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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2012-13
PART I (2012) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

MADRID, SPAIN

2013

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(as of 31 December 2012)

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

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commission Chairman

M. MIYAHARA, Japan
(since 19 November 2011)

First Vice-Chairman

M. AGUILAR, Mexico
(since 19 November 2011)

Second Vice-Chairman

M. TACKEY, Ghana
(since 19 November 2011)

Panel No.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Chair

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

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

Chair

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	S. LAPOINTE, Canada (since 15 November 2009)
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS) Sub-Committee on Statistics: G. SCOTT (United States), Convener Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: S. Cass-Calay (United States), Convener	J. SANTIAGO, EU (since 8 October 2010)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	C. ROGERS, United States (since 18 November 2007)
PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)	T. EL KTIRI, Morocco (since 19 November 2011)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

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FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "*Report for the Biennial Period, 2012-2013, Part I (2012)*", 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 18th Special Meeting of the Commission (Agadir, Morocco, November 12-19, 2012) and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission and Observers, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention area.

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

This Report has been prepared, approved and distributed in accordance with Article III, paragraph 9, and Article IV, paragraph 2-d, of the Convention, and Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. The Report is available in the three official languages of the Commission: English, French and Spanish.

MASANORI MIYAHARA
Commission Chairman

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS**

(Agadir, Morocco – November 12 to 19, 2012)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Commission Chair, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, opened the 18th Special Meeting of the Commission and first of all thanked the Government of Morocco for hosting the meeting for the third time, which was a testimony of Morocco's commitment both to the Commission and to fisheries management. The Chair also congratulated the delegates for the sense of responsibility they had shown through the adoption of difficult and restrictive measures which had led to the encouraging signs in the state of the bluefin tuna stocks, but expressed caution when considering catch levels for the next few years. He noted that there was still much work to do at the 2012 meeting, expressing his full confidence in the delegations to achieve the adoption of measures based on scientific advice.

The Chair introduced Ms. Zakia Driouich, who addressed the meeting as representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Morocco, and reiterated the importance of fisheries management given the pressure, from various quarters, on fish stocks, and recalled that Morocco was committed to the objectives of ICCAT. Ms. Driouich stressed the need for sound measures based, *inter alia*, on scientific advice and regional cooperation.

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

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 1**. The Secretariat served as rapporteur.

3. Introduction of Contracting Party delegations

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, introduced the following 44 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, 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 session are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**.

4. Introduction of Observers

The Executive Secretary introduced the observers that had been admitted to the meeting. A Representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), depository of the ICCAT Convention, attended the meeting. Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Curaçao and Suriname attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities. Argentina, Bolivia, Cameroon, El Salvador, Indonesia, Liberia, and Vietnam attended the meeting as non-Contracting Parties. The inter-governmental organizations also in attendance were: Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), Commission Sous-Régionale des Pêches (CSPR), Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

The following non-governmental organizations were admitted as observers: Association Euro-Méditerranéenne des Pêcheurs Professionnels de thon (AEPPT); Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR); Bluewater Fishermen's Association, International Confederation of Sport Fishing (CIPS), Ecology Action Centre (EAC), European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD); Federation of

European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), Federazione Nazionale delle Cooperative di Pesca (FEDERCOOPESCA), Federazione Nazionale delle Imprese di Pesca (FEDERPESCA); Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), Fédération de la Pêche Maritime et de l'Aquaculture (FPMA); Humane Society International (HSI); International Game Fish Association (IGFA), Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF); Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Medisamak; Oceana, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Pew Environment Group, The Billfish Foundation, Tuna Producer Association (TPA); US-Japan Research Institute (USJI), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The list of observers is included in the List of Participants (**ANNEX 2**).

The statements made to the plenary session, submitted in writing by the observers, are attached as **ANNEXES 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5**.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr. Josu Santiago, informed the Commission that the 2012 SCRS meeting had been held in Madrid, Spain from 1-5 October 2012. He presented a summary of the Report of the SCRS and indicated that the specific recommendations by species would be presented in the appropriate Panels, particularly for those species for which updated assessments had been conducted, i.e., bluefin tuna, white marlin and shortfin mako.

Dr. Santiago expressed his thanks for the work of the SCRS scientists and the Secretariat and summarized the Committee's main work and its recommendations in 2012 with special emphasis on the following:

- The importance of encouraging greater participation in the SCRS and of continuing financial assistance for meeting attendance.
- Analysis of the implications of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13], the *Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detailed Reports* [Res. 11-14] and the *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science* [Res. 11-17] for the work of the SCRS, and actions taken including the incorporation of the new requirements under [Res. 11-14] for Executive Summaries and Detailed Reports of those stocks assessed in 2012 as well as work conducted to implement the Res. 11-17, such as:
 - Peer reviews of stock assessment and the participation of external experts at ICCAT meetings; and
 - Methods for improving scientific training and building methodological skills amongst scientists of the SCRS.

The SCRS had also made some general recommendations, including increased support for the Secretariat on data base documentation and/or management, short-term hiring of a technical expert to complete work on observer programmes, use of the data fund to invite external experts, in particular from other tRFMOs, to participate in ICCAT stock assessments, and possible funding of data mining projects.

Dr. Santiago presented the different activities conducted within the priorities defined under Kobe III.

Another initiative proposed by the SCRS was the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan (including Data, Research, Capacity Building & Quality Assurance aspects), a plan that would guide the activities of the SCRS in the coming years.

Dr. Santiago also reviewed in plenary the responses to requests from the Commission, including the evaluation of national observer programmes as required by the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 10-10] and transparency in accordance with Res. 11-14. With regard to the former, he noted that information was insufficient to allow the SCRS to assess the situation. A list of the information required has been developed on the basis of the decisions taken within the Kobe process.

The Commission thanked Dr. Santiago for his presentation, commended the work of the SCRS, and adopted the 2012 SCRS Report.

6. Review of the Report of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions

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

The Report of the 7th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures was adopted by the Commission as is contained in **ANNEX 4.1**.

7. Consideration of the Report of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT and any necessary actions

Ms. Deirdre Warner Kramer (USA), Chair of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, presented the report of the Group. Ms. Warner-Kramer noted that, aside from issues which may require changes to the Convention text, some issues had already been addressed within the current legal framework of ICCAT.

Taking into account the outcome of the 2012 meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT and acknowledging that to address certain issues, amendments to the ICCAT Convention are necessary, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Working Group to Develop Amendments to the ICCAT Convention* (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-10]**).

The Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4.2**.

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

The Chair of STACFAD, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), reported to the Commission that the Committee had reviewed and adopted the 2012 Administrative Report and the 2012 Financial Report. Noting the “Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT CPCs and Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions”, STACFAD called on those with accumulated debt to submit Payment Plans of Past-due Contributions.

The STACFAD Chair reported that it had been agreed that the contract with the new auditors to be selected in 2013 should be for a five year period.

The Committee Chair also reported that STACFAD had unanimously agreed to renew the contract of Mr. Driss Meski, ICCAT Executive Secretary, for an additional two years, and that this issue would be revisited in 2014.

The revised Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2013 were presented and adopted by the Commission (see **Tables 1 to 5** to the STACFAD Report). It was noted with satisfaction that the Working Capital Fund had now grown to sufficient levels and it was agreed that €150,000 from the fund should be transferred to the Meeting Participation Fund. In the event that this sum, together with voluntary contributions, was insufficient to cover all meeting participation requests received in accordance with the established protocol, additional sums could be used. It was noted, however, that additional resources beyond financing meeting participation may be necessary.

As the SCRS had also requested additional funding for research activities on small tunas and billfish, it had been agreed that the Executive Secretary would work with the SCRS Chair to identify priorities for 2013 and explore avenues of financing these activities, with possible contributions from the Working Capital Fund if other sources of funding could not be found.

STACFAD had approved the *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by ICCAT*, which was adopted by the Commission (see **ANNEX 6 [Res. 12-11]**).

Changes to the procedures for mail voting had also been agreed, and it was determined that the Rules of Procedure would be changed accordingly. Hence the Modification of Rule 9 of the ICCAT Rules of Procedure in Respect of Inter-sessional Voting was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **ANNEX 7.1**

With regard to the development of a Commission Communications Policy, several Parties considered that sufficient information on costs was still not available in order for a decision to be made. The Chair agreed to work on this issue intersessionally through a virtual working group to develop a policy for consideration at the 2013 Commission meeting.

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

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

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

Panel 1

The Chair of Panel 1, Mr. Helguilè Shep (Côte d'Ivoire), presented the report of Panel 1 to the plenary. Mr. Shep also reported that a selection committee had examined the Expressions of Interest in implementing the Regional Observer Programme for Bigeye and Yellowfin (ROP-TROP), and that the Secretariat had been instructed to invite the pre-selected agencies to tender early in 2013. The ROP-TROP would be implemented through existing national observer programmes for the 2013 fishing season.

The European Union recalled the SCRS request to improve the FADs management plans required by the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas* [Rec. 11-01], in order to provide the SCRS with sufficient information to provide advice.

The EU drew the attention of the Commission to the fact that the Panel Chair had circulated a proposal to amend the Recommendation on a multi-annual conservation and management program for bigeye and yellowfin tunas, to be considered in the 2013 meeting. This proposal is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

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

Panel 2

Two new Panel members, Guatemala and Honduras, were welcomed to Panel 2, effective from 2013.

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Andrew Carroll (European Union), informed the plenary that the Panel had agreed on a *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*, as well as a *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program*. These proposals were adopted by the Commission (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-03]** and **[Rec. 12-02]**), respectively. It was noted, however, that Turkey objected to the quota allocation key, and that Algeria and Egypt expressed reservations on this.

Mr. Carroll also reported that Panel members had some additional questions, which are included in the document on the "Commission's Requests to SCRS in Direction to the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna"; this is attached to the report of Panel 2 as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

Two measures relating to mechanisms for financing the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Program for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) had also been put forward, but neither had been approved by the Panel. It was noted, however, that the administrative burdens implicit in voluntary contributions could detract from the efficiency of the programme, and that alternative stable funding would be required, for which reason Panel 2 would reconsider this item at its next meeting.

Given the new measures, Panel 2 had not approved the fishing, inspection and capacity plans presented by the Parties fishing for east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna since endorsement would be carried out intersessionally.

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

Panel 3

The Chair of Panel 3, Dr. Johann Augustyn (South Africa), presented the report of the Panel. Dr. Augustyn reported that Honduras had been welcomed as a new member effective from 2013. No stock assessment had been held in 2012, and the Panel had reiterated the need for accurate and reliable data for the south albacore stock, as well as greater participation in stock assessment meetings.

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

Panel 4

The Chair of Panel 4, Dr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), presented the proposals discussed and agreed within Panel 4:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits [Rec. 12-01]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management [Rec. 12-05]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks [Rec. 12-04]*

Regarding South Atlantic swordfish [Rec. 12-01], it was agreed that Senegal would transfer 25 t to Belize. The above proposals were adopted by the Commission, and are contained in **ANNEX 5**.

Dr. Hazin also reported that the following proposals were submitted: “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Sailfish”, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-07 on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”; two drafts for a “Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries, and “Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”. A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Shark Action Plan” had also been discussed, but no consensus had been reached. One Contracting Party noted that they could not support this recommendation as it was beyond the scope of the Convention, and the proposal was not adopted. Parties were encouraged to work together to consider these issues further.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 4 by correspondence. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 9**.

10. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee and consideration of any proposed recommendation therein

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Dr. Christopher Rogers (United States), informed the Commission that the Compliance Committee (COC) had approved the following, which were adopted by the Commission:

- Compliance Annex (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**); and
- Compliance Summary Tables (see **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

Dr. Rogers informed the Commission that a small informal group had again been constituted to review the information used to compile the Summary Table and to assist in recommending actions, and that this had been very helpful. The Group had been represented by geographical area as follows: For Asia, Japan; for South America, Uruguay; for North America, Canada, for northern Africa, Morocco; for southern Africa, Côte d’Ivoire and for Europe, the EU.

