the inclusion of three certificates in the documentation should be simplified. The United States and Canada indicated they already have national systems that include tagging schemes and requested exemption to this new system for the countries that use tagging and apply a statistical document program for bluefin tuna. One party pointed out that it supported this document with the condition that it only be applied to bluefin tuna at this stage.

An informal working group met to work to improve this document, but their work could not be completed on time. It was thus decided that this group would meet in the 2006-2007 intersessional period, within the framework of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures.

5.3.2 U.S. Proposal for an electronic statistical document

The United States presented a Draft Recommendation on an Electronic Statistical Document Pilot Program based on pilot experiments among the Parties with a view to later adoption by ICCAT. The use of electronic systems should help resolve the problems of delays that occur with the validation of documents, respond to the need for coordination among importing and exporting countries, and result in a limited use of paper. The paper copies of the documents would still be valid during the pilot period and reports will be transmitted to the Secretariat in order to prepare a report on the advantages and problems encountered. The United States explained that this proposal does not contradict the European Community proposal.

Following a discussion on the status of the proposal (resolution or recommendation, with some Parties expressing that since it is not binding, the statistical document program should be in the form of a resolution, and the United States indicating that the statistical document programs are implemented in a binding capacity) it was decided to maintain the proposal in the form of a recommendation, and that participation in this program was not mandatory participation ("they should" and not "they will").

It was suggested to utilize CCAMLR's experience, particularly as concerns using the Internet and it was recalled that this scheme has a pre-adoption system, which saves time in the case when the frozen products arrive by sea. The pilot projects will allow consideration of the possibility of implementing such a scheme for fresh products or products transported by plane. Since CCAMLR includes far fewer vessels, for this pilot program the possibility of pre-registration in the framework of the management of thousands of vessels needs to be evaluated.

Namibia, Uruguay and Senegal expressed their interest in participating in this pilot program and added that the costs that this represents in terms of human resources and capacities for the participants need to be taken into account.

The *Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Statistical Document Pilot Program (ANNEX 5, [Rec. 06-16])* was adopted, with the following amendments:

- that the wording of paragraph 3 assures maintaining the system of transmission by paper;
- that reports be provided to the Secretariat separately from the Annual Reports.

5.3.3 Draft concerning the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document

In the absence of a consensus on the adoption of the "Draft Consolidated Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program", proposed by the Secretariat, it was decided to defer it for discussion in the intersessional period, jointly with the discussion of the European Community proposal concerning the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program.

6. Review of implementation of Recommendation 05-02

The *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery* [Rec. 05-02], adopted in 2005, requests Chinese Taipei to improve its management of bigeye tuna fishing in the Convention area. Chinese Taipei presented the measures that have been implemented and which, in some cases, are still in place. Significant resources have been dedicated for this purpose (US\$220 million) and these are described in various reports sent to the Commission and distributed by the Secretariat:

- Limit: 60 vessels have been authorized to fish for albacore, 15 for bigeye and 42 vessels have remained at port;
- Implementation of a vessel reduction program: 160 longliners were repurchased and scrapped in 2005 and 2006;
- Implementation of an observer scheme (1 per vessel targeting bigeye tuna, 4 per fleet fishing albacore);
- The 15 vessels fishing bigeye tuna report daily, at port sampling in collaboration with the canneries;
- Strengthening of monitoring and surveillance: the vessels are all equipped with VMS,
- At-port inspections: mandatory inspections were carried out at Las Palmas and Cape Town in April, June, July and October.
- Fight against IUU fishing: Chinese Taipei will refuse all exportation of new fishing vessels if these are proven to be used in contravention to the management measures of RFMOs;
- Since August 2006, a training vessel has patrolled in the Atlantic and has already inspected vessels under Chinese Taipei flag. No serious contravention or non-compliance of the measures has been detected.

Chinese Taipei is committed to continue this program for six years. The budget will be US\$116 million and foresees, in particular, a restructuring of the sector, strengthening of management and monitoring of fishing, observer coverage, data collection, scientific research, and measures against IUU fishing.

In recognition of the efforts made, Chinese Taipei requests that the limit on its catches be restored to the level defined in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01].

A statement made by Chinese Taipei to the PWG requesting the resumption of bigeye tuna catches in the Atlantic Ocean is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 11**.

Several Parties congratulated the efforts made and favourably welcomed Chinese Taipei's request.

Some parties wanted to discuss the program in more depth before expressing an opinion on Chinese Taipei's request for quota.

It was also noted that the work should continue and that more improvements should be made. Discussion on the issue of the responsibility exercised on the vessels owned by residents in Chinese Taipei, but registered in other countries, as well the matter of system of the validation of the catch data by the authorities was also discussed.

6.1 Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Chinese Taipei

Discussion on the U.S. proposal for a *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Chinese Taipei* was deferred to the Plenary (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-01]**). One Party requested a limit on the number of Chinese Taipei vessels authorized to fish bigeye tuna from 64 vessels in 2007 to 60 vessels in subsequent years. Another Party requested that the prohibition on at-sea transshipment by Chinese Taipei vessels be lifted. This request was supported by various Parties.

A request was made for the inclusion of the principle of collaboration with the respective flag States to monitor that foreign flag vessels having business interests with Chinese Taipei are applying ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Finally, there was a request to include a paragraph indicating that "Chinese Taipei shall further investigate the past and current IUU fishing activities involving Chinese Taipei residents including illegal harvest of ICCAT species and submit a report on its findings to the 2007 annual meeting of the Commission."

7. 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]

The following actions were decided:

Bolivia: The Government of Bolivia had sent a letter. It was decided to maintain the sanctions for 2007 and to notify Bolivia by letter.

Cambodia: It was decided to maintain identification. The Parties expressed concern about the lack of response to letters from ICCAT and the lack of data on commercial transactions and on catches.

Colombia: Chinese Taipei explained that the vessel that led to concern about Colombia's fishing activities was a Chinese Taipei flag vessel. The vessel in question was included on the 2005 ICCAT list of authorized vessels and is now in a Chinese Taipei port. Colombia has been withdrawn from the list.

Costa Rica: Concern was expressed about the lack of response from Costa Rica to the letters from ICCAT. The EC, which was the origin of the identification, informed the PWG that it did not have any information on new imports that would warrant maintaining identification, particularly since this country had notified its authorities of the validation of statistical documents. Therefore, identification has been lifted and a letter explaining ICCAT's concerns about the lack of information on their catches will be sent.

Cuba: There is no information indicating activities since the problem concerning a small quantity of bluefin tuna. Identification has been lifted and a letter explaining ICCAT's concerns about the lack of information will be sent.

Ecuador: Identification has been lifted, but a strong letter requesting information and responses to previous correspondence will be sent.

Egypt: This country has sent some information on actions taken towards requesting Cooperating non-Contracting Party status, and has been withdrawn from the table of actions to be taken in regard to non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in 2006.

Georgia: Since no information has been received since the imposing of sanctions, it was decided to maintain the sanctions.

Maldives: No response has been received to the letter from ICCAT. A letter will be sent to request information on their catches.

Singapore: The European Community noted its collaboration with Singapore during the year. Singapore validates re-export certifications. Several falsified statistical documents have been detected and, at the request of the EC, Singapore has launched an investigation on this matter. No doubt, results will be available for the 2007 meeting. Identification was lifted and a letter of encouragement will be sent.

Sri Lanka: A response has been received to the Chairman's letter indicating that Sri Lanka does not have any flag vessels in the Convention area. One Party considered that this response was insufficient. Additional information was requested.

Sierra Leone: Trade sanctions were lifted in 2004. Sierra Leone's promised to provide information, which has not yet been received. It was pointed out that some vessels flying this flag are found in the Atlantic and some Parties expressed concern about this country's lack of control over these vessels. Identification was decided.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines: All St. Vincent and the Grenadines vessels were removed from the IUU list after they became an ICCAT member. A review of its situation has been referred to the Compliance Committee, as is the case for other Contracting Parties.

Togo: No information has been received. One Party pointed out that this country does not apply the statistical document program and has not responded to the requests for information on the vessels whose fishing activities have been confirmed by two other Parties. Additional information was requested to endorse identification. In view of the lack of data, a letter of possible identification will be sent in 2007.

Tonga: This country has exported Atlantic and Pacific swordfish to Japan without a statistical document. A letter was sent requesting information on the origin of the product and no response has yet been received. Monitoring will continue in 2007.