Based on the Summary Table, the Commission agreed that the Compliance Committee Chair would send letters of concern or letters of identification to the CPCs and agreed that Contracting Parties should be requested to send written replies to those letters.

With regard to non-Contracting Parties, it was reported that sanctions on Bolivia and Georgia had been lifted in 2011 but identification maintained for one year in order to monitor activities. As no indication of any further

activities which undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures had been presented, it was agreed to lift identification. On the other hand, it was agreed that identification of Cambodia should be maintained as no reply to the Commission's letter had been received. Identification of Colombia was also maintained and it was agreed that these Parties would receive a letter from the Commission informing them of the decisions.

The Compliance Committee recommended renewal of the Cooperating Status of Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Curaçao, and Suriname, but did not recommend renewal of such status for Guyana given the lack of communication from Guyana. The Committee had also reviewed the re-application for Cooperating Status by El Salvador, and recommended that Cooperating Status should be granted. The Commission concurred with these recommendations.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of the Compliance Committee by correspondence. The Report is attached as **ANNEX 10**.

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

The PWG Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco), reported to the Commission on the work of the PWG, which had agreed on the "2012 List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area", and this was adopted by the Commission. The adopted ICCAT IUU list is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**.

The PWG reported on progress made with regard to the implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch document scheme; the implementation of port State measures; improvement to the transshipment measures and next steps for considering future catch certification schemes and put forward the following Recommendations for approval by the Commission:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) Programme [Rec. 12-08]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Process Towards the Establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-like Species [Rec. 12-09]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port [Rec. 12-07]*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment [Rec. 12-06]*

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

Mr. El Ktiri reported that the PWG had also considered the "Draft Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area", but no consensus had been reached and this issue had been deferred to the 2013 meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures.

The delegate of Japan further reported that, although work on traceability systems had been deferred to the forthcoming IMM Working Group meeting, China and Japan would be implementing a voluntary project and would report the results of this at the 2013 Commission meeting. The presentation of this bilateral "Traceability System for Tunas" is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**.

The European Union introduced draft "Guidelines for the Implementation of Recommendation 11-15", and it was agreed that this would be attached to the report. These Guidelines are contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 11**.

It was noted that reporting obligations in relation to national observer programmes had not been respected by all Parties in 2012, and it was recalled that this was an obligatory requirement.

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

12. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

The Commission took note of the ICCAT Secretariat document summarizing the assistance provided in 2012 to developing coastal States. All Parties agreed that such initiatives were of great importance, and it was noted that such assistance should not be limited to meeting attendance but should include training and other means of improving the skills of developing Contracting Party scientists. The mechanism put forward by the STACFAD for providing funds to the ICCAT Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), as discussed under Item 8, was welcomed.

13. Inter-sessional meetings in 2013

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

- A joint Compliance Committee/Panel 2 meeting, aimed principally at examining the 2013 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing plans;
- The 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, which would consider, *inter alia*, measures on traceability, boarding & inspection, unique vessel identifiers and possible changes to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements;
- The First Meeting of the Working Group to Develop Amendments to the ICCAT Convention; and
- A Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment.

It was agreed that all CPCs would be informed of the dates and venue of these meetings as soon as possible by correspondence.

14. Other matters

International Cooperation

Mr. Driss Meski, Executive Secretary, informed the Commission of the cooperation during the year with other international organisations, and possible agreements to be signed with other organisations. The Commission agreed that international cooperation was of great importance, but had some misgivings about formalising any agreement with OSPAR, given that there were few areas in which the two organisations could cooperate and that OSPAR had taken unilateral action and was seeking endorsement, rather than seeking consensus before declaring marine protected areas. It was also noted that current cooperation should continue with ACAP, but there was no time to consider the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and a decision on this matter was deferred.

Participation in the Global Environment Facility

The Executive Secretary presented a document summarising the proposals of the GEF technical working group and informed the Commission that any comments on the proposal needed to be communicated to the FAO by 16 November 2012. Although it was agreed that participation in this project could be beneficial, some concerns were expressed with regard to a possible increase in workload for the ICCAT Secretariat in detriment to the priorities of the Commission. It was agreed that the Commission could accept the invitation to participate but maintain the right to withdraw if the activities to be carried out were not in line with the tasks inherent in Commission decisions. It was agreed that the Secretariat would continue communications with the FAO and that the Chair would draft a letter to keep communication on this topic open, and that CPCs would be kept informed.

Ecological importance of Sargasso Sea

The United Kingdom (on behalf of its Overseas Territories) presented its proposal and explanatory note on carrying out preliminary work with a view to the possible creation of conservation areas within the Sargasso Sea. There was general agreement that ecosystem-based management was important, but there were some concerns that there was too little information relating to the area under discussion on the impact of tuna fisheries to warrant the adoption of specific measures at this stage. Notwithstanding, the Commission agreed to adopt the *Resolution by ICCAT on the Sargasso Sea* (see ANNEX 6 [Res. 12-12]) in an effort to determine the ecological importance of the Sargasso Sea to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species.

Streamlining of ICCAT Reporting Requirements

Given the increasing number of reporting requirements inherent in the measures adopted the Commission, and the difficulties which these presented to the CPCs, the Secretariat and the various subsidiary bodies of the Commission, the Secretariat presented a document containing some preliminary ideas on ways in which the burden imposed by these requirements could be eased. The Commission agreed, in principle, to consider some of these issues, but requested more concrete proposals. In response, the Secretariat circulated the “Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports” which was approved by the Commission and is included in **ANNEX 7.2**. It was agreed that further thought could be given to this issue at the 2013 meeting.

15. Tentative date and place of the next meeting of the Commission

The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that South Africa had offered to host the annual meeting in 2013. It was agreed that the 23rd Regular Meeting of the Commission would be held between 16 and 26 November 2013 in South Africa. It was later determined that the exact dates would be 18-25 November 2013.

16. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chair thanked all the delegates, the interpreters and the Secretariat for their work, and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Morocco for hosting the meeting. The Executive Secretary also thanked all delegates, the Government of Morocco, the interpreters, and the Secretariat staff.

The 18th Special Meeting of the Commission was adjourned on 19 November 2012.

The report of the plenary session was adopted by correspondence.

Commission Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Summary Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the report of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions (Tokyo, April 2012)
7. Review of the report of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT (Madrid, May 2012) and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
9. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
10. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
11. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Assistance to developing coastal states and capacity building
13. Inter-sessional meetings in 2013
14. Other matters
15. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
16. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

3.1 OPENING ADDRESSES

By Mr. Masanori Miyahara, ICCAT Chairman

Let me start by expressing my heartfelt thanks to the Representative of the Ministry for honoring us with his presence at the opening of this 18th Special Meeting of our Commission in this beautiful city of Agadir. I would like to pay tribute to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting an ICCAT annual meeting for the third time. This testifies to the loyalty which the Kingdom of Morocco shows ICCAT, as well as its commitment to the management of tunas in the Atlantic and its adjacent seas.

It is a great honour for me to address you as Chair of this Commission once again, and I should like to thank all of you for the trust you have placed in me. You can be sure that I will make every effort to live up to your expectations.

The 2012 meeting is taking place under very special conditions, characterized by an economic context that is unstable and a growing demand for the use of the natural resources.

For more than a decade, our attention has been constantly drawn to the excessive utilization of the natural resources, and particularly the fishing resources. Fortunately, our Commission took these alerts seriously. It has taken a leadership role in fisheries management and conservation and has promoted a strong sense of responsibility of its Contracting Parties and encouraged them to take effective actions towards sustainable exploitation of the tuna resources. An increasing number of management measures have been adopted which involve restrictions and place increased burdens on the operators. While we continue to strive for full compliance, I am pleased to see increased and improved compliance with these difficult measures on the part of ICCAT fleets. The deliberations of our Compliance Committee are a testament to the seriousness with which our Commission is managed.

ICCAT has come through a critical phase, where not only some of the most important species, but also the credibility of the organization itself was in jeopardy. According to the report of the 2012 SCRS meeting, there are now signs that, as we continue to work and face the challenges and sacrifices involved in our efforts for recovery, the state of the eastern bluefin tuna stock is showing some improvement. The SCRS advice indicates that if we keep on the right track, we can meet our goals. While this is good news, we should all be aware that the road to stock recovery is a long and arduous one. Thus, we must exercise caution when setting new TACs, and ensure that the trend continues so that recent sacrifices made have not been in vain and, hopefully, we can congratulate ourselves soon on a success story similar to that of Atlantic swordfish.

ICCAT still has many challenges to face in other areas. In recent years, the management of shark species associated with ICCAT fisheries has been discussed at length, and some effective measures have been taken. However, this year we need to reach consensus on other shark species, such as porbeagle. ICCAT should also be forward looking in its approach, and consider a more holistic approach to Atlantic shark management.

Monitoring, control and surveillance, as well as compliance with the measures adopted, go hand in hand with the management of individual stocks. Improvements in both MCS measures and ways to determine compliance need to be considered seriously this year. We also have to develop ways to continue assisting developing countries to improve control in their fisheries to be able to comply with all ICCAT measures. In this respect, some thought needs to be given in the future on how to best determine and perhaps streamline reporting requirements so that all the CPCs can more easily understand and meet their obligations.

Decisions also need to be taken in relation to the work of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT. The future of this organization is important to us all, and we need to determine the next steps to take for improvement of effectiveness and efficiency of our Commission, if we hope to maintain the international prestige that our Commission has attained in the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species.

I look forward to working with you all on these important issues during the week ahead. We have a lot of work to do, but I have no doubt that, working together, we can achieve all the objectives set for the coming year.

By Ms. Zakia Drioulraich, in representation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Morocco

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today for the second time, among the great ICCAT family, and to welcome you here in the Kingdom of Morocco. For the third time, Morocco has the honour to host a Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Once again, this demonstrates the commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco to a sustainable and responsible usage of fishery resources and in particular, tuna and tuna-like species.

This international meeting is part of the Commission's on-going admirable efforts and will lay the foundation for the sustainable usage of tuna resources, including modern management approaches for the sustainability of resources.

Governments, regional fisheries management organizations, fishery operators, the industrial sectors and civil societies all share the desire to protect and maintain tuna and tuna-like species.

We are all convinced that seas and oceans experience overfishing globally. The continuous fishing pressure on stocks, the increase of illegal unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) and other natural and human factors that have a repercussion on the future of our fishery resources and their environment, little by little call upon us.

For this reason, all the stakeholders in the management and exploitation of tuna resources are called upon to strengthen and unite their efforts to join in sustainable development, careful exploitation and preservation of the marine environment, towards competent fishery governance.

I am confident that during this meeting the Parties will come together and continue to reflect on new, sustainable and fair regulatory and management measures of the resources based on:

- Documented scientific advice;
- Joint commitment for the collection and reporting of quality information and data;
- Optimization of upstream or downstream traceability of catches;
- Implementation of management measures integrating approaches for a better understanding of environmental issues;
- Integrated monitoring and control measures;
- Strengthening regional cooperation and;
- Supporting developing Contracting Parties;

Thus, the Commission will have further strengthened its reputation, authority and resilience at the regional and international level as regards the conservation of tuna resources.

Although in recent years the Commission has made considerable progress regarding the recovery of some stocks, the best example being East bluefin tuna since 2008, additional efforts should be directed towards other species, in particular sharks, billfish and small tunas.

Thus, I guarantee that in the Kingdom of Morocco you will find a strong collaborator to carry out the noble mission that we have been assigned.

I would like to reiterate my warm welcome to the honourable delegates of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties, representatives of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), non-governmental organizations and the ICCAT Chairman, whose expertise and concerns will strive for a successful meeting.

Finally, allow me to express my gratitude to all those people who have organised this important meeting, in particular, the ICCAT Executive Secretary and the local authorities of Agadir.