Palau: This country, which was monitored in 2006, has been removed from the table.

A summary table of the “Actions Taken in Relation to non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities in 2006” is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**.

The Chairman’s special letters to the above countries are attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**.

8. Review and development of IUU vessel list

Vessels flying the flag of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which is now a member of ICCAT, have been removed from the list. In effect, the current Recommendation does not permit the inclusion of Contracting Party vessels on the IUU list.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines informed the PWG that the vessel *Emily 21* has been eliminated from the fishing registry and was being investigated. The vessel *Southern Star*, which previously had St. Vincent and the Grenadines flag, is maintained on the list, with the indication that it flies an “unknown flag”.

Some vessels on the list had Panamanian and Honduran flags, but these countries informed the Compliance Committee that these vessels were no longer flying their flags when they were sighted. It was decided to include these on the IUU list as vessels flying an unknown flag.

The “List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Convention Area” was adopted, including two Sierra Leone vessels and 15 unknown flag vessels, and is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**.

It was requested that someone take charge of monitoring these vessels flying unknown flag and it was suggested that this task be entrusted to the Compliance Officer, but due to the lack of means the Secretariat cannot at this time carry out this additional task. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the PWG.

The European Community proposed an amendment to 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]. The objective is to embrace the possibility of including CPC flag vessels on the IUU list. The current regime is, in effect discriminatory. Some RFMOs have already proceeded to this inclusion. The amendment also allows specifying the provisions that govern the deletion of vessels from the list, in order to make this provision more flexible and to be able to amend the list during the year. Finally, this proposal contemplates including on the list the transport and supply vessels that support IUU fishing.

The proposed was supported by various Parties. One Party reserved its position on this matter.

Some comments were made on the reasons for including the Contracting Party vessels on the list. Some Parties specifically recalled that quota allocation is a national matter.

Various proposals were submitted to modify the text. In addition to some editorial comments, the matter of including CPC vessels on the IUU list provoked numerous comments. The European Community emphasized that this unique Recommendation did not include distinct definitions of the vessels of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties, which would not exclude any option. Finally, the proposal *Amending 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* (**ANNEX 5 [Rec. 06-12]**) was adopted without change, and the majority supported its philosophy. Paragraph 11 of this Amending Recommendation specifies that it will be reviewed at the 2007 meeting of the Commission.

9. Requests for Cooperating Status

Cooperating Status was reviewed for Chinese Taipei, Guyana and Netherlands Antilles in 2006.

The Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity Status of Chinese Taipei and Guyana was continued.

It was decided that Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity Status for Netherlands Antilles. Panama should be revoked as commitments made by that country had not been fulfilled. Panama pointed out that they had sent a letter indicating that the vessels that had previously fished under Netherlands Antilles flag had been transferred to Panama. A letter will be sent to Netherlands Antilles informing them of this decision (**Appendix 4 to Annex 11**).

10. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The meeting of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures was adjourned.

The Report of the PWG was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Implementation and functioning of Statistical Document Programs
 - 5.1 Review of bi-annual data reports
 - 5.1 Report of the Working Group to Review the Statistical Monitoring Programs, including consideration of recommendations
 - 5.2 Review of the draft consolidation Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Programme
6. Review of implementation of Recommendation 05-02
7. 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]
8. Review and development of IUU vessel list
9. Requests for Cooperating Status
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11

List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area

<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>
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)*	AT
20050001	BRAZIL	03/08/2005	1615	UNKNOWN	ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES	SOUTHERN STAR 136	HSIANG CHANG	KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AT
20060001	SOUTH AFRICA	23/10/2006	2431	SIERRA LEONE		BIGEYE		NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKNOWN
20060002	SOUTH AFRICA	23/10/2006	2431	SIERRA LEONE		MARIA		NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKNOWN
20060003	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	PANAMA	NO. 101 GLORIA	GOLDEN LAKE	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060004	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	PANAMA	MELILLA NO. 103		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060005	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	PANAMA	MELILLA NO. 101		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060006	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	PANAMA	TONINA V		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060007	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	PANAMA	LILA NO. 10		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060008	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	HONDURAS	No 2 CHOYU		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060009	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	HONDURAS	ACROS NO. 3		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060010	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	HONDURAS	ACROS NO. 2		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060011	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	HONDURAS	No. 3 CHOYU		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI
20060012	EC	16/10/2006	2259	UNKNOWN	HONDURAS	ORIENTE NO. 7		NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI

*According to 2002 ICCAT IUU Vessel List.

Actions taken in relation to Non-contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities in 2006.

	2005 Actions	Direct Response to Chair's letter	Catch data reported	SDP validation information provided	Reported as IUU under 02-23	Unreported Atlantic catch estimates from SDP 2005	Unreported catch estimate from other trade data	Observations/ other information	2006 Actions
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. Recommendation [05-02] 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 sent by the Commission Chairman	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 vessel on 2005 list attributed to Colombia.	No		Information from Chinese Taipei submitted in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 05-02 was submitted and reviewed by the Commission.	Cooperating status renewed. Secretariat to inform Chinese Taipei. Cooperating status to be revised in 2007 in the light of implementation of the provisions of Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Chinese Taipei [Rec. 06-01], calling for further actions by Chinese Taipei
<i>GUYANA</i>	Cooperating status renewed. Letter to Guyana by Secretariat informing them of this decision.	Not applicable/ not required.	Yes	No	No	No	No		Cooperating status renewed. Secretariat to inform Guyana.
<i>NETH ANTILLES</i>	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.	No	No	No	No	No	No		Cooperating status revoked as no catch information was reported, and no reply to letter was received. To be reviewed in 2007 if requested information is forthcoming.
OTHER NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES OR FISHING ENTITIES									
<i>BOLIVIA</i>	Sanctions maintained (BET)	Yes	No	No	No	Yes (13t SWO - 9 t S. Atl. 4 unknown area/ocean)	No		Sanctions maintained for 2007, but letter to be sent encouraging efforts made to date and requesting outcomes of current actions. If results are positive, consideration to be given to lifting sanctions in 2007.
<i>CAMBODIA</i>	Chairman sent letter requesting further information on vessel registry, whether vessels have been reported to FAO and MCS measures in force.	No	No	No	No	No	No		Re-identify with letter expressing concerns about lack of response and apparent weakness of MCS controls in relation to vessels on their registry.

	<i>2005 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 02-23</i>	<i>Unreported Atlantic catch estimates from SDP 2005</i>	<i>Unreported catch estimate from other trade data</i>	<i>Observations/ other information</i>	<i>2006 Actions</i>
<i>COSTA RICA</i>	Identification maintained. (SWO) Chairman sent 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.	Acknowledgement from Embassy received	No	Yes	No	No	No		Lift identification as no information indicated current activity in the Atlantic. Letter expressing serious concerns about lack of response, and requesting information previously required
<i>CUBA</i>	Identification maintained. (BFT) 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.	No	No	No	No	No	No		Revoke identification as no information indicated current activity in the Atlantic. Letter expressing serious concerns about lack of response, and requesting information previously required
<i>ECUADOR</i>	Chairman sent letter requesting information on BET catches, fleet size and area of catch and MCS measures in place.	No	No	Yes	No	Yes (46 t BET and 1 t SWO)	No		Letter to be sent requesting information in relation to catches and expressing serious concerns about lack of response to 2005 letter.
<i>GEORGIA</i>	Sanctions maintained (BET) Chairman sent letter to Georgia informing them of this decision.	No	No	No	No	No	No		Maintain sanctions. Letter requesting replies to previous concerns and information in relation to the vessels on their registry.
<i>MALDIVES</i>	Chairman sent letter requesting clarification of species and area and MCS measures in place.	No	No	Yes	No	Yes (15 t BFT, area/ocean unknown)	No		Letter to be sent requesting information in relation to catches and expressing serious concerns about lack of response to 2005 letter.
<i>SINGAPORE</i>	Identification maintained. SWO Chairman sent letter thanking Singapore for action taken and request further action in relation to the implementation of the SDPs.		No	Yes (Re-export only)	Yes, but response received from Singapore. See PWG-055	No	No	Singapore also submitted reports of data collected under the ICCAT SDPs, as requested by the Commission.	Revoke identification in appreciation of cooperation noted to date and request continued cooperation in the future.

	<i>2005 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 02-23</i>	<i>Unreported Atlantic catch estimates from SDP 2005</i>	<i>Unreported catch estimate from other trade data</i>	<i>Observations/ other information</i>	<i>2006 Actions</i>
<i>SRI LANKA</i>	Chairman sent strong letter indicating that no response to Commission's concerns may lead to further action. Executive Secretary to liaise with Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels to ensure that Commission letter has been received and attempt to elicit a response.	Yes, but responded mainly to 2004 concerns	No	Yes	No	Yes (8 t SWO, area/ocean unknown)	No		Letter requesting further information, particularly regarding MCS measures. Continue to monitor in 2007.
<i>SIERRA LEONE</i>	Chairman sent 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.	No	No	Yes	Yes - 2 vessels reported by South Africa	No	No		Identify and request information on the vessels contained in their registry, and on MCS and licensing system.
<i>TONGA</i>		Not applicable	No	No	No	Yes	No	Indications that SWO was exported to a Contracting Party without a statistical document. See ICCAT Salida 1862/2006.	Monitor in 2007, especially in relation to request for cooperation with the ICCAT Statistical Document Programme.
<i>TOGO</i>	Chairman sent letter requesting information on fleet size and MCS measures in place.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Send letter expressing serious concerns in relation to lack of response to the Commission, and indicate possible identification in 2007 if information is not received.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11

Commission Chairman's Special Letters to non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities

4.1 Letters on maintaining sanctions

– Letter to Bolivia in relation to maintaining sanctions

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that, at the 2006 annual meeting, the Commission took a decision 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 tuna by large-scale longline vessels in the Convention Area* [Rec. 02-17], a copy of which 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].

While the Commission is very encouraged to learn that Bolivia is in the process of taking actions to ensure full monitoring and control of its vessels and intends to abide by the conservation and management measures currently in place it seems that these measures have not yet been fully implemented.

As you are aware, 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 concrete results having been reported in regard to Bolivia's monitoring control and surveillance measures, the Commission concluded that it would not be appropriate to lift the bigeye tuna trade restrictions in place against your country.

The Commission will again review the situation of Bolivia at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12-18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey. In the event that information showing positive outcomes of the actions taken to date is submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting, the Commission will reconsider the issue, and sanctions may be lifted at that time.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Bolivia to participate in the 2007 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 Bolivia 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

– Letter to Georgia in relation to maintaining sanctions

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that, at the 2006 annual meeting the Commission took a decision 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 which 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].

The Commission is particularly concerned about the lack of response by Georgia in relation to previous correspondence, particularly as 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 Georgia'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 Georgia 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 Georgia with respect to its fishing vessels; (2) Georgia's total catch of tuna and tuna-like species in 2006 and prior years; (3) the markets to which Georgia exports bigeye tuna and/or its products; (4) the maritime areas in which Georgian vessels fished bigeye tuna; and (5) the exact composition of the Georgian fleet.

The Commission will again review the situation of Georgia at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12 to 18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey. 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 2007 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 2007 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be furnished in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Georgia that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if Georgia 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, at www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

4.2 Letters revoking identification

– Letter to Costa Rica revoking identification

I have the honor to inform you that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) took a decision at its 2006 annual meeting to revoke Costa Rica's identification status relative to swordfish.

As explained in previous communications, the Commission annually reviews fishery-related information for the Convention area relative to both ICCAT members and non-members. As you are aware, the referenced identification of the Republic of Costa Rica was made in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. During its 2006 review, the Commission took note that no further information on trade with Costa Rica of ICCAT species had been brought to the attention of ICCAT. The Commission, however, expressed serious concerns in relation to the lack of response from Costa Rica to previous correspondence, and failure to address the concerns of the Commission may result in the re-identification of Costa Rica as a non-Contracting Party whose activities undermine the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

In previous letters, ICCAT requested 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 prior years; and (3) the markets to which Costa Rica exports ICCAT-managed species and/or their products, and the maritime area in which Costa Rican vessels fished swordfish. Having again received no response from Costa Rica in 2006 to these questions, the Commission reiterates its request to receive detailed information regarding the above.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Costa Rica to participate in the 2007 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be furnished in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Costa Rica that it can join ICCAT or seek cooperating status if Costa Rica 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

– *Letter to Cuba revoking identification*

I have the honor to inform you that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) took a decision at its 2006 annual meeting to revoke Cuba's identification status relative to bluefin tuna.

As explained in previous communications, the Commission annually reviews fishery-related information for the Convention area relative to both ICCAT members and non-members. As you are aware, the referenced identification of Cuba was made in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. During its 2006 review, the Commission took note that no further information on trade with Cuba of ICCAT species had been brought to the attention of ICCAT. The Commission, however, expressed serious concerns in relation to the lack of response from Cuba to previous correspondence, and failure to address the concerns of the Commission may result in the re-identification of Cuba as a non-Contracting Party whose activities undermine the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

In previous letters, 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 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 2006 to these questions, the Commission reiterates its request to receive detailed information regarding the above.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Cuba to participate in the 2007 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be furnished in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Cuba that it can join ICCAT or seek cooperating status if Cuba 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

– *Letter to St. Vincent & the Grenadines*

I have the honor to inform you that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) took a decision at its 2006 annual meeting to revoke St. Vincent and the Grenadines's identification status relative to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, imposed in 2005.

This decision was based on the efforts made to date by St. Vincent and the Grenadines to remove vessels assumed to have been involved in IUU fishing from its registry, and in recognition of the commitment to abide by ICCAT conservation and management measures undertaken by becoming a Contracting Party to ICCAT.

As you will recall, in previous letters, ICCAT requested 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) St. Vincent and the Grenadines's total catch of tuna and tuna-like species in previous years; and (3) the markets to which St. Vincent and the Grenadines exports ICCAT-managed species and/or their products. The Commission looks forward to receiving such information through the Annual Report of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2007.

In closing, on behalf of the Commission I would like to take this opportunity to welcome St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a Contracting Party to ICCAT, and look forward to working in close cooperation with you in the future.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

– *Letter to Singapore revoking identification*

I have the honor to inform you that the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) took a decision at its 2006 annual meeting to revoke Singapore's identification status relative to the *Resolution by ICCAT on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15].

During its 2006 review, the Commission took note of the cooperation of Singapore to date with ICCAT and ICCAT Contracting Parties, and the willingness shown by Singapore to address the concerns which were raised by the Commission in 2005.

ICCAT would like to thank Singapore for this cooperative spirit, and looks forward to continued constructive collaboration in the future.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Singapore to participate in the 2007 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning that meeting will be furnished in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Singapore that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if Singapore 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, at www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

4.3 Letters seeking further identification

– *Letter to Ecuador seeking further information*

I have the honor to refer to my previous correspondence of 16 December 2005 requesting information in relation to the origin of bigeye tuna exported by Ecuador, in addition to information about the Ecuadorian fleet, such as number of vessels and size of tonnage, as well as the monitoring, control and surveillance measures for your fleet.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), at its 2006 meeting, reviewed the available information, and found that the available trade data did not warrant any further action to be taken at this stage. At the same time, very serious concerns were expressed in relation to the fact that Ecuador did not respond to the Commission's previous questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the concerns of the Commission and to once again request that you furnish the information outlined above, in order to ensure that the Commission does not need to take action contemplated under the *ICCAT Resolution on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. A copy of this Resolution is attached for your information, together with a copy of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13] which is expected to enter into force in June 2007. All the ICCAT conservation and management measures can be found on the ICCAT web site, www.iccat.int, or are available from the Secretariat on request.

The Commission will review Ecuador's situation at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12-18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey and I would be grateful if you could supply the information concerning the above matters at least 30 days prior to that meeting.

In closing, the Commission would like to remind the Ecuador that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if Ecuador has 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].

Thank you for your attention to these issues, and please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

– *Letter to Maldives seeking further information*

I have the honor to refer to my previous correspondence of December 16, 2005 requesting information in relation to the origin of bluefin tuna exported by the Maldives, in addition to information in relation to the

Maldives fleet, such as number of vessels and size of tonnage, as well as on the monitoring, control and surveillance measures for your fleet.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), at its 2006 meeting, reviewed the available information, and found that the available trade data did not warrant any further action to be taken at this stage. At the same time, very serious concerns were expressed in relation to the fact that the Maldives did not respond to the Commission's previous questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the concerns of the Commission and to once again request that you furnish the information outlined above, in order to ensure that the Commission does not need to take action contemplated under the *Resolution by ICCAT on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15]. A copy of this Resolution is attached for your information, together with a copy of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13] which is expected to enter into force in June 2007. All the ICCAT conservation and management measures can be found on the ICCAT web site at www.iccat.int, or are available from the Secretariat on request.