I am grateful for your attention, wish you every success in the work of the meeting and wish you a pleasant stay in Morocco and Agadir. I hope that through the excellent and warm reception offered to our guests, you will achieve the objectives of this session.

3.2 OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

Albania

First of all, on behalf of the Albanian delegation, I would like to thank the Government of Morocco for hosting this 18th Special Meeting of the Commission. I would also like to express my gratitude to the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Chairman for their hard work in preparing the meeting.

The Albanian delegation notes, in brief, that:

- Albania has been a Contracting Party to ICCAT since 1988;
- For the first time in 2009, Albania was allocated and used a bluefin tuna catch quota;
- For the year 2012, as you are aware, Albania has been suspended for bluefin tuna fishing because of problems regarding information and the lack of reporting of statistical data which was either weak or inexistent.

However, throughout 2012, Albania has made progress in terms of overcoming the problems associated with the implementation of its obligations in accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 10-04.

As you are aware, in the letter of October 23, 2012 addressed to the ICCAT Compliance Committee, Albania explained the current situation regarding the difficulties and objective reasons that have prevented it from fully meeting the current requirements applicable by ICCAT, which were as follows:

1. Important changes that have been implemented at the Fisheries Directorate at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration (MoEFWA).
2. Lack of experience and necessary qualifications of our new specialists to meet the reporting obligations of ICCAT Committees.
3. We have, however, followed the advice of ICCAT and sought the assistance of the Secretariat to help us in qualitative data gathering.
4. One of the most important reports is bluefin catch data which is 0 (zero) for 2012 because we had suspended the fishing rights due to ICCAT's decision.

Despite the above difficulties, Albania is committed and has taken the necessary actions to achieve full and satisfactory compatibility with ICCAT Recommendation 10-04, and we inform you of the following:

1. As far as is legal, the Albanian fisheries legislation base now has its full set of catch regulation, fulfilment of obligations, and monitoring of bluefin tuna fisheries based on the recommendations of ICCAT.
2. We have taken the necessary procedural steps with regard to a multi-year plan for stock recovery of bluefin tuna, and for this we have prepared a Ministerial Decree of the MoEFWA which transposes ICCAT Recommendation 10-04.
3. We are in the process of drafting the fisheries plan of action which will be ready and sent to the ICCAT Secretariat by March 1, 2013.

Our previous difficulties in drafting this plan were hindered by the Albanian law which requires that the selection of Albanian flagged ships authorized for bluefin tuna fishing should be selected through a public bidding process.

We are in the process of implementing this procedure but in order to grant those rights we need the reallocation of the quota by ICCAT since knowing the quota and being able to fish for bluefin is the most important part of the process of public bidding.

After selecting the vessels, giving them the right and allocating part of the total quota to each vessel, we will then be able to inform ICCAT and report all the individual vessel's data and statistics and all the necessary documentation needed for the vessels.

4. We are ready to conclude the bluefin stock management plan before the March 1 deadline. The draft includes the means and the vessels' details such as capacity and fishing means and quality needed to fish for bluefin tuna. These are also vessel specific and will be recorded after the authorized vessels have been selected.
5. As far as the time frame allowed for fishing we assure you that it will be within the ICCAT recommendations. And this is explicitly expressed in the Ministerial Decree.
6. We have drafted a plan for data collection as well which will include all the necessary requirements in a vessel logbook such as quantity, dates, gear used, etc.
7. In conjunction with the ICCAT Secretariat, we will be drafting an observation plan in the future for on-board monitoring of the vessels and their catches and we will be talking about the allocation of funds for the monitoring of staff and whether these should be covered by the vessels or ICCAT.
8. The by-catch logbook will be monitored along with other practices and submitted on time to ICCAT, and once again we are repeating that to date in Albania bluefin tuna have not been hunted and there are means of monitoring to a certain degree such as the blue-box monitoring of all Albanian vessels over 15m.
9. In conclusion, for these and many other commitments we guarantee that we will work, support and closely cooperate with the ICCAT Executive Secretary and we will meet all the requirements needed for Albania to be a true member of the organization in 2013.

Algeria

Algeria wishes to thank Morocco for hosting the 18th Special Meeting of ICCAT in this lovely city of Agadir.

It should be recalled that at the 17th Special Meeting of ICCAT that took place in Paris in 2010, at which Algerian experts could not take part, Algeria's bluefin tuna catch quota was drastically reduced from 684 metric tons (t) in 2010 to 138 t for 2011.

It should be noted that this non-transparent and inequitable reduction, on the order of four-fifths of the initial quota was limited to Algeria, whose allocation key was reduced from 5.073% to 1.073%.

Following this serious prejudice, Algeria invoked the provisions of Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention, and presented an objection to Recommendation 10-04, to denounce the inconsiderate practice, since this reduction was done in its absence and without having been consulted.

It must be said that this reduction is much more incomprehensible since Algeria, from its adherence, has spared no efforts to honour its commitments and to comply with the provisions of the ICCAT Convention.

Furthermore, Algeria has never exceeded its allocated catch quota and has systematically transposed the size limits as well as the closed seasons adopted by ICCAT into its regulations.

This is also the case of its duties as a member concerning its financial contributions to the ICCAT budget which Algeria perfectly and regularly pays, as well as meeting the requirements for the submission of information to ICCAT, for which Algeria has put forth its most sincere efforts.

It is important to note that under the weight of more and more stringent measures, Algeria has experienced many difficulties to make its tuna fleet operational, and which has been established through costly private and public efforts.

Needless to say that such unfair and unjustified practices which have led to this serious precedent and which discredits our Organization, has considerably complicated the task of the Algerian fisheries administration that has had to face the legitimate sectors of the professionals of this fishery as well as the intense criticism from the national press.

Two years after the 17th Special Meeting and after having continued to meet its obligations to ICCAT in spite of the prejudice that it has suffered, Algeria relies on the sense of responsibility of the Contracting Parties for steps to be taken at this meeting to reinstate Algeria's rights and that its total catch quota be restored to the level of its initial allocation key of 5.073% of the TAC of eastern bluefin tuna.

Within this framework, the Algerian delegation expresses its intention to cooperate fully with the Parties, in the hopes that the work of this important meeting enables the reestablishment of the credibility and seriousness of our Organization.

Brazil

On behalf of the Brazilian Government our delegation would like to express our gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special Meeting of the Commission and for the warm hospitality of the Moroccan people. We also would like to commend the ICCAT Secretariat for the hard work in the preparation of this meeting and for its excellent organization.

This is indeed a special meeting, considering the unprecedented progress undoubtedly achieved by this Commission in the recent years, towards ensuring the sustainability of the tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. Today, the respect of scientific advice, as well as the precautionary and the ecosystem approach, are principles, we hope, enshrined in the work of ICCAT, being reflected in several recommendations adopted during the past few years devoted not only to target species, but also to the protection of by-catch, such as sharks, turtles and seabirds. This meeting is also special because, after a long time, we finally have some very good news on the situation of the bluefin tuna stocks, which are clearly showing strong signs of recovery. Such an outcome demonstrates the certitude of the measures adopted by the Commission and has a far reaching significance since they actually confirm that RFMOs can, indeed, fulfil their mandate in a responsible manner, when there is will, of course, and political commitment. Let's not, however, indulge ourselves into hastily softening the measures in place, which were so extremely difficult to be constructed. In spite of the good news, we need to stand firm on the course set and by no means accept changes in the management regime that are not in strict conformity with scientific advice.

Brazil is also pleased to take this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the duly implementation of all management and conservation measures adopted by ICCAT, as well as to the sustainability of tuna fishery in the Atlantic Ocean. The establishment of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, in 2009, has resulted in a significant progress in the management of fishing activities, including by improved Monitoring, Control and Surveillance. The Ministry has been deeply committed to the improvement of the Brazilian fisheries statistics as well as to the development of strategic programs for the control of fishing activities, such as the on board observer program (PROBORDO) and the vessel monitoring system (PREPS). The Ministry also coordinates and implements, in conjunction with the Ministry for the Environment, a joint committee for the management of fisheries resources, responsible for adopting the necessary regulations, with a view to harmonize the development of the fisheries sector, with the necessary sustainability and fulfilment of international commitments. Due to all these efforts, we are very glad to announce that this year we did not have a single non-compliance issue, attesting that the concerns raised in the letter sent last year by the Compliance Chairman have been adequately addressed.

Once again, this year is going to be a very busy year for ICCAT, with several stocks requiring our attention, such as bluefin tuna, South Atlantic swordfish and blue marlin and white marlin. With regard to marlins, Brazil evidently supports the recommendation stemming from the SCRS to adopt TACs or catch limits that will allow their stocks to rebuild from the present overfished condition where they are found.

Another issue which is very important to the Brazilian delegation during this meeting is the urgent need to reform the ICCAT Convention, in order to align it with the modern concepts of fisheries management, such as the Precautionary Approach, the Ecosystem Approach, the objection procedures, and the decision-making process, in particular the time for adopted measures to enter into force and voting rules, including required quorum. In spite of our heavy agenda, we are confident that under your leadership we will successfully address all the challenges in front of us. With this aim, we would like to reaffirm the disposition of the Brazilian delegation to fully cooperate with the Chair and with all delegations to make this meeting a very successful one.

Canada

Canada would like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special Meeting of ICCAT in this excellent ocean-side setting. We are hopeful that we will have some time to explore and enjoy some of the pleasures Agadir has to offer.

The 2012 stock assessment update for western Atlantic bluefin tuna clearly shows that the spawning biomass continues to increase. Canada is encouraged by this assessment update. We see this as validation of the management measures that have been undertaken in western Atlantic bluefin tuna and a testament to our concerted efforts and serious commitment to responsible, precautionary management measures undertaken since the rebuilding plan was first established in 1998.

Based on the advice of the SCRS, Canada is promoting the adoption of a TAC that is consistent with the rebuilding plan adopted in 1998, while recognizing and rewarding the sacrifices of western Atlantic bluefin tuna harvesters have made for years. At the same time, the Canadian delegation acknowledges that the SCRS has indicated there are uncertainties in their advice on western Atlantic bluefin tuna and we will be seeking additional precautionary management measures to further enhance the growth of the stock.

Canada is also seeking to work with other CPCs to develop a Recommendation on porbeagle shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries in the northwest Atlantic. Canada believes that science advice should be the basis of the Recommendation. Canada's Porbeagle Management Plan, under which a small porbeagle fishery is undertaken, is fully based on peer-reviewed science advice, and fishing is strictly controlled to ensure overfishing does not occur. The Canadian Management Plan, in place since 2002, has been credited with stabilizing the northwest Atlantic porbeagle stock which is showing signs of recovery.

To Canada, ICCAT is an essential institution that has to work and work well. Our fishers and coastal communities depend on healthy and sustainable fisheries in the Atlantic for their economic future. In this regard, the Canadian delegation is optimistic that we will be able to continue to make progress on a path forward to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commission. Canada acknowledges that there are some areas where Convention amendment is necessary. In these limited cases, the amendments must be targeted and the process set up to achieve them timebound.

Canada also urges the Commission to move forward on a parallel track to make changes that do not require Convention reform. We look forward to discussing our proposed changes related to the Commission's decision-making procedures from which the Commission would benefit in the short-term.

With a strong commitment from all, we can take the necessary and important steps at this meeting to support the sustainability of ICCAT managed fisheries and ensure long-term opportunities for our harvesters.

Croatia

Over the last several years, Morocco has been the host of our meetings more than once, showing us all hospitality and making us always feel at home. This is one of the key ingredients in having a successful meeting, and we have every reason to believe that it shall be the case this year as well. Croatia would hereby like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for organizing the meeting at the shores of the Atlantic, in the city of Agadir.

This year we have several important issues on the table. Bluefin tuna is again taking the spotlight of the meeting, but it is with a positive feeling that we think the issues will be addressed this time. After a number of years of hard sacrifices and cuts in the sector, after significant efforts made in securing the implementation and enforcement of the Plan, and in particular in data submission, after all that has been done by all the Parties around the table fishing for this magnificent species – the results are finally beginning to show.

Croatia fully believes that all the decisions in the framework of ICCAT have to be taken based on the scientific advice. This is why we have awaited and read the SCRS Report with great interest. It clearly shows the signs of recovery, and indicates the fruits of our labors are finally beginning to show. It is true that there are uncertainties, but the SCRS Report clearly states that these are related to the speed and the intensity of the recovery. In our view, this is a very positive signal and a piece of good and positive news after years of cuts. As such, this positive news and a positive feeling have to be taken into account when making the decisions that are before us.

However, it is not just the SCRS Report that has given us indications that the stock of bluefin tuna is recovering. Research undertaken in Croatia indicates that the quantities of tuna have increased, and have started interacting with other fisheries targeting small pelagics.

As for the activities undertaken, and in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, the stereoscopic system was applied in Croatia to estimate fish size at the point of transfer operations from towing to the stationary cages located along the eastern Adriatic coast. Findings were elaborated and presented at the ICCAT Stock Assessment meeting and then discussed at SCRS meeting. Results presented indicate the usefulness and the potential of the tool, and provide rationale for further studies and usage in the future. Croatia continues to support research activities related to tuna stock management.

During the duration of the Plan, since 2006, Croatia has fully adhered to all the management measures, including the cuts in capacity, implementation of the ROP, data collection and reporting.

The Plan has been growing more and more stringent, and some of the measures have proven to be difficult to implement. Some have yielded doubts as to their efficiency. Thus, we believe that now is the right time to reconsider some of the elements. We are all aware of the positive impact of the plan, but Croatia also fully shares the views that it should be further strengthened in some elements in order to make sure that its further implementation yields even better results in the future.

As Croatia has stated in previous years, we believe that regional specificities of population structure and dynamics govern the nature of the fishery, and these specificities should be taken into consideration when discussing seasons, sizes, capacities or any other management measures. With the specificities of its fishery, Croatia has some concerns as to the underlying assumptions in the methodology of capacity measures. With a different type of fishery in the Adriatic from the one operated in the Mediterranean, and with the capacity cuts already taken, we are concerned as to the viability of the activity as a whole.

Croatia believes that albeit a small increase, reverting to the 2010. TAC of 13,500 t should be the course to take. It will be a signal to everybody that the hard and difficult sacrifices made do pay off, and that continuation and strengthening of the plan for the forthcoming period may yield even better results leading to further increases in the TAC.

European Union

The European Union would like to express its deep appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special ICCAT Meeting in this beautiful city of Agadir. We would also like to praise the hard and excellent work done by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Meski, and the Secretariat throughout the year and for the preparation of this meeting, as well as wish all the best to our new Chair, Mr. Miyahara.

Over the last few years, ICCAT has substantially improved its performance and as such has rightfully raised high expectations from the civil society and the fishing industry on its role and capacity to manage fish stocks under its competence. The European Union firmly believes that ICCAT should keep up the momentum and continue promoting measures that further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organisation, and thus the sustainable management of resources under its purview.

To that end, the European Union believes that ICCAT should give priority to the core element of a sound fisheries management system: Science. ICCAT showed its commitment over the past few years in getting the best possible science, and the SCRS is providing managers with high quality scientific advice. This does not mean that we cannot do better. The *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science* [Res. 11-17] adopted last year paves the way for even better science and therefore we should make sure this year that ICCAT lives up to the commitments made last year.

On the conservation side, ICCAT will focus on bluefin tuna as the multi-annual recovery plan is due for review this year. The European Union welcomes the positive signs concerning the recovery of the stock. This suggests that the current management measures and the substantial efforts undertaken by the Contracting Parties are paying off. However, scientific advice stays cautious in view of the many uncertainties around the stock assessment. We hope therefore, that ICCAT Contracting Parties will be strongly committed to ensuring a continued trend in the recovery of the stock. Besides, the bluefin tuna recovery plan needs to be adapted to new realities and to the development of the fishery. Measures to better control farming activities and initiatives to further improve the traceability for this species should be envisaged. Launching the full implementation of an electronic Catch Documentation Scheme (eBCD) will be an important step in that regard and pave the way for similar traceability schemes for other species.

Still, on the conservation side, we hope that ICCAT will continue promoting the protection of vulnerable sharks species, in particular porbeagle and shortfin mako. The European Union is confident that its inter-sessional efforts to find consensus on its porbeagle proposal will yield success. The European Union also hopes that ICCAT adopts rebuilding measures for marlins that take into account all causes of mortalities, as outlined by the scientific advice for both blue marlin and white marlin.

To make sure that conservation measures yield success, the European Union expects ICCAT to further enhance monitoring and control measures this year and commends the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures for the proposals submitted to the ICCAT Commission. Establishing an in-port inspection scheme will be a significant step towards the implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and introducing traceability for species other than bluefin tuna will further advance ICCAT in its fight against IUU. In recent

years, the EU has confirmed and increased its commitment to the fight against IUU fisheries notably by adopting its IUU Regulation and Memoranda of Understanding with some of its major partners. Overall, we firmly believe that some more tangible progress by ICCAT is urgently needed and can be achieved at this meeting.

In the same vein, the European Union attaches the utmost importance to the compliance process: a high degree of compliance with adopted measures is a sine qua non condition for achieving our targets and objectives. We do hope that the Compliance Committee will have sufficient time to assess compliance with the rules for bluefin and tropical tunas, sharks, data submission obligations but also chartering arrangements. The European Union has worked hard itself in order to fully respect ICCAT requirements and to improve its data submissions, despite the EU being a complex Contracting Party in terms of composition and role in the ICCAT fisheries.

Finally, the European Union would like to thank the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT for the admirable work it carried out in order to envisage the way forward for our Organisation. Based on the proposal of the Working Group, we are strongly committed to working towards the excellence and efficiency of a modern and pioneer ICCAT.

The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at this 18th ICCAT Special Meeting.

Japan

On behalf of the Government of Japan, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government of Morocco for hosting this important meeting in Agadir, one of the most beautiful and elegant coastal cities, and also thanks Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary, as well as the other ICCAT Secretariat staff for the wonderful preparation and arrangements.

There are many challenging and important issues on the table at this meeting. Among other things, Japan gives priority to the following three issues.

The first issue is conservation and management of bluefin tuna. The SCRS report shows remarkable recovery of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock although there are some uncertainties. Japan considers that such recovery is the result of effective conservation and management measures that ICCAT has introduced in recent years. ICCAT should continue to make efforts to achieve the objective of the Convention based on scientific research and findings. For this purpose, mandatory introduction of stereoscopic camera recommended by SCRS is one of the important areas for improvement in control and monitoring.

Things are different when it comes to the western stock. Japan is concerned that SCRS is stuck with a two extreme scenario approach, namely, the Low and High Recruitment Scenarios, and cannot provide consistent scientific advice. ICCAT should seriously consider a new approach in the western stock assessment in order to give more certain conclusion on the stock status.

The second issue is strengthening of traceability for tuna species. ICCAT has been successfully operating Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme (BCD) for several years. In order to make it more useful and reduce the workload of its users and the Secretariat, we should introduce an electronic BCD system as soon as possible.

The success of BCD sets a good example for measures to strengthen traceability of tuna species. ICCAT should seriously consider the expansion of a catch documentation scheme to other tuna species such as skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye as a countermeasure against IUU fisheries.

The third issue is compliance of conservation and management measures for species other than bluefin tuna. ICCAT has been spending so much time on compliance of bluefin tuna. Now that the compliance of measures on bluefin tuna fisheries has been greatly improved, ICCAT should pay more attention to compliance of measures on other fisheries.

Regarding the Convention amendment, we are not yet convinced that this is the best way to improve the performance of ICCAT. Japan urges other members to consider that there are many other practical ways to improve the performance in a more efficient manner, and that it would take a tremendous amount of time and resources until negotiation is concluded among over 40 members.

Although there are differences of views on many important issues, Japan would like to work with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this annual meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

Namibia

The Namibian Delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special meeting of ICCAT in this beautiful city of Agadir. Our thanks and appreciation goes to the Secretariat and the organisers for the excellent meeting arrangements.

We are grateful for the broad membership of ICCAT and the innovativeness and flexibility with which this Commission has crafted and implemented management measures in the interest of greater sustainable utilisation of the species under its mandate.

As a developing coastal State, Namibia has devoted valuable, scarce resources to the design and implementation of a national Fisheries Management regime. Namibia's Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system ranks among the most efficient in the world, conferring full control over all fishing activities and processing plants.

The quota management of Namibia's share of marine resources under the purview of ICCAT is incorporated in our rights-based Individual Quota (IQ) management system, ensuring effective implementation of ICCAT management and conservation measures under our National Legislation. An autonomous Fisheries Observer System provides for 70% complete observer coverage on most fishing vessels. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) coverage for all trawlers, long liners and surface bait boats under the national VMS regulatory regime was put into place. Various National Plans of Action for the Management of Fisheries in Namibia have been implemented to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU).

Namibia would like to thank the Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group who met in Tokyo in April this year for their excellent proposals regarding the basis to develop a more simplified and easy adoptable Port Inspection Scheme. We were fortunate to attend this IMM meeting through the special Meeting Participation Fund established in Rec.11-26. Namibia as a developing coastal State considers the Implementation of Port State Measures a high priority, especially for the effective Monitoring and Control of Fishing Activities along the coastal and high seas of African Coastal States, which can be a major area for illegal fishing activities. Namibia for the past few years is dealing with fishing vessels operating in various RFMOs such as ICCAT, SEAFO and IOTC that are using Namibian ports for offloading operations due to its convenient location for vessels operating in the Atlantic Ocean and therefore we have adopted port state measures based on these Convention Areas and have developed our NPOA-IUU in 2007 to facilitate our port Inspections. The NPOA-IUU is designed to support the effective implementation of the FAO's International Plan of Action for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU). Namibia would also like to thank all other members who contributed to the outcome of this proposal. Namibia is pleased to see that these proposals will be considered and adopted at this 18th Special Commission Meeting in Agadir to improve the conservation and management measures of ICCAT fish stocks. It is in the common interest of all Parties that productivity of the fish stocks and their economic performance are at their optimal. We are therefore looking forward to the fruitful discussions over the next few days and to build upon the outcomes to improve the management of ICCAT fish stocks for the benefit of all members. Namibia wants to wish all the delegates and participants fruitful deliberations.

Tunisia

First of all, the Tunisian delegation would like to thank the Government of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special Meeting of our Commission, for the excellent organization and for its warm hospitality and wishes every success for our session.

The analysis of Tunisia's situation, after its people carried out a pacific revolution in January 2011, has shown that this country is at a turning point in its history. It is engaged in a process of democratization and is facing serious structural problems.

The success of this process cannot be achieved without economic and social transition that should respond to the following two challenges: The economic and social disparities among the regions that must be narrowed down and youth unemployment that has reached historic level and which must be quickly reduced to restore hope.

In this regard, it should be noted that the bluefin tuna fishing activity in Tunisia has been considerably affected in 2011 and 2012, particularly by the layoff of an important part of the vessel crews due to the reduction by half of the number of tuna vessels, which went from 42 in 2010 to 21 in 2012.

Thus, the sacrifices made may be amortized by exemption and encouragement at the level of some management measures in order to maintain the capacity for endurance of developing countries such as Tunisia encouraging them to commit to the implementation the ICCAT measures.

The exemptions requested are fully justified since these countries have been negatively affected by some restrictive measures taken by ICCAT in recent years. In particular, this concerns countries that have an ancient fishing tradition and have a considerable fishing fleet that employs an important national work force in terms of number and competence.