The Commission will review Maldives' situation at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12 to 18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey, and I would be grateful if you could supply the information concerning the above matters at least 30 days prior to that meeting.

In closing, the Commission would like to remind the Maldives that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if the Maldives has 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].

Thank you for your attention to these issues, and please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

– *Letter to Sri Lanka seeking further information*

I have the honor to refer to my previous correspondence of December 16, 2005 requesting Sri Lanka to abide by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) conservation and management measures and to supply information in relation to the monitoring, control and surveillance measures for the Sri Lankan fleet, and the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species from the ICCAT Convention area for 2006 and previous years, as well as actions taken to eliminate possible illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities.

At its 2006 meeting, the Commission reviewed the information submitted by Sri Lanka, and was encouraged by the response that Sri Lanka was not engaged in IUU activities. However, the Commission would greatly appreciate receiving further information in relation to the Sri Lankan fleet, particularly in relation to the monitoring, control and surveillance measures currently in place.

The Commission will review Sri Lanka's situation at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12 to 18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey, and I would be grateful if you could supply the information concerning the above matters at least 30 days prior to that meeting.

In closing, the Commission would like to remind Sri Lanka that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if Sri Lanka has 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

– *Letter to Togo seeking further information*

I have the honor to refer to my previous correspondence of 16 December 2005, and to earlier correspondence requesting Togo abide by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) conservation and management measures. The Commission also asked Togo to supply information in relation to Togo's fleet, such as number of vessels and size of tonnage, the monitoring, control and surveillance measures for your fleet, the total catch of tuna and tuna-like species from the ICCAT Convention area for 2006 and previous years, and Togo's process and rules for vessel registration.

At its 2006 meeting the Commission expressed very serious concerns in relation to the fact that Togo did not respond to the Commission's previous correspondence. The identification of Togo as a non-Contracting Party engaged in activities deemed to undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures was revoked in 2004, on the understanding that Togo would collaborate with ICCAT in its efforts to improve its fisheries management of ICCAT species. Failure to respond to the issues raised by the Commission may lead to ICCAT taking action under the *Resolution by ICCAT on Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], a copy of which is attached for your information together with a copy of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13] which is expected to enter into force in June 2007.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the concerns of the Commission and to once again request that you furnish the information outlined above, in order to ensure that the Commission does not need to take action contemplated under the above mentioned measures. All the ICCAT conservation and management measures can be found on the ICCAT web site, www.iccat.int, or are available from the Secretariat on request.

The Commission will review Togo's situation at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12-18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey, and I would be grateful if you could supply the information concerning the above matters at least 30 days prior to that meeting.

4.4 Letters of identification

– Letter of identification to Cambodia

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that, at the 2006 annual meeting of ICCAT, on account of the findings below, the Commission identified Cambodia in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], a copy of which is enclosed for your information, together with a copy of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13] which is expected to enter into force in June 2007.

As you will recall, trade restrictive measures had previously been placed on bigeye tuna products from Cambodia as a result of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activities of fishing vessels flying the flag of Cambodia. These trade restrictive measures were lifted in 2004 as a result of subsequent cooperation by Cambodia and recognition of its efforts to deregister vessels involved in IUU activities.

Nevertheless, at its 2006 meeting, serious concerns were expressed by the Commission in relation to the fact that no response has been received in relation to the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures in place by Cambodia, as requested in 2004 and 2005. In light of these circumstances, the Commission has identified Cambodia as a non-Contracting Party whose vessels have been fishing for ICCAT species in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. The Commission requests that you provide detailed information regarding 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.

The Commission will again review the situation of Cambodia at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12 to 18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey. Information concerning actions taken by Cambodia relative to these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting. If it is determined that Cambodia has not rectified the situation and continues to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT, the Commission may recommend that its Contracting Parties once again take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species and their products from Cambodia.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Cambodia to participate in the 2007 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning this meeting will be forwarded in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Cambodia that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if Cambodia 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, at www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

– *Letter of identification to Sierra Leone*

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that, at the 2006 annual meeting of ICCAT, on account of the findings below, the Commission identified Sierra Leone in accordance with the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15], a copy of which is enclosed for your information, together with a copy of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13] which is expected to enter into force in June 2007.

As you will recall, trade restrictive measures had previously been placed on bigeye tuna, bluefin tuna and swordfish products from Sierra Leone as a result of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) activities of fishing vessels flying the flag of Sierra Leone. These trade restrictive measures were lifted in 2004 as a result of subsequent cooperation by Sierra Leone and recognition of its efforts to deregister vessels involved in IUU activities.

However, at its 2006 meeting, evidence was submitted to the Commission in relation to IUU activities of two vessels flying the flag of Sierra Leone, which have been placed on the ICCAT List of Vessels presumed to have been carrying out IUU activities. Furthermore, no response to the Commission has been received in relation to the monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS) in place by Sierra Leone, as requested in 2005. In view of these circumstances, the Commission has identified Sierra Leone as a non-Contracting Party whose vessels have been fishing for ICCAT species in a manner that diminishes the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. The Commission requests that you provide detailed information regarding the activities of the vessels *Bigeye* and *Maria*, together with the progress made to date in relation to strengthening the MCS measures imposed on vessel flying the flag of Sierra Leone.

The Commission will again review the situation of Sierra Leone at its next meeting, scheduled for November 12 to 18, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey. Information concerning actions taken by Sierra Leone relative to these matters should, therefore, be submitted to ICCAT at least 30 days prior to that meeting. If it is determined that Sierra Leone has not rectified the situation and continues to diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT, the Commission may recommend that its Contracting Parties once again take non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures on Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species and their products from Sierra Leone.

In closing, the Commission would like to invite Sierra Leone to participate in the 2007 ICCAT meeting as an observer. Information concerning this meeting will be forwarded in due course. Further, the Commission would remind Sierra Leone that it can join ICCAT or seek Cooperating Status if Sierra Leone 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]. Please note that all ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, at www.iccat.int, or are available from the ICCAT Secretariat on request.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

4.5 Other special letters

– *Letter to Netherlands Antilles revoking Cooperating Status*

On behalf of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am writing to inform you that the Cooperating Status of the Netherlands Antilles was reviewed at the 15th Special Meeting of the Commission, held November 17 to 26, 2006 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and it was noted that the commitments undertaken at the time of awarding Cooperating Status had not been fulfilled.

Although the Commission noted the contents of your letter of November 23, 2006 in which you explained that Netherlands Antilles no longer has any vessels operating in the Atlantic for ICCAT species, it was observed that one vessel remains on the ICCAT Record of Vessels over 24 m Authorized to Operate in the Atlantic Ocean, authorized indefinitely, and that no indication had been received indicating the wish of Netherlands Antilles that this vessel be removed from the Record of Vessels.

The Commission also expressed serious concern that no response to its letter of December 16, 2005 (copy attached) had been received, and no information in relation to monitoring, control and surveillance measures (MCS) has been submitted to ICCAT.

For these reasons, it is with regret that I inform you of the decision not to renew the Cooperating Status of Netherlands Antilles for 2007. As a result of this decision, the vessel *Galerna* can no longer remain on the ICCAT Record of Vessels, which may contain only vessels of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. Notwithstanding, should the information requested in my letter of December 16, 2005 be forthcoming, the Netherlands Antilles may again apply for Cooperating Status 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].

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 11

Statement by Chinese Taipei to PWG

Last year, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding Control of Chinese Taipei's Atlantic Bigeye Tuna Fishery* [Rec. 05-02], which required Chinese Taipei to enhance its management of the bigeye tuna fishery. As you know, Recommendation 05-02 contains very detailed and specific conditions, which in many aspects go beyond current standards of ICCAT measures. Chinese Taipei took the Recommendation very seriously, and despite the many difficulties it presented, Chinese Taipei has done everything it can to continue its efforts along the lines of the Recommendation, and dedicated considerable resources which, in monetary terms, amounted to more than US\$ 220 million. We did this out of the determination to honor our commitment to cooperate with ICCAT in the conservation and management of the Atlantic tuna fisheries.

The measures we took have been clearly described in the reports we submitted to the Commission and circulated to the CPCs during this year. We believe that the information contained in those reports constitutes a sufficient basis for the PWG.