Our meeting will concentrate on the review of some biological and socio-economic issues linked to the exploitation of some species, in particular, the tuna species that concern the international community. ICCAT has shown its expertise in managing the fish stocks in a sustainable manner and has responded to questions raised. We are convinced that our Commission will be capable of finding adequate solutions to the difficulties encountered, always taking into account the sensitivity of some issues in some developing countries such as Tunisia so as to enable them to achieve their legitimate goals in matters of economic and social growth.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special ICCAT meeting in the enchanting city of Agadir.

The United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) consists of five different islands: Ascension Island, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and St. Helena. These are small coastal States in varying stages of development. During the year we have tried very hard to meet with all our ICCAT obligations and hope that we have managed to do so to the satisfaction of the Commission. It has not been easy to achieve this but we accept the importance of clear and accurate data to aid the work of the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics. As we stated at the Future of ICCAT Working Group in Madrid in May 2012, we would be interested to explore ways of simplifying procedures through revoking any redundant recommendations and avoiding duplication of data submission and look forward to returning to this issue during the meeting. We also note the progress made in discussions on the revision of the Convention and how to tackle various issues to improve the performance of ICCAT and welcome the chance to take these forward in Agadir.

Whilst accepting that once again the main focus of the meeting will be on bluefin tuna (and we hope that Contracting Parties can work together in order to ensure that measures are agreed that safeguard the future sustainability of the fishery), it is essential to recognise that ICCAT is not a one species organisation. There is a need to address conservation measures for stocks such as blue marlin and we will follow these discussions with great interest.

Measures taken to protect sharks at last year's annual meeting were very welcome and we would like to see further recommendations adopted this year that will protect other vulnerable shark species. In particular, we consider it essential that ICCAT takes firm action to protect the porbeagle shark as this species has been proposed for listing by CITES and we are confident that ICCAT will once again be able to demonstrate to the world that it can manage the fisheries resources for which it is responsible in a sustainable and efficient manner.

The UK OTs will also be making a request to ICCAT to allow the SCRS to carry out research on the Sargasso Sea in order to consider whether it merits protection measures. This is an iconic and pristine sea which is important to a number of ICCAT species, including porbeagle and swordfish, as a pupping, spawning ground or sanctuary. Last month the Conference of Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed that this area should be recognised as an Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA). As the Sargasso Sea is part of the ICCAT Convention Area we hope that Contracting Parties can agree to our proposal.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat for the outstanding work that it continues to do on behalf of the Contracting Parties. We wish them, the new Chair of ICCAT, Mr. Miyahara, the other chairs of the various Committees and Panels and other Contracting Parties our best wishes for a constructive and, ultimately successful, 18th Special Meeting of the Commission.

Uruguay

The Delegation of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay would like to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. Also, we would like to extend our appreciation to the Chairman of the Commission and the Secretariat for all the work done in organizing this meeting.

During the current year, the world population has grown to more than 7 billion people. This growth has been noted mainly in the poor coastal countries, particularly in the so-called “emerging” nations. Estimates indicate that this growth will continue in the coming years with the consequential requirement of food to satisfy the world demand.

In this sense, it is essential to broaden equality in our society, reducing the great distance that has been generated between the impoverished countries and those enriched in this historical period. To achieve this objective within the Commission, it should discuss again the criteria for allocation of the resources, including advice from the SCRS as well as the needs of the poor coastal countries. “Sustainable” management of the food resources cannot be achieved if there is inequality in the access to these resources.

A fair and equitable distribution of the highly migratory resources is needed to achieve a responsible commitment in the conservation and management of these resources. For this reason, we understand that the discussion on the future of ICCAT should take into account the current asymmetries and concerns which are contrary to the principles of this organization. We cannot exclude from this process either the allocation criteria or the evaluation of fair trade among the parties.

We believe that the Commission should comply in a stricter manner with the SCRS recommendations, developing improved possibilities in the Contracting Parties for data collection, participation and research. The activities of the SCRS must be strengthened immediately, providing the necessary and obligatory information that will enable this Committee to advise the Commission in an independent and effective manner, to be able to take the most adequate decisions on policy. The advice from the SCRS has shown to be the best route for the responsible management of the resources.

Uruguay is one of the signatory countries of the *Acuerdo del Estado Rector del Puerto* (Port State Control Agreement). The Uruguayan Parliament is studying this Agreement with a view towards its ratification, which demonstrates Uruguay’s commitment to the regulatory measures that promote the elimination of illegal fishing activities.

We are still concerned about the dimension and the direction that monitoring and control have taken in recent years. We need greater commitments and less costs and bureaucracy so that compliance is possible. We must generate capacities that enable the impoverished economies to achieve a level of monitoring and compliance that avoids the current disparities. In this way, the socio-economic situation is not a condition to be monitored through compliance.

Our delegation is willing to work and cooperate with all the Parties in reaching consensus that will finally enable achieving these objectives, through dialogue and with a fair participation of all the members of ICCAT.

Uruguay greets all the participants and wishes them a fruitful meeting in 2012.

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

Chinese Taipei

First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Government of Morocco for hosting the 18th Special Meeting of the Commission. I would also like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat and the Chairman of ICCAT for their hard work in preparing the meeting.

From 2006 onward, the UN General Assembly has adopted the "Sustainable Fisheries Resolution" every year in which it repeatedly calls upon all States, directly or through RFMOs and arrangements, to widely apply the principles of precautionary approach and ecosystem-based approach to the conservation, management and

exploitation of fish stocks in accordance with international law and the 1995 UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. During the same period of time, modernizing the constitutive agreement of ICCAT has been recognized as an important issue by all the CPCs of ICCAT. Moreover, that many of the major fish stocks managed by ICCAT have faced with a declining situation in recent years further illustrates the need of strengthening the existing ICCAT Convention. Against such backdrop, the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT has proposed to the Commission for its consideration a draft recommendation to establish a subsidiary body and to empower such body with a mandate of making amendments to the Basic Texts of ICCAT within a specific timeframe and with a participation of all CPCs.

We welcome such a positive and encouraging development. We trust that with the collective wisdom and spirit of cooperation shown by all the parties, the adoption of this draft recommendation can be expected and thus pave the way for bringing the existing ICCAT Convention in harmony with the recent development of international fisheries instruments and ethos. At this critical moment, we would like to urge all the Contracting Parties adopt this draft recommendation at this meeting so that we could commence our efforts of modernizing the ICCAT Convention with the participation of all CPCs that have real fisheries interests in this region.

In addition, conservation of sharks and management of shark fishery is an important issue in protecting biodiversity. We would like to see the Commission making further progress on the adoption of related resolutions in this regard, in particular with respect to the control or requirement of natural attachment of shark fins to bodies before the first landing of shark catch while taking into account the necessary flexibility for or adaptation to the practicality of implementation.

3.4 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO would like to thank both the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for extending an invitation to attend this 18th Special Meeting of the Commission, and also the host Government of Morocco for the warm hospitality that has been extended to delegates.

As a Fisheries Liaison Officer based in the Fisheries Policy Division of FAO, my specialization in FAO is liaison between the Organization and regional fishery bodies (RFB) and I am also the Secretary of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network. In both of these roles, I have enjoyed a productive working relationship with ICCAT which is widely recognized as a leading RFB in many areas of fisheries management.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the ICCAT delegates of news from FAO over the past 12 months. Most attention must focus on the thirtieth meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (9-13 July 2012) and the fourth meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (13 July 2012).

The COFI 30 Agenda included presentations on:

- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA);
- Progress in the Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments;
- Recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade;
- Recommendations from the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture;
- Ocean governance and relevant outcomes from Rio + 20;
- Updates on the development of International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries;
- Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and
- FAO's programme of work / vision for the future.

The COFI report can be found at www.fao.org/cofi

The Committee, among others, urged FAO to reinforce its emphasis on fish as food, ensure that these aspects were not lost in the global and regional frameworks for ocean conservation and management, and assert its leading role in fisheries and aquaculture and in ocean governance. The Committee further agreed that FAO should focus on those challenges which are relevant to its core mandate of food security and must join efforts with partners, including regional fishery bodies, to better address these challenges.

As part of follow-up action at FAO headquarters, a series of six new taskforces have been established to further FAO's work in particular areas. One such area is our relationship with all regional fishery bodies, and I am proud to have been asked to lead the RFB taskforce. Through this role, I look forward to working more collaboratively with all RFBs, particularly RFMOs as dynamic as ICCAT.

The fourth meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN4) was attended by 32 Regional Fishery Bodies and a representative from the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. Several months before the RSN meeting, all RFBs were sent a request to contribute a half page on the current issues facing their organization. A phenomenal amount of data was contributed by all bodies and this was compiled into a 10,000 word paper on current issues facing the world's RFBs. The paper was also used to stimulate discussion at RSN4. The most prolific discussion at the meeting focused on the ongoing problems of climate change, depleted shark stocks, RFB performance reviews, the lack of international attention being given to recreational fishing, and the human rights issues of fisheries including child labour in fishing and fisher safety-of-life-at-sea. In addition to this open discussion, presentations were given by four executive secretaries, including Driss Meski, who presented an overview of the status and trends in IUU fishing by focusing on the suite of measures in place among the tuna RFMOs.

This Eighteenth Special Meeting of ICCAT will deal with a wide array of subjects, some of which may be difficult. However, the Commission has a long history, and it is well placed to deal with all management matters. The FAO is confident that ICCAT member countries will conduct a productive meeting in Agadir.

I wish you all a very fruitful 18th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) statement on t-RFMOs

FAO appreciates the presentation by the Secretariat to introduce the FAO-GEF project "Sustainable Management of Tuna Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)". FAO also appreciates the support given by various t-RFMO members to the development of this project as well as participation of t-RFMO Secretariats and others in workshops in Madrid, Kobe 3, during COFI and Commission meetings.

FAO echoes the comments made by others that this project is in line with and supportive of the work currently being carried out by the t-RFMOs. In all cases, the objectives of this project are to work with the key stakeholders and through regular t-RFMO processes to achieve its objectives. The premise of the project is that more needs to be done to ensure the sustainable management of the oceanic tuna fisheries; this project provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate some successes which may lead to a second phase project and also more focused regional projects.

Following project approval, GEF will provide a cash grant through FAO to assist t-RFMOs, their members and other key stakeholders to address priority issues in these important tuna fisheries on the condition that full commitment to the project is provided by all project partners.

With respect to t-RFMOs as project partners let me clarify (1) how this project is in line with current procedures and practices of t-RFMOs, (2) what is being requested by the project and (3) what is not intended as a result of t-RFMO participation.

- This project is a partnership of the key stakeholders engaged in tuna fisheries.
- This project is working through existing t-RFMO mechanisms / processes. Any findings or results of the project's activities would come to the attention of the Commission through regular t-RFMO pathways. Any decisions to adopt / reject findings of project activities remain strictly with the Commissions.
- The current programmed / planned actions of the t-RFMOs are part of what FAO and GEF call the project baseline and which allow the project to access incremental funds from the GEF. Accordingly, the project does not seek any additional t-RFMO funds to be used in support of project activities. FAO also draws your attention to industry co-financing, which is \$34.7M. This figure reflects the industry baseline in the project. Together with other partners, the total baseline of co-financing of this project allows the project to access \$27.2M of grant from the GEF.
- A common thread in this project is that the GEF grant is a source of incremental funds. Simply stated, the baseline of the relevant partners provides the opportunity for GEF funds to be accessed. And, GEF resources provided to the project are intended to enable the activities to be completed within the proposed

budget envelope. Accordingly, the proposed project will not place any burden on the t-RFMOs or their budgets.

- In cases where the t-RFMO provides management oversight to specific project activities there is scope for reasonable re-imbursement within the overall budget envelope of the project.

FAO is currently the lead UN agency with competency in fisheries and aquaculture. The project brings incremental funds to the work of t-RFMOs and works through existing t-RFMO processes. We believe this project will benefit both the project partners and make a significant contribution towards more effective management of tuna resources globally: achieving these objectives requires all the key players to be onboard. This project is an opportunity that the FAO Secretariat believes should not be foregone.

3.5 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

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 over 100 countries, is the governing body for international recreational fishing, and provides rules for ethical angling practices. Many of IGFA's members target the highly migratory species managed by ICCAT, especially marlin, sailfish and spearfish (i.e., billfish) which are primarily caught and released.

IGFA has great concern about how highly migratory species are being managed on a global level for recreational anglers. The lack of data and accurate reporting on billfish catch is of particular concern. As an organization that is committed to the conservation of game fishes, IGFA has deployed 41 pop-up satellite archival tags in marlin around the world in the last year, 13 of which have been in waters under this organization's purview. The information gained from this exercise is available to your scientific committee.

The following are IGFA's recommendations for the 18th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas to be held in Agadir Morocco on November 12-19, 2012

Billfish

The most recent stock assessments for blue marlin, white marlin, and eastern Atlantic sailfish indicate that all three stocks are currently still overfished with overfishing occurring in blue marlin and eastern Atlantic sailfish. Catch data for all billfish species continues to be a problem, as does historic and current misidentification between white marlin and roundscale spearfish.

- IGFA recommends greater protection for sailfish and blue and white marlin by enhancing data collection.
- IGFA further recommends implementing a prohibition on Atlantic billfish entering into international trade. Similar legislation has recently been passed, at the request of IGFA, in the United States that now bans importation of marlin, sailfish and spearfish into the continental United States.
- We also recommend all countries be required to report dead discards and use circle hooks in their longline fisheries.

Bluefin tuna

Bluefin tuna TAC levels for both eastern and western bluefin tuna should not exceed the recommendations put forward by the SCRS.

- A recent SCRS report showed that total catch of eastern Atlantic bluefin has been as much as 77% above quota indicating the high prevalence of IUU fishing. As such IGFA agrees with the SCRS recommendation that the eastern stock should not be increased until stock assessment models incorporate more accurate catch data.
- The great uncertainties in the stock assessment for the western stock make it improbable that the stock will rebuild by the agreed on timeline. Particularly troubling are recent data that indicate that 72% of bluefin tuna caught off of the U.S. states of North Carolina and Virginia in 2011-2012 were of eastern origin, which may greatly overestimate the true population size of the western stock. Therefore, IGFA does not support increasing the western TAC from the current level of 1,750 t.

Sharks

IGFA recommends that ICCAT adopt measures to require that all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached. Such a measure would help further curtail illegal shark finning practices.

Compliance

ICCAT members must take action to strengthen measures to help reduce or eliminate IUU fishing.

- IGFA urges ICCAT members to fully implement the electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) program by the start of the 2013 Mediterranean purse seine fishing season.
- IGFA urges ICCAT to take all necessary steps to end illegal driftnet fishing for bluefin tuna and swordfish and to take action against all vessels that have been identified as engaging in IUU fishing.
- IGFA recommends better identification of fishing vessels, particularly those fishing for bluefin tuna.

General

Recreational angling is a growing and economically vibrant entity in many countries and we wish that ICCAT recognize both its relevance and that it may necessitate alternate management objectives than those used in commercial fisheries. IGFA kindly offers its consultation to ICCAT on recreational fisheries issues.

- Current ICCAT quota allocation and reallocation policies do not take into consideration the economic value of catch and release recreational fisheries. ICCAT Contracting parties should be free to utilize quota as they desire, even if it is not fully harvested without penalty of quota redistribution.
- Managing fisheries on the basis of MSY is an excessively risk-prone approach. As such, we suggest that ICCAT adopt a target objective below MSY to compensate for biological, environmental and data uncertainties.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) is a global partnership among the tuna industry, science and WWF, the global conservation organization. Our mission is to work toward the science-based conservation and management of tuna stocks and the protection of ocean health by supporting regional fisheries management organizations and advocating for the recommendations of each organization's scientific advisory body.

The first part of our statement addresses three of the most important issues facing global tuna sustainability: reference points and harvest control rules, fleet capacity and the management of FADs. The second part addresses challenges specific to ICCAT.

Global issues

Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and Reference Points. HCRs are a set of well-defined management actions to be taken in response to changes in stock status with respect to target and limit reference points. Unless there is a pre-agreed upon action plan for avoiding overfishing or for rebuilding an overfished stock, long negotiations lead to delayed action or inaction. This delay can lead to further damage to the stock, requiring even more aggressive curtailing of fishing. The adoption of HCRs is a key aspect of modern fisheries management, and is also a requirement of several eco-label certification programs.

ISSF endorses the application of the Precautionary Approach using clear target and limit reference points and HCRs, as called for by the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and by some RFMO Conventions. While most tuna RFMOs have at least begun consideration of limit reference points through their science committees, none have fully implemented these measures. ISSF urges all tuna RFMOs to adopt stock-specific limit and target reference points and HCRs. This is one of the most important actions that RFMO members can take to ensure the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks.

ISSF applauds ICCAT's progress in 2011 setting forth a general framework for harvest control rules tied to Kobe plots in Recommendation 11-13. ISSF now urges the Commission to establish stock-specific target and limit reference points and to specify the probability levels to be associated with Recommendation 11-13.

Closed Vessel Registries and Management of Fleet Capacity. Experts agree that there is overcapacity in the global tuna fleets. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures and eventually leads to stock overexploitation. The first step towards managing capacity is to establish limited entry via a

comprehensive closed vessel registry with an eye towards ultimately reducing the number of fishing vessels to an appropriate level. The IATTC is the only tuna RFMO with a closed vessel registry, although current capacity is well in excess of resource productivity.

ISSF supports the Kobe III call for a freeze in purse seine fishing capacity by developed fishing nations and creating mechanisms to transfer capacity to developing countries with aspirations to participate in these fisheries. These steps should be taken now, since scaling back fleet capacity will become even more difficult as new vessels are introduced. To this end, ISSF urges the following actions:

- ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC adopt closed vessel registries, especially for the purse seine fleets;
- All tuna RFMOs develop capacity transfer mechanisms to allow for increased participation by developing countries without an increase in overall capacity, while ensuring effective monitoring and control of the fisheries;
- All tuna RFMOs establish rules for monitoring and managing the movement of fishing capacity among the respective Convention areas;
- All tuna RFMOs require unique vessel identifiers (such as IMO numbers), in order to strengthen their ability to monitor fishing capacity globally through the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV).

ISSF is encouraged by ICCAT's tightening of the yellowfin and bigeye authorized vessel lists and the addition of a field in the active vessel register for unique identifiers (e.g., IMO numbers) in 2011. Moving forward, ISSF urges further effort toward a meaningful cap on fleet capacity to a level commensurate with the productivity of the ICCAT tuna resources.

Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Management. Setting on FADs accounts for nearly 40% of global tuna catches and 50% of global skipjack catches. The time is ripe for a concerted global effort to gather and report to RFMOs data on FADs (e.g., via logbooks) in order to better monitor FAD usage and to establish a sound basis for their management in every ocean region. With this information, scientists can advise decision-makers on how to reduce catches of small tunas and by-catch of non-target species that are commonly associated with FADs. Providing science bodies with detailed data on FADs and other floating objects can also greatly improve their stock assessments. However, with the exception of data collected through observer programs, here remains a lack of information about this type of fishing at the RFMO level. In addition there is a growing understanding of best practices in FAD construction and by-catch mitigation -developments that ISSF is actively promoting- that could be implemented in the short term.

According to ICCAT's 2012 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics¹ in order to adequately monitor FADs, there are two primary types of information that need to be collected and reported to RFMO scientific bodies: (i) an inventory and activity record of FADs ("FAD logbook": FAD markings, construction specifications, deployment, retrievals, etc.), and (ii) a record of encounters of fishing and supply vessels with the FADs ("Fishing logbook": catch, by species, that results from sets made on FADs). These two types of information should be linked through the FAD ID or marking. Using this data, RFMO scientific bodies can and should advise on any necessary FAD management measures, followed by the development of effective mechanisms for implementation and compliance monitoring by fishery managers. ISSF urges ICCAT to amend Recommendation 11-01 so that these FAD data are collected and reported to SCRS.

Action needed

1. Tropical tunas

In 2011, ICCAT adopted TACs for bigeye and yellowfin that are consistent with the advice from SCRS. According to SCRS, these limits are not being exceeded, but current catches are close and substantial revisions to recent Ghanaian catches could result in the need to revisit TACs. Therefore, the stocks should be closely monitored.

The last assessment of the two Atlantic skipjack stocks took place in 2008, using data up to 2006. Though skipjack stocks are considered to be resilient to overfishing, current catches exceed what the SCRS then considered to be the upper bound of the estimated MSY. Given the outdated assessment and current high exploitation rates, ICCAT should mandate a new assessment for the skipjack stocks.

2. Temperate tunas

In 2011, ICCAT adopted TACs for northern and southern albacore that are consistent with the advice from SCRS. However, it failed to adopt any measures for the Mediterranean stock, which appears to have experienced

overfishing in recent years. Numerous data deficiencies for this stock were highlighted by the SCRS but have not been addressed by CPCs. ISSF urges the CPCs identified by SCRS to review their historical data for Mediterranean albacore and submit revisions to SCRS.

3. Sharks

ISSF urges CPCs to follow the SCRS recommendation to report fishery statistics of all ICCAT and non-ICCAT fisheries capturing pelagic sharks, including recreational and artisanal fisheries. Furthermore, ISSF is urging all tuna RFMOs to adopt measures to prohibit deliberate purse seine setting around whale sharks, and the at-sea removal of shark fins - mandating that they remain naturally attached until the shark is landed.

4. Full retention of catch

While other RFMOs have adopted tuna catch retention measures, to date ICCAT has not taken steps to do the same. The dumping of less valuable tuna in favour of higher value catch distorts our understanding of the actual impact on the tuna stocks by fishing operations. ISSF urges ICCAT to adopt comprehensive catch retention measures for all tunas. ISSF also urges the Commission to consider a similar measure for the full retention of all by-catch by purse seine vessels, except where otherwise prohibited by ICCAT or national regulations, or where the animal can be released alive. As noted during the Kobe III meeting, by-catch retention - particularly for coastal developing states - can increase food security and provide additional socio-economic benefits.

5. Observer coverage

Comprehensive observer coverage on purse seine vessels is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas. ICCAT adopted 100% observer coverage but only during the two-month FAD closure in Recommendation 11-01. ISSF urges ICCAT to extend the 100% observer coverage on large-scale purse seiners in its tropical tuna fisheries to cover the entire year.

For further information please visit <http://www.ISS-FOUNDATION.org>

Oceana

Oceana appreciates the opportunity to participate as an observer in this 18th Special meeting of the Commission and thanks the Kingdom of Morocco for its gracious hospitality.

This meeting provides the Commission with an opportunity to demonstrate to the global community that it is committed to the real and effective management of all of the species within the scope of ICCAT. The outcomes of the meeting will serve as proof that the Commission has learned from its past failures and is seriously committed to building a new, responsible management scenario for the future.

This year's meeting will undoubtedly be marked by the reopening of discussions on the eastern bluefin tuna recovery plan. During the past decade, eastern bluefin tuna has sadly been one of the most notorious fish stocks in the world. Decades of mismanagement and illegal fishing pushed it to the brink of collapse, while ICCAT neglected scientific advice, NGO warnings, and calls for action from the global community. In 2009, the imminent collapse of the fishery resulted in the scientific assessment of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks as being suitable for listing under Appendix I of the CITES Convention, which would have prohibited all international trade in this species.

In 2012, after enormous economic and political sacrifices, the eastern bluefin tuna stock assessment indicated positive signs of recovery, levels of illegal fishing have been significantly reduced, and the most recent management measures have followed scientific advice more closely than ever before in ICCAT history. However, the situation remains extremely delicate, and these hard-won gains could easily vanish, if early signs of biomass recovery are used to justify premature claims for increased quotas.