Here, by way of summarizing, we would like to emphasize that we have addressed the problem at its root. What we have done might be the most intensive vessel-scrapping ever conducted on earth. By drastically reducing the number of our vessels in a period of merely two years, we have managed to reduce the capacity of our fleet to a level ultimately commensurate with the fishing possibilities available to us. There will be no more than 60 large-scale Chinese Taipei vessels operating in the Atlantic in the near future. As you can understand, this will be the most effective way to prevent the undesirable situation from happening again.

The second aspect I would like to highlight is that we will keep on strengthening our control measures, and the key phrase of that is "proactive"! Put simply, our efforts will not end as the effect of the Recommendation diminishes, and we will not rest until we see our management system further improved. We will closely watch the capacity of our fleet, and consider further reduction, if necessary. We will also continue implementing control measures with the aim to ensure the compliance of our fleet. The government has already reserved a budget of totaling US\$113 million for our six-year program. This is the clearest evidence of our commitment. We will continue deploying the patrol vessel, and we will maintain the 17 observers to ensure observer coverage above the percentage of 5%. Chinese Taipei takes its commitments very seriously and would like this to be kept on record. With the experience of this year behind us, you can rest assured that our control measures will be much stricter than that currently in force by ICCAT. To appreciate that, I humbly invite you to imagine yourself in the position we were in last year, and think about the work we have managed to do in such a short period of time, and the many long hours my colleagues, who are sitting here beside me, have dedicated to the planning and implementing of those measures!

Thirdly, we have done much in our fight against IUU fishing. As just mentioned, we have been in close cooperation with other flag States and market States. Further, in line with the IPOA-IUU, legislation is currently before our cabinet which requires our residents who intend to operate foreign-flagged vessels to acquire prior approval from the government. Again, you can be assured that we will be very strict on this matter. The reason is simple: it is in our own best interest to combat IUU fishing. After spending a huge amount of money in vessel reduction and asking our companies to let go their vessels, it is only natural, and indeed our responsibility, to protect the fishermen who operate legally.

It is also in the interest of those who operate ICCAT-authorized vessels because every one of them has some of his vessels scrapped. By law, they are liable to shoulder four seventh of the costs of vessel scrapping, which amounted to US\$114 million. This was initially funded by loans provided by the government. The only way they are able to pay back the money is to get back to the fisheries. In other words, they have strong incentives to maintain strict self-discipline in order to survive.

On the other hand, you can see that the viability of the whole vessel reduction program hinges on the opportunities for those law-abiding fishers to return to the fisheries. What will be the message to those operators if ICCAT should refuse to give us back the catch limit? It will be in effect telling them that there will be no reward even though you have made a huge sacrifice. I am afraid that it is not the right signal to encourage voluntary cooperation.

Last year the Commission adopted Recommendation 05-02 with the understanding that that was exclusively for the year 2006. Moreover, it is clearly said in the Recommendation that it is a derogation from the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01]. Chinese Taipei has taken up the challenge and acted in good faith. The government has done much and is projecting to do much more, but I have to say that all this depends on the lifting of Recommendation 05-02, and as a consequence, full resumption of the catch limit accorded in Recommendation 04-01.

Let us be very clear: Recommendation 04-01 is a multi-year conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission. It is not to be lightly derogated. The action taken toward Chinese Taipei was based on Resolution 03-15, but the principles in that Resolution should also be observed. Namely, we suggest the Commission proceed in the following order:

1. First and foremost, the Commission should conduct a *prima facie* and objective assessment on whether Chinese Taipei has complied with the terms and conditions contained in Recommendation 05-02;
2. In case that the Commission finds it necessary to examine the situation further, it can only do so when there is new information giving rise to reasonable grounds that Chinese Taipei is not in compliance, and its review should observe the standards of objective assessment, as well as procedural fairness;
3. Our final reports to the Commission have been in circulation for more than one month. So far the response we received has been predominantly positive. In this view, should any reservation or further inquiry arise, ample time should be given to Chinese Taipei to properly respond, so that the decision-making of ICCAT is made consistent with the principle of predictability, which is a fundamental element of procedural fairness.

Chinese Taipei has demonstrated to the international community, by its firm actions, that it is a responsible party that is very capable of managing its fishing activities. However, we also have responsibility toward our own citizens, who are law-abiding and whose livelihood depends on fisheries. It is our firm belief that it is also in the best interest of the international community to have Chinese Taipei cooperating with ICCAT on an enduring basis. Thank you for your attention.

DOCUMENTS DEFERRED FOR DISCUSSION IN 2007

12.1 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.

12.2 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON COMPLIANCE OF QUOTAS AND CATCH LIMITS

NOTING that the rules regarding treatment of underharvest and overharvest for species subject to harvest quotas and catch limits have evolved over time and are both numerous and complex,

RECOGNIZING the benefits of simplifying and clarifying these rules to both the implementation of catch management plans by contracting parties and for the assessment of compliance by ICCAT,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. For each conservation and management recommendation that allocates an annual quota/catch limit to specific Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter called CPCs):
 - a) Overharvest
 - i) Overharvest by a CPC that occurs in a given year shall be deducted from the quota/catch limit of that CPC for the next year. Also, the CPC shall provide an explanation to the Compliance Committee of the reasons the overharvest occurred and the actions already taken, or to be taken, to prevent further overharvest.
 - ii) If overharvest occurs in any two consecutive years, the Compliance Committee shall recommend appropriate measures, which may include a reduction in the CPC's quota/catch limit of at least 125% of the amount of overharvest which occurred in the second year, as well as consideration of the application of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Res. 03-15].
 - iii) For each CPC, the cumulative amount of overharvest at the end of a multi-year conservation and management recommendation shall be carried forward to the next multi-year conservation and management recommendation.
 - b) Underharvest
 - i) Underharvest by a CPC that occurs in a given year may be added to the CPCs quota/catch limit for the next year, but the amount carried forward may not exceed 50% of the base quota/catch limit for that year as it was initially allocated to that CPC in the relevant conservation and management recommendation.
 - ii) For each CPC, the cumulative amount of underharvest at the end of a multi-year conservation and management recommendation may be carried forward to the next multi-year conservation and management recommendation, except when the scientific advice indicates that the Total Allowable Catch should be reduced under the subsequent multi-year conservation and management recommendation.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply in cases where:
 - a) A conservation and management recommendation developed by the relevant panel specifically includes procedures for addressing overharvest and underharvest by CPCs allocated quotas or catch limits. This may include extended apportionment plans for addressing overharvest or underharvest. In such cases, the panel reports shall provide the rationale for the deviation from the general rules of paragraph 1.
 - b) A CPC has established a quota or catch limit autonomously, for any reason.
 - c) A CPC is subject to a cap or limit based on a reference catch level or reference year(s) to allow flexibility for minor harvesters.
3. Temporary adjustments of quotas involving transfers of unharvested quota from one CPC to another may be authorized only by Article VIII recommendation; however, in no case shall a retroactive transfer be approved.
4. This Recommendation replaces in their entirety Recommendations: 96-14, 97-08, 00-14, 01-12 and

12.3 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 (ICCAT) 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".

12.4 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING MEASURES PERTAINING TO LARGE-SCALE FISHING VESSELS

NOTING that several monitoring and control measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) pertain specifically to large scale fishing vessels greater than 24 meters length overall,

CONSIDERING the information CPCs have provided in 2005 on the number and type of vessels between 15 and 24 meters,

RECOGNIZING that an increasing number of vessels just below 24 meters length overall are being constructed and are operating in the ICCAT Convention area,

CONCERNED that effort and catch by vessels below 24 meters warrants an increased level of monitoring and control,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. *Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Res. 94-09/Vessel Sighting) be amended so that operative paragraph 1, subparagraph (a) and Addendum Block 13, item (1) both read as follows:

"Large pelagic tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 20 m in length operating in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31."

2. *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Bigeye Tuna Conservation Measures for Fishing Vessels Larger than 24 m Length Overall (LOA)* [Rec. 98-03] be amended so that operative paragraph 1, first sentence reads as follows:

"Each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall, in 1999 and thereafter, limit the number of their fishing vessels larger than 20 meters length overall (LOA), with the exclusion of recreational vessels, which will fish for bigeye tuna in the Convention Area to 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."