At this 18th Special meeting of the Commission, Oceana wishes to emphasise that while a substantial part of management efforts and attention have focused on bluefin tuna, the vast majority of species under the jurisdiction of ICCAT remain completely unmanaged, fulfilment of data reporting requirements is far from acceptable, and overall compliance in the Convention area is only in its infancy. The 2011 ICCAT Regular Meeting laid a key milestone for turning the tide of past trends in this Convention, by adopting a package of Recommendations addressing compulsory information and data reporting, which now needs to be enforced.

With roughly 30 species within its purview, ICCAT CPCs must show their commitment to strengthening management, ensuring compliance, and broadening the current priorities of this Convention beyond merely single species management. In particular, most shark species caught in ICCAT fisheries are completely unmanaged - important species such as shortfin makos and blue sharks are caught without any limits, highly threatened species such as porbeagles continue to be landed and sold. This group of vulnerable fishes must be a priority for precautionary management.

Oceana believes that eastern bluefin tuna should be allowed to follow a stable path towards full recovery, while ICCAT broadens its focus and addresses the management of the remaining ICCAT fisheries.

Oceana calls upon ICCAT CPCs to:

- Secure the recovery of eastern bluefin tuna, by maintaining current TAC levels, in accordance with SCRS Recommendations.
- Set science-based, precautionary limits on catches of shortfin mako and blue sharks, which are key targeted species in ICCAT fisheries.
- Prohibit the retention, landing, and trade of highly threatened species, such as porbeagles.
- Close the loopholes in the ICCAT ban on shark finning, by requiring sharks to be landed with their fins attached policy in ICCAT Convention area.
- Show real commitment to establishing a culture of compliance, which is essential for effective fisheries management.

Pew Environment Group

The Pew Environment Group thanks delegates at this meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for the opportunity to discuss science-based measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna, conservation and management measures for sharks and compliance with ICCAT measures. We thank the Moroccan government for its excellent efforts in organizing this meeting.

We call your attention to our policy statement, “Better Management for all ICCAT Species: Time to Fill in the Puzzle Pieces”, which was circulated electronically to all Contracting Parties (CPs), and is available on our website at www.pewenvironment.org/ip (in English, French, and Spanish) along with copies of our other materials. The following supplements that policy statement and other documents.

Recommendations

The Pew Environment Group is encouraged that ICCAT has taken steps in recent years towards more sustainable management of tunas and sharks, as well as improving compliance with existing management measures. However, more work is still needed as these actions are not yet sufficient to ensure compliance with existing measures, and initially restore and then guarantee healthy tuna and shark populations across the Atlantic Ocean, or to fully implement the outcomes of Rio+20.

ICCAT members must heed the science and fully address illegal fishing and the catch of associated and dependent species. Added to this, ICCAT should also begin the formal process of amending its treaty to explicitly include sharks as managed species and ensure that sound science, the ecosystem approach and the precautionary principle underpin all decisions made and ensure they are as robust as possible. ICCAT can then begin to transform itself into a leading voice for long-term sustainability.

We recommend that ICCAT take the following 10 critical actions at this year’s meeting:

1) Adopt science-based measures for Atlantic bluefin tuna

This year’s annual ICCAT meeting is a critical time for Atlantic bluefin tuna. ICCAT’s scientific committee (Standing Committee on Research and Statistics, SCRS) updated its stock assessments this year for Atlantic bluefin and provided strong management advice favouring precaution in setting quotas for both the eastern and western populations. ICCAT members should follow clear and strong scientific advice to maintain quotas at current levels through at least 2015, which will allow both stocks to continue to increase. Members must also look to the future and ensure that the scientific model used to determine the status of the population is sound and that illegal fishing is accounted for and addressed.

2) Do not increase any bluefin tuna quotas

Western Atlantic bluefin: The 2012 stock assessment indicates that the western Atlantic bluefin population is just 36% of the 1970 population level (SCRS/2012/033). The SCRS reports that maintaining the western Atlantic quota at the current level of 1,750 metric tons (t) would allow the population to increase, regardless of assumptions about the potential long-term productivity of the stock. Recent research also confirms that many of the fish that the SCRS counted in past assessments as western bluefin were actually eastern bluefin that migrated to the western Atlantic to feed (Block 2005; Carlsson *et al.* 2007; Rooker *et al.* 2008). Updating the stock assessment will ensure that management decisions accurately reflect the mixing of the eastern and western populations.

Eastern Atlantic bluefin: A recent study shows that between 2005 and 2011, total catch of eastern Atlantic bluefin was 62% over quota and increased to 77% over quota from 2008 (SCRS/2012/144). This analysis confirmed previous reports that showed persistent illegal fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic despite stricter regulations and increased enforcement efforts (Tudela and Quilez 2012; PEW 2011; ICCAT 2009). The SCRS also expressed concerns that the potential total catch of the existing fleet could easily be in excess of the current quotas (ICCAT, 2009). Pew urges ICCAT members to follow the SCRS' precautionary management advice and not increase quotas for eastern Atlantic bluefin, now and at least until the stock assessment model reflects a more accurate tally of total fishing mortality.

3) Adopt conservation and management measures to protect sharks

Sharks are among the ocean's most vulnerable animals. More than half of the shark species taken in high-seas fisheries are classified on the IUCN Red List as Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near Threatened. ICCAT members must take actions to address sharks at this year's meeting. Until robust stock assessments are available, precautionary conservation and management measures should be developed and adopted.

4) Prohibit the retention of porbeagle and other threatened and highly vulnerable shark species

The IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species assessed porbeagle sharks as Vulnerable globally, Critically Endangered in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, and Endangered in the northwest Atlantic. In addition, the ICCAT Shark Working Group has recently completed an updated Ecological Risk Analysis (ERA) that shows the porbeagle to be one of the shark species most vulnerable to ICCAT fisheries, based on its low productivity and high susceptibility to catch (SCRS/2012/167). Due to its poor conservation status in the ICCAT Convention Area and vulnerability to ICCAT fisheries, ICCAT should prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale porbeagle sharks. ICCAT should also prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale other threatened species found to be highly vulnerable by the ERA including longfin mako sharks (SCRS/2012/167).

5) Establish concrete, precautionary, science-based catch limits for shortfin mako sharks

According to the ERA, the shortfin mako shark is one of the shark species most vulnerable to ICCAT fisheries, based on its low productivity and high susceptibility to catch (SCRS/2012/167). Based on the ERA and a recent stock assessment, the SCRS recommended not allowing shortfin mako catch levels to increase. Therefore, ICCAT should establish concrete precautionary catch limits for shortfin mako sharks to ensure catch does not increase.

6) Close loopholes in the current shark finning Recommendation

Up to 73 million sharks are killed annually to support the global shark fin trade. ICCAT was the first RFMO to ban shark finning—the wasteful practice of slicing off a shark's fins and discarding the body at sea—but loopholes still hamper enforcement of the ban. The existing ban on finning can be strengthened by prohibiting the removal of shark fins at sea, which will also facilitate collection of species-specific catch data and help ensure compliance with existing ICCAT conservation and management measures for sharks.

7) Improve Compliance with ICCAT measures

ICCAT has developed a set of measures to support compliance with its recommendations. However, its compliance scheme is by no means complete, nor sufficiently effective to end illegal fishing practices in the ICCAT Convention area.

Alarming information reported on high rates of illegal catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna above quota (SCRS/2012/144) is further confirmation that IUU fishing is a pervasive problem for this species. At this meeting ICCAT members need to:

- a) Take action to fully implement the electronic bluefin catch documentation (eBCD) scheme by the start of the 2013 purse seine fishing season in the Mediterranean Sea, taking whatever steps necessary to first fix the problems identified during the pilot program;
- b) Take action against all vessels that have been identified as using driftnets in violation of Recommendation 03-04; and
- c) Eliminate the western bluefin carry-forward provision, as the stock is known to be overfished with overfishing occurring.

Sharks: It has been three years since ICCAT first prohibited retention of the first shark species, the bigeye thresher shark, and since then several additional shark species have been added (with associated measures prohibiting landing, transshipment, and trade). It is now time for ICCAT to review the implementation of and compliance with its shark conservation and management measures. In addition, 2013 is the first year shortfin mako fishing is to be prohibited for Parties not submitting catch data under Rec. 10-06. The Compliance Committee should carefully review which Parties have submitted data and notify those who have not provided data to stop landing this species beginning January 1, 2013 until data is submitted.

8) Strengthen ICCAT's port State controls

ICCAT should adopt the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group proposal on port State measures to further efforts to curb illegal fishing. This needs to include prohibiting any vessel found to have violated ICCAT recommendations from landing, transshipping or having access to port services.

9) Improve the identification of fishing vessels, particularly those fishing for bluefin tuna

In the face of continued illegal fishing operations, particularly in the bluefin tuna fishery, ICCAT must also improve identification of fishing vessels through the use of International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers, particularly vessels fishing for bluefin tuna through the following actions:

- a) Require that all ICCAT bluefin tuna vessels that are 20 meters or greater or fish outside the EEZ of their flag State have an IMO number, and that this number is reported as part of the records of ICCAT vessels authorised to fish bluefin tuna¹
- b) Require effective implementation of the mandate to report a vessel's IMO number by submitting all the information required under Recommendations 11-12 and 10-04 before the end of 2012.
- c) Require that an IMO number be provided in all relevant Annexes of Recommendation 10-04 and of Recommendation 11-20 on the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program.

10) Begin the Formal Process to Amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

As an international treaty body operating in the 21st century, it is critical that ICCAT formally embrace international best practices for fisheries management, as defined by more modern agreements and resolutions, including the Antigua Convention², the UN Fish Stocks Agreement³, and the UN Sustainable Fisheries Resolution⁴. It is vital that ICCAT's treaty codify the need to implement both the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach to management, as well as explicitly include sharks as managed species, in order to ensure healthy populations of tunas and sharks into the future.

¹ This requirement can be introduced for example as a modification of the reporting requirements established in Recommendation 10-04 or of those established in Recommendation 11-12. All relevant Annexes of Recommendation 10-04 should be modified so as to include a field where to provide each vessel's IMO number.

² Antigua Convention. 2010. www.iattc.org/IaTTCdocumentationenG.htm

³ Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. 1995. www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/fish_stocks_agreement/CONF164_37.htm

⁴ Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments. www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/convention_overview_fish_stocks.htm.

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REPORTS OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

4.1 REPORT ON THE 7TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES (Tokyo, Japan, April 2 to 6, 2012)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan), Commission Chairman, opened the meeting and welcomed Parties to Japan.

2. Election of Chair

Since the PWG Chair was absent, Mr. Masanori Miyahara, volunteered to chair the 7th Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Michael Clark (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted without changes and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**, and the List of Participants attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1**.

5. Review of progress of eBCD implementation

The ICCAT Secretariat presented the document entitled “Progress of eBCD implementation”. Following the evaluation of the technical proposals, the selection committee selected TRAGSA/The Server Labs from among four qualified offers that were received. The contract was signed during the week of March 26, 2012, and the technical work started April 2, 2012. Issues remain concerning how to implement the proposed pilot project (including timing and scope) and financing the program in the long-term. Several delegations, including Japan, the EU, and the United States, noted their interest in continuing their participation in the discussions surrounding these issues, including participating in the pilot implementation of the program.