3. *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning a Management Standard for the Large Scale Tuna Longline Fishery* [Res. 01-20] be amended so that operative paragraph 1 reads as follows:

“Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities are encouraged to take on a provisional basis measures to meet the minimum management standard (Attachment I) when they issue fishing licenses to tuna longline vessels greater than 20 meters in length overall (hereinafter referred to as large-scale tuna longline vessels) under their registry to fish for tunas in the Convention area.”

4. *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning a Multi-year Conservation and Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 02-08] be amended so that operative paragraph 7 reads as follows:

“Bluefin tuna fishing shall be prohibited in the Mediterranean by large scale pelagic longline vessels over 20 m in length during the period from 1 June to 31 July.”

5. *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] be amended so that operative paragraph 1, first sentence reads as follows:

“The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of fishing vessels larger than 20 meters in length overall (hereinafter referred to as “large scale fishing vessels” or “LSFVs”) authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area.”

6. *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Measures to Prevent the Laundering of Catches by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Large-Scale Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels* [Res. 02-25] be amended so that:

- a) Operative paragraph 1 reads as follows:

“Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as the “CPCs”) should ensure that their duly licensed large scale tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 20 m in length overall have a prior authorization of at sea or in port transshipment and obtain the validated Statistical Document, whenever possible, prior to the transshipment of their tuna and tuna-like species subject to the Statistical Document Programs.”

- b) The first sentence of operative paragraph 2 reads as follows:

“CPCs that import tuna and tuna-like species caught by large scale tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 20 m in length overall and subject to the Statistical Document Programs should require transporters (which include container vessels, mother vessels, and the like) that intend to land such species in their ports, to ensure that Statistical Documents are issued, whenever possible before the transshipment.”

7. *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13] be amended so that the operative second sentence reads as follows:

“All commercial fishing vessels over 20 m length overall shall keep a bound or electronic logbook recording the information required in the *ICCAT Field Manual for Statistics and Sampling*.”

8. *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention area* (03-14) be amended so that

- a) Operative paragraph 1, sentence 1 reads as follows:

“Each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC) shall implement no later than (future date) a Vessel Monitoring System (hereinafter referred to as VMS) for its commercial fishing vessels [authorized to fish beyond areas of its national jurisdiction] exceeding 20 meters in length overall, and: ...”

- b) Operative paragraph 6 reads as follows:

“CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Recommendation to all vessels flying their flag that fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area if they consider this to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures.”

9. *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Amendment of the Forms of the ICCAT Bluefin/Bigeye/Swordfish Statistical Documents* [Rec. 03-19] be amended so that the text in paragraph (2) of the instruction sheet for the bluefin statistical document (pertaining to description of the vessel) reads as follows:

“Fill in the name, registration number, length overall (LOA) and ICCAT record number of the vessel that harvested the bluefin tuna in the shipment. When tag numbers are provided in section 5, [and the vessel is smaller than 20 meters length overall,] this section need not be completed.”

10. *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Year Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye Tuna* [Rec. 04-01] be amended so that:

- a) Operative paragraph 2 reads as follows:

“A capacity limitation shall be maintained by limiting the number of vessels to the average number of vessels over 20 m length overall that fished bigeye tuna in 1991 and 1992. CPCs, other than those assigned specific vessel limits in paragraph 2, subparagraph (b) or exempted under paragraph 7 shall report the 1991-92 average number of vessels to the Secretariat by (future date).”

- b) Operative paragraph 15 reads as follows:

“In order to obtain data on the composition of the catches, particularly those of spawners, relative to the fishing areas and seasons, there shall be observers on board at least 5% of longline vessels over 20 m in length overall that are fishing for bigeye.”

12.5 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO HARMONIZE THE MEASUREMENT OF LENGTH OF THE VESSELS AUTHORIZED TO FISH IN THE AREA OF THE CONVENTION

NOTING that several ICCAT recommendations and resolutions refer to the length of the vessels,

ALSO NOTING that there exist different definitions of the length of the vessels in ICCAT recommendations and resolutions,

WHEREAS it would be advisable to use identical rules for determining the length of the vessels,

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

The length of a vessel referred in the recommendations and the resolutions adopted by ICCAT corresponds to the length overall, defined as the distance measured in a straight line between the foremost point of the bow and the aftermost point of the stern.

12.6 DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM

RECOGNIZING the situation of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and the impact that market supply has on the fishery;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recovery plans that ICCAT has adopted for Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks, including the need for complementary market related measures;

CONCERNED by the impact that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing for bluefin tuna in the east Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea has on the stocks;

NOTING the need for improved and strict control of all the components involved in the bluefin tuna fisheries;

AWARE that the current Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program does not provide the necessary control to ensure the compliance with existing ICCAT measures;

REITERATING the responsibilities of flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting ICCAT conservation measures;

MINDFUL of the right and obligations of port States to promote the effectiveness of management measures adopted by regional fisheries management organizations;

UNDERLINING the important role that importing States have also have in the control of the catches of bluefin tuna to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation measures;

RECOGNISING that in order to have effective control of the movement of the bluefin tuna strict documentary tracking of the product from the point of capture throughout the whole operation to its marketing has to be established;

COMMITTED to take steps that conform with international law, notably as regards the WTO, and to ensure that bluefin tuna entering markets of Contracting and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties of ICCAT are caught in the Convention area in a manner consistent with ICCAT conservation measures;

UNDERLINING that the adoption of this measure is part of the rebuilding program for bluefin tuna and is being applied on an exceptional basis;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary steps to identify the origin of any bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into or exported from its territories and to determine whether bluefin tuna harvested in the Convention area was harvested in a manner consistent with ICCAT conservation measures.
2. Each CPC shall require that the vessels flying its flag or the traps subject to its jurisdiction which intend to harvest bluefin tuna in the Convention area are specifically authorized to do so.
3. Each CPC shall require that each landing of bluefin tuna at its ports and each delivery of bluefin tuna to its farms (referred to as FFBs in the ICCAT Recommendation 05-04) be accompanied by a completed bluefin tuna catch document BFTCD. The landing of bluefin tuna or the delivery of bluefin tuna to FFBs without a BFTCD is prohibited. Only FFBs authorized by CPCs and appearing on the authorized FFBs ICCAT record can receive bluefin tuna.
4. Each CPC shall provide BFTCD forms with an identification number to each of its flag vessels and traps authorized to harvest bluefin tuna in the Convention area, and only those vessels and traps. Such forms are not transferable.
5. Each CPC shall provide Bluefin Tuna Farm Document (BFTFD) forms, with an identification number, to each of its FFBs authorized to farm bluefin tuna, and only those FFBs. Such forms are not transferable.
6. In accordance with paragraphs X and XX of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05], each CPC shall ensure that any unused BFTCD forms as a result of the exhaustion, suspension or withdrawal of the quota individually granted to its vessels or traps, or of the suspension, withdrawal, cancellation or expiration of harvesting authorizations, or any other reasons, are returned to the competent authorities upon demand and are nullified.
7. In accordance with paragraphs X and XX of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05], each CPC shall ensure that any unused BFTFD forms, which cannot be used as a result of the suspension, withdrawal,

cancellation or expiration of the authorization granted to FFBs, or any other reasons, are returned to the competent authorities upon demand and are nullified.

8. Each CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC).

Each CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated Bluefin Tuna Export Certificate (BFTEC) or BFTFD, where appropriate.

9. The BFTCD, BFTFD, (BFTEC) and BFTRC shall include the information identified respectively in Annexes I, II, III and IV attached.
10. Procedures for completing BFTCDs, BFTFDs, BFTEC and BFTRCs are set forth respectively in Annexes V, VI, VII and VIII attached. An example of the BFTCD, BFTFD, (BFTEC) and BFTRC forms is also attached respectively to Annexes V, VI, VII (and VIII).
11. Each CPC shall require that each shipment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into, or exported, or transferred to its FFBs be accompanied by a validated BFTCD and, where appropriate, validated BFTFD, BFTEC or BFTRC that account for all the bluefin tuna contained in the consignment. The domestic trade, import, export, re-export, or transfer to a FFB of bluefin tuna without or not accompanied by a validated BFTCD, BFTFD, BFTEC or BFTRC, whichever the case, is prohibited.
12. a) The BFTCD must be validated by an authorized governmental official or institution of the flag state of the vessel or the state of establishment of the trap that harvested the bluefin tuna, or if the vessel is operating under a charter arrangement, by an authorized governmental official or institution of the exporting state. Provisions, which are already adopted by CPCs on the basis of paragraph 3 of *Resolution by ICCAT on Interpretation and Application of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program* [Res. 94-04] to monitor bluefin tuna catches which are domestically traded or exported, and which have been notified to the ICCAT Secretariat do apply *mutatis mutandis*. The list of those CPCs and the relevant provisions are attached in Annex XX.

b) The BFTFD must be validated by an authorized governmental official or institution of the State of establishment of the FFB from where the bluefin tuna is domestically traded or exported.

c) The BFTEC must be validated by an authorized governmental official or institution of the State from where the bluefin tuna is exported.

d) The BFTRC must be validated by an authorized governmental official or institution of the State from where the bluefin tuna is re-exported.
13. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities request and examine the validated BFTCD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into or exported from its territory and where appropriate, validated BFTFD(s), BFTEC(s) and/or BFTRC(s) that account for all the bluefin tuna in the consignment. These authorities may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the BFTCD, the BFTFD, the BFTEC or the BFTRC and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications at the operators concerned.
14. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities forward to the validating authorities, within seven working days, the return copy of each validated BFTCD, BFTFD, BFTEC and BFTRC referred to in paragraph 12, including a summary of their examination and, where appropriate, a duly justified request for verification.
15. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out or of a request under paragraphs 13 or 14 above, a question arises regarding the information contained in a BFTCD, a BFTFD, a BFTEC or a BFTRC, the Flag State whose national authorities validated the BFTCD(s) and, as appropriate, the State whose national authorities validated the BFTFD, the BFTEC or the BFTRC shall co-operate with each other and the final importing State with a view to resolving such questions as may be raised.
16. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraphs 13 or 14 to confirm compliance of the bluefin tuna consignment with the requirements in the present Recommendation and any other relevant

Recommendations, the CPCs shall not grant its release for domestic trade, import or export, nor, in the case of alive bluefin tuna destined to FFBs, accept the caging declaration.

17. Where the examination or verifications under paragraphs 13 or 14 above determine, in consultation with the validating authorities concerned, that a BFTCD, a BFTFD, a BFTEC or a BFTRC is invalid, the domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna that is the subject of this document, is prohibited.
18. Each CPC shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat, within a delay of 30 days a list of validated BFTCDs, and where relevant, validated BFTFDs, BFTECs and BFTRCs that it has validated or received during the preceding month, whichever the case, which contains the following information by document: validation number, flag of the fishing vessel or location of trap, fishing area, first and last date of fishing operations, fishing gear, weight of bluefin tuna and product type, port of landing, FFB, cage number or country of destination where appropriate, following the report format in Annex VIII. This information compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat shall be available to CPCs on request for the purposes of examinations or verifications under paragraphs 13 or 14.
19. Each CPC shall report to the Secretariat data, drawn from the BFTCDs, BFTFDs, BFTEC and BFTRCs on the origin and amount of bluefin tuna domestically traded, exported, re-exported from and imported into its territory, each year by October 1 for the period of July 1 of the preceding year to June 30 of the current year for distribution to the CPCs within a delay of one week. The formats of the reports are attached in Annex IX.
20. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties which are domestically trading, importing, exporting or re-exporting bluefin tuna to cooperate with the implementation of the Program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.
21. In accordance with paragraphs X and XX of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06-05], each CPC that validates BFTCDs in respect of its flag vessels and traps shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat, within a delay of two working days, the details of the BFTCD(s) validated in respect of the bluefin tuna catch by which the individual quota granted to its vessel or trap is exhausted, following the report format in Annex IX. This information is distributed by the ICCAT Secretariat to the CPCs within two working days of receipt.
22. Each CPC shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat, within a delay of two working days, the identification number of the BFTCDs and BFTFDs, which are nullified under paragraphs 6 or 7 above. This information is distributed by the ICCAT Secretariat to the CPCs within two working days of receipt.
23. Each CPC that validates BFTCDs in respect of its flag vessels in accordance with paragraph 12.a), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat the government authorities (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BFTCDs. This notification shall indicate at which date this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation program shall be communicated with the initial notification. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion. The information transmitted by the notifications on validating authorities is placed on the password-secured page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCs having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation are placed on the open page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat.
24. Each CPC that validates BFTFDs in respect of its FFBs in accordance with paragraph 12.b), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat the government authorities (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BFTFDs. This notification shall indicate at which date this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation program shall be communicated with the initial notification. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion. The information transmitted by the notifications on validating authorities is placed on the password-secured page of the

database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCS having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation are placed on the open page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat.

25. Each CPC that validates BFTECs in respect of its exports of bluefin tuna in accordance with paragraph 12.c), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat the government authorities (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BFTECs. This notification shall indicate at which date this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation program shall be communicated with the initial notification. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion. The information transmitted by the notifications on validating authorities is placed on the password-secured page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCS having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation are placed on the open page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat.
26. Each CPC that validates BFTRCs in accordance with paragraph 12.d) shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat the government authorities (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document and sample impression of stamp or seal) responsible for validating and verifying re-export certificates. This notification shall indicate at which date this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the re-export certificate shall be communicated with the initial notification. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion.
27. Each CPC that domestically trades or imports bluefin tuna shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the government authorities (name and full address of the organization(s)) which are responsible for the verification of BFTCDs, BFTFDs, BFTECs and re-export certificates and for requesting such verifications by the validating authorities.
28. Recommendations 92-01, 93-03, 96-10, 97-04, 98-12 and Resolutions 93-02, 94-04 and 94-05 on the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program are repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

Data to be included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BFTCD)

1. BFTCD and authority identification
 - i) Identification number of the BFTCD
 - ii) Validation number of the BFTCD
 - iii) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the issuing authority;
2. Fishing vessel or trap identification
 - i) Name, home port, national registry number, and call sign where applicable, of the vessel and, if issued, its IMO/Lloyd's registration number;
 - ii) Name and full address of the trap
 - iii) Reference number of the license or permit, whichever is applicable, that is issued to the vessel or the trap;
3. Identification of catch
 - i) Weight and product type of bluefin tuna destined for landing or transfer to cages,
 - ii) Geographic location by co-ordinates of where the catch was made;
 - iii) Dates within which the catch was taken;
4. Identification of trade and transport operations
 - i) Date and position of transfer at sea, the name, flag and national registry number of the tugboat, certified by the masters of the fishing vessel and the tugboat, and the name and address of the cage of destination
 - ii) Date and port at which the catch was landed
 - iii) Details of the subsequent shipment for export (date of shipment, identity of means of transportation: name, flag and national registry number of transportation vessel, flight number, truck registration plate, railway freight document number and, where appropriate, container number(s);
 - iv) Six digit code of the product in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organization (HS);
 - v) Where appropriate, the number and date of the customs export entry
 - vi) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the recipient of the catch at the time of, where appropriate, landing, export or import.
5. Statement of operators and validation by the authorities of the flag state or the state of establishment of the trap
 - i) Statement of the operator requesting the validation of the BFTCD with date, name, full address of the operator, name and signature of his representative
 - ii) Validation by the authority of the flag state or the state of establishment of the trap with name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the validating official, date and seal,
 - iii) Statement by the recipient of the bluefin tuna consignment at landing, export or import, where appropriate, with name and full address, name and signature of his representative and date,
6. Examination and verification by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import, where appropriate
 - i) Examination by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import, where appropriate: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal,
 - ii) Verification by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import, where appropriate: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal,
 - iii) Request for verification sent to the validating authorities referred to under paragraph 5 above by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import, where appropriate: summary request (detailed request to be attached if necessary), date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal,
 - iv) Results of the verification by the validating authorities referred to in paragraph 5 above: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal.

The form consists in two copies, of which one "return copy" to be used:

- by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import where appropriate in order to:
 - advise the validating authority that the BFTCD has been accepted after examination or verification or
 - to request verifications by the validating authority, and
- by the validating authority to advise the requesting authority on the results of its verifications.

Data to be included in the Bluefin Tuna Farm Document (BFTFD)

1. BFTFD and authority identification
 - i) Identification number of the BFTFD,
 - ii) Validation number of the BFTFD,
 - iii) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the issuing authority,
2. Farm identification
 - i) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the farm,
 - ii) Reference number of the license or permit, whichever is applicable, that is issued to the farm,
3. Identification of product
 - i) Weight of bluefin tuna subject of the BFTFD,
 - ii) Weight of bluefin tuna, number of pieces sorted out by BFTCD, identified by its validation number,
 - iii) Flag(s) of fishing vessel(s),
 - iv) Copies of the corresponding BFTCDs attached
4. Identification of trade and transport operations
 - i) Details of the shipment for domestic trade or export (date of shipment, identity of means of transportation: name, flag and national registry number of transportation vessel, flight number, truck registration plate, railway freight document number and, where appropriate, container number(s),
 - ii) Six digit code of the product in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organization (HS),
 - iii) Where appropriate, the number and date of the customs export entry,
 - iv) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the recipient of the consignment at the time of landing, export or import, where appropriate,
5. Statement of operators and validation by the authorities of the state of establishment of the farm
 - i) Statement of the operator requesting the validation of the BFTFD, with date, name, full address of the operator, name and signature of his representative,
 - ii) Validation by the authority of the state of establishment of the farm with name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the validating official, date and seal
 - iii) Statement by the recipient of the bluefin tuna consignment at landing, export or import, where appropriate, with name and full address, name and signature of his representative and date,
6. Examination and verification by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import, where appropriate
 - i) Examination by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import, where appropriate: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - ii) Verification by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import, where appropriate: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - iii) Request for verification sent to the validating authorities referred to under paragraph 5 above by the authorities of the State of landing, export, import, where appropriate: summary request (detailed request to be attached if necessary), date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - iv) Results of the verification by the validating authorities referred to in paragraph 5 above: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal

The form consists in two copies, of which one "return copy" to be used:

- by the authorities of the state of landing, export, import where appropriate in order to:
 - advise the validating authority that the BFTFD has been accepted after examination or verification or
 - to request verifications by the validating authority and
- by the validating authority to advise the requesting authority on the results of its verifications.

Data to be included in the Bluefin Tuna Export Certificate (BFTEC)

1. BFTEC and authority identification
 - i) Validation number of the BFTEC,
 - ii) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the issuing authority,
2. Exporter identification
 - i) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the exporter
3. Identification of product
 - i) Weight and product types of bluefin tuna subject of the BFTEC,
 - ii) Weight by product types of bluefin tuna and BFTCD or BFTFD, where appropriate identified by their validation numbers,
 - iii) Flag(s) of fishing vessel(s) or state of establishment of the FFB, where appropriate
 - iv) Copies of the corresponding BFTCDs or BFTFDs attached
4. Identification of trade and transport operations
 - i) Details of the shipment for re-export (date of shipment, identity of means of transportation: name, flag and national registry number of transportation vessel, flight number, truck registration plate, railway freight document number and, where appropriate, container number(s),
 - ii) Six digit code of the product in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organization (HS),
 - iii) Where appropriate, the number and date of the customs export entry,
 - iv) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the recipient of the consignment,
5. Statement of operators and validation by the authorities of the state of establishment of the farm
 - i) Statement of the operator requesting the validation of the BFTEC, with date, name, full address of the operator, name and signature of his representative,
 - ii) Validation by the authority of the state of re-export with name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the validating official, date and seal
 - iii) Statement by the recipient in the state of import of the bluefin tuna consignment, with name and full address, name and signature of his representative and date,
6. Examination and verification by the authorities of the state of import
 - i) Examination by the authorities of the state of import: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - ii) Verification by the authorities of the state of import: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - iii) Request for verification sent to the validating authorities referred to under paragraph 5 above by the authorities of the state of re-export: summary request (detailed request to be attached if necessary), date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - iv) Results of the verification by the validating authorities referred to in paragraph 5 above: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal

The form consists in two copies, of which one "return copy" to be used:

- by the authorities of the state of import in order to:
 - advise the validating authority that the BFTEC has been accepted after examination or verification or
 - to request verifications by the validating authority, and
- by the validating authority to advise the requesting authority on the results of its verifications.

Data to be included in the Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC)

1. BFTRC and authority identification
 - i) Validation number of the BFTRC,
 - ii) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the issuing authority,
2. Re-exporter identification
 - i) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the re-exporter
3. Identification of product
 - i) Weight and product types of bluefin tuna subject of the BFTRC,
 - ii) Weight by product types of bluefin tuna and BFTCD or BFTFD, where appropriate identified by their validation numbers,
 - iii) Flag(s) of fishing vessel(s) or state of establishment of the farm, where appropriate
 - iv) Copies of the corresponding BFTCDs or BFTFDs attached
4. Identification of trade and transport operations
 - i) Details of the shipment for re-export (date of shipment, identity of means of transportation: name, flag and national registry number of transportation vessel, flight number, truck registration plate, railway freight document number and, where appropriate, container number(s),
 - ii) Six digit code of the product in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organization (HS),
 - iii) Where appropriate, the number and date of the customs re-export entry,
 - iv) Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the recipient of the consignment,
5. Statement of operators and validation by the authorities of the state of establishment of the farm
 - i) Statement of the operator requesting the validation of the BFTRC, with date, name, full address of the operator, name and signature of his representative,
 - ii) Validation by the authority of the state of re-export with name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the validating official, date and seal
 - iii) Statement by the recipient in the state of import of the bluefin tuna consignment, with name and full address, name and signature of his representative and date,
6. Examination and verification by the authorities of the state of import
 - i) Examination by the authorities of the state of import: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - ii) Verification by the authorities of the state of import: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - iii) Request for verification sent to the validating authorities referred to under paragraph 5 above by the authorities of the state of re-export: summary request (detailed request to be attached if necessary), date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal
 - iv) Results of the verification by the validating authorities referred to in paragraph 5 above: summary results, date, name and full address of the authority, name and signature of the competent official, seal.

The form consists in two copies, of which one "return copy" to be used:

- by the authorities of the state of import in order to:
 - advise the validating authority that the BFTRC has been accepted after examination or verification or
 - to request verifications by the validating authority and
- by the validating authority to advise the requesting authority on the results of its verifications.

Annex V

Procedures for completing the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document

Appendix 1
Sample form of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (to be completed)

Annex VI

Procedures for completing the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Farm Document

Appendix 1
Sample form of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Farm Document (to be completed)

Annex VII

Procedures for completing the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Export Certificate

Appendix 1
Sample form of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Export Certificate (to be completed)

Annex VIII

Procedures for completing the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate

Appendix 1
Sample form of the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (to be completed)

Annex IX

Monthly reports on ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documents, farmed bluefin tuna certificate and bluefin tuna re-export certificates (One report format for each document) (to be completed)

Annex X

Yearly reports on ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documents, farmed bluefin tuna certificate and bluefin tuna re-export certificates (One report format for each document) (to be completed)

Annex XI

Report format on ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documents referred under paragraph 17 above (to be completed)

Definitions

The following definitions are intended only for the purposes of the implementation of the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and shall be applied as stated regardless of whether such actions as domestic trade, export, import, or re-export constitutes the same under any CPC's customs law or other domestic legislation.

- "domestic trade": Trade with bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel or a trap, which is landed in the CPC to which the vessel is flagged or where the trap is established and which is not destined to be exported, or
- trade with bluefin tuna products farmed in a FFB from bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel, which is flagged to the CPC where the FFB is established, which are supplied to any entity in this CPC and which are not destined to be exported, and
 - trade with bluefin tuna between the Member States of the European Community.
- "export": Any movement of a bluefin tuna catch in its harvested or processed (including farmed) form from the territory of a CPC to which the vessel is flagged or where the trap or the FFB is established.
- "import": Any movement of a bluefin tuna catch in its harvested or processed (including farmed) form into the territory of a CPC, which is not the CPC to which the vessel is flagged or where the trap of the FFB is established.
- "re-export": Any movement of a bluefin tuna catch in its harvested or processed (including farmed) form from the territory of a CPC, where it has been previously imported in the same form.

BIENNIAL REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION

- Report of the First Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (Rome, December 1-6, 1969). FAO Fisheries Report (84).
- Report of the First Special Meeting of the Council (Madrid, April 17-18, 1970). No. 1. – Report for Biennial Period, 1970-71, Part I, 1970.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1970-71, Part II, 1971.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1970-71, Part III. 1972.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1972-73, Part I, 1973.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1972-73, Part II, 1974.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part I, 1975.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II, 1976.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1976-77, Part I, 1977.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1976-77, Part II, 1978.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1978-79, Part I, 1979.
- Report for Biennial Period, 1978-79, Part II, 1980.
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