6. Review and consideration of monitoring, control, and surveillance issues

6.1 Harmonization of vessel records – progress report and possible next steps

The Executive Secretary introduced the document entitled “Notes from the ICCAT Secretariat on Agenda Item 6”, which provided background on the issues surrounding the development of the Global Record and the tuna RFMO consolidated list of authorized vessels (CLAV), including development and assignment of unique vessel identifiers (UVI). Recognizing that the Kobe process has recommended development of a UVI, the Working Group discussed possible approaches, including using the existing IMO number, to harmonize vessel records and establish an identifier that could eventually be used in the CLAV and the FAO Global Record. The United States indicated that ICCAT could take two initial steps towards this goal. First, the ICCAT could amend the ICCAT record of authorized vessels to include the tuna-UVIs being generated for each vessel through the CLAV process. Second, ICCAT could require that vessels on the record of authorized vessels that are currently eligible to obtain IMO numbers do so. China noted it would have issues with using the IMO number because its domestic fishing and transport vessels are managed under different departments. The Secretariat mentioned that there will be a meeting of the five tuna RFMOs through the Kobe process to discuss this matter, at FAO in June 2012. The Working Group agreed that the issue should be considered further at the annual meeting.

6.2 Traceability system for all bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna products

Taking into account the outcomes of the Kobe process, Japan presented a document entitled “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Catch Certification Scheme for Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye [Albacore] Tuna [and Swordfish]” (see **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**). Japan noted that the current bigeye statistical document program only covered a portion of total bigeye catches and lacked a catch certification process and further explained the proposal was intended to address both of these issues without being as comprehensive as the bluefin catch documentation scheme. Japan also considered that it would be most convenient for every CPC if the Japanese proposal was based on the EU IUU regulation which many CPCs have already implemented. Most of the participants noted the benefit of establishing a broader ICCAT scheme. They also noted that duplication should be avoided with the existing documentation schemes.

The Working Group discussed the scope of the proposed scheme; some CPCs suggested that it should cover albacore and swordfish in addition to bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna.

The Working Group also discussed the costs of these programs for developing states, importers and exporters, and the ICCAT Secretariat. With that in mind, the Chair requested that Japan and the EU, as co-sponsors of the proposal, consult with the ICCAT Secretariat to develop a cost estimate for the program. The Chair also asked all ICCAT CPCs to review the appendices in the document and provide comments to Japan and the EU before the next ICCAT Annual Meeting.

The United States and Turkey expressed general reservations to this proposal.

The views of certain CPCs on this proposal are attached in **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1**.

6.3 Port State measures, including port inspection scheme

The EU introduced document entitled “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port” designed to strengthen ICCAT’s existing port inspection scheme [Rec. 97-10]. Several CPCs noted that, pending progress in the ongoing discussions of a full ICCAT Port State Measures scheme, there was a need to strengthen and update ICCAT’s port inspection requirements. The Working Group discussed and amended the draft proposal, and the revised draft is appended as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**. Several issues remain in brackets. The Working Group noted the link between this measure and the provisions of ICCAT’s IUU vessel list.

6.4 At sea boarding and inspection scheme

Canada noted the importance of this issue and recalled that its proposal from 2008 was still on the table but that they did not intend to press for a detailed discussion of it at this meeting. Some Parties noted the need to make progress on this issue as it represents an important Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) tool and considered that further discussion should be undertaken at the 2012 ICCAT Annual Meeting in a fishery by fishery context.

6.5 Vessel Monitoring Systems

The United States introduced the proposal entitled “Draft Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area that would modify paragraph three of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14]. Specifically, vessels subject to Rec. 03-14 would need to increase the frequency that their VMS units provide geographic position data from at least every six hours to at least every two hours in line with scientific advice. Vessels would continue to provide summary data on at least a daily basis consistent with the existing measure. Discussions ensued on potential costs associated with increased VMS transmission rates, the rationale for selecting this frequency, regions and species that should be affected by this measure, and transmission rates in other RFMOs. Most Parties supported the proposed modification; however, two Parties noted support for the status quo. A 4-hour polling rate was discussed as an alternative, but some had concerns that this was still not frequent enough to ensure effective monitoring and control. Another alternative put forward was that increased polling frequency should only apply to bluefin tuna fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea but this limited scope could not be agreed. The Working Group agreed that this was a very important issue and that it should be further considered at the 2012 Commission meeting. The proposal is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1** to facilitate Commission

discussion. In the interim, Parties with financial concerns about the proposal agreed to investigate the cost implications of increasing polling frequency in preparation for consideration of this matter in November.

6.6 At sea transshipment controls

The United States introduced document entitled “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment” that was intended to strengthen the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a Programme for Transshipment* [Rec. 06-11] by expanding its scope and incorporating additional monitoring requirements, such as enhanced domestic observer coverage requirements. The draft was discussed and a revised version is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1**. Some Parties expressed concern about the additional observer program requirements for fishing vessels, noting it was unclear why this increase was needed and what the scientific basis was, and suggested that this issue should be discussed separately from the at-sea transshipment issue. As such, this element and other aspects of the draft proposal remained in brackets.

The Working Group noted that in port transshipment in Annex 3 of this document is related to the outcome of the discussion on port inspection schemes.

6.7 Other Issues

No other issues were discussed.

7. Recommendation to the Commission on actions required

The Working Group recommends that the Commission, at its 2012 meeting, further consider **Appendices 3 to 6 to ANNEX 4.1**, to finalize them as a matter of priority.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9. Adoption of Report and adjournment

The report was adopted with the amendments as summarized by the Chair, and the meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Appointment of rapporteur
4. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
5. Review of progress of eBCD implementation
6. Review and consideration of monitoring, control, and surveillance issues
 - a) Harmonization of vessel records - progress report and possible next steps
 - b) Traceability system for all bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna products
 - c) Port State measures, including port inspection scheme
 - d) At-sea boarding and Inspection scheme
 - e) Vessel monitoring systems
 - f) At-sea transshipment controls
 - g) Other issues
7. Recommendations to the Commission on actions required
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of report and adjournment

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Catch Certification Scheme for Skipjack,
Yellowfin and Bigeye [Albacore] Tuna and [Swordfish]**

RECOGNIZING the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

CONCERNED by the impact that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has in the Convention area;

REITERATING the responsibilities of flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting ICCAT conservation and management measures;

NOTING the need for improved and strict control on all the components involved in the tuna and tuna like species fisheries;

UNDERLINING the complementary role that importing States also have in the control of the catches of tuna and tuna like species to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

AWARE that the current Bigeye tuna statistical document programme was not designed to ensure that products of such species subject to international trade are not caught by IUU fishing;

RECOGNIZING that in order to have effective control of the movements of tuna and tuna like species, strict tracing of the product from the point of capture throughout the whole operation to its final import has to be established;

COMMITTED to taking steps that conform with international law, notably as regards the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to ensure that tuna and tuna like species entering markets of Contracting and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities of ICCAT and non-members of ICCAT is caught in the Convention area in a manner that does not diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

UNDERLINING that the adoption of this measure is intended to help support the implementation of conservation and management measures as well as scientific research for tuna and tuna like species stocks;

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

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Each Contracting Party, Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary steps to implement an ICCAT Catch Certification Scheme for the purpose of

improving the traceability of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye [albacore] tuna [swordfish] (hereinafter referred to as "tuna species") caught in the ICCAT Convention area.

2. For the purpose of this Scheme:

a) "Export" means:

Any movement of tuna species caught in the ICCAT Convention area by a fishing vessel flying the flag of a CPC to the area of another CPC or non-Member to the ICCAT, or from the fishing grounds to the area of a CPC which is not the flag CPC of the fishing vessel or to the area of a non-Member to the ICCAT.

b) "Import" means:

Any introduction, including for transshipment purposes, of tuna species caught in the ICCAT Convention area in their caught or processed forms into the area of a CPC, which is not the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged.

c) "Re-export" means:

Any movement of tuna species in their caught or processed forms from the area of a CPC where it had been previously imported.

d) "Consignment" means:

Tuna species products which are either sent simultaneously from one exporter to one consignee or covered by a single transport document covering their shipment from the exporter to the consignee.

e) "Flag CPC" means:

The CPC to which the vessel catching tuna and tuna like specie is flagged.

f) "Competent authority" means:

Any public authority, public institution and/or official [or other individuals or institutions authorized by the flag CPC] empowered to attest the veracity of information contained in documents required under this Recommendation and to carry out verification of such documents.

PART II

TUNA SPECIES CATCH CERTIFICATE

3. Each consignment imported into or exported or re-exported from the area of a CPC shall be accompanied by a completed and validated Tuna species catch certificate (TSCC) and, as applicable, a validated Tuna species re-export certificate (TSRC). Such documents shall be used to certify that catches have been made by a fishing vessel or fishing vessels in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Any such import, export or re-export without a completed and validated TSCC or TSRC shall be prohibited.
4. Each TSCC form shall have a unique certificate identification number. Certificate numbers shall be specific to the flag CPC.
5. Copies of TSCC shall accompany each exported part of split consignments or processed product, using the unique certificate number of the original TSCC in order to trace them.
6. CPCs shall keep copies of certificates issued or received for at least two years.
7. Export, import and re-export of fish parts other than the meat (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) shall be exempted from the requirements of this Recommendation.
8. The fishing vessel masters, their authorized representative, the authorized representative of the flag CPC or the exporter shall complete the TSCC, if possible electronically, by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request its validation in accordance with paragraph 10, on each occasion that they export tuna species.

9. A completed and validated TSCC shall include the relevant information identified in **Annex 1** form attached. One of the ICCAT official languages shall be used to complete this form. In cases where a section of the TSCC model does not provide enough room to completely trace movement of tuna species from catch to final import, the needed information section may be expanded as necessary and attached as Annex.
- 10.a) The TSCC shall be validated by the competent authority of the flag CPC.
- b) The competent authority of the flag CPC shall validate the TSCC for all tuna species products only when all the information contained in the TSCC has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when those products comply with all relevant provisions of the conservation and management measures.
- c) [Validation under 10(a) shall not be required in the event that all tuna and tuna-like products available for sale are tagged by the flag CPC. However, the TSCC shall be completed and accompany the products.] [In the case that the tuna species are traded in a fresh or chilled form, a tag shall be attached to it. ICCAT shall develop an electronic tagging system in which anyone having a designated scanner can retrieve the information instantly by scanning the tag by the end of 2015.]
10. *bis* Where tuna species are transshipped or landed in bulk, competent authorities of the flag CPC shall make an additional validation of the catch certificate section 3 "verified weight landed", following classification of species composition.
11. Where the tuna species quantities caught and landed, intended for export, are less than 1 metric ton or three fish, the logbook, declaration of the fishing master or the sales note may be used as a temporary TSCC, pending the validation of the TSCC within seven days and prior to export.

PART III

TUNA SPECIES RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATES

12. Each CPC shall ensure that each consignment which is re-exported from its area be accompanied by a validated TSRC.
13. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the TSRC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the consignment to be re-exported. The completed TSRC shall be accompanied by a copy of the validated TSCC relating to the tuna species products previously imported.
14. The TSRC shall be validated by the competent authority of the re-exporting CPC.
15. The re-exporting CPC shall validate the TSRC for all tuna species product only when:
- a) all the information contained in the TSRC has been established to be accurate,
 - b) the validated TSCC(s) submitted in support to the TSRC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the TSCC,
 - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same products on the validated TSCC(s) and
 - d) a copy of the TSCC(s) shall be attached to the validated TSRC.
16. The validated TSRC shall include the information identified in **Annex 2** form attached. One of the ICCAT official languages shall be used to complete this form.

PART IV

PROCESSED PRODUCTS

17. In order to re-export products constituting one single consignment and which have been processed in that re-exporting CPC using tuna species imported from a third country other than that re-exporting CPC, the re-exporting CPC shall ensure that the TSRC shall be accompanied by a Processing Statement(s) established

by the processing plant and endorsed by its competent authorities. The Processing Statement shall be in accordance with the form of **Annex 3** to the TSCC.

18. When a CPC exports processed products of tuna species caught by catching vessels flagged to the CPC, it is not required to submit a Processing Statement(s). [However, importing CPCs may request clarification to the exporting CPC on the processing.]

PART V

TAGGING PROGRAMS

19. CPCs may require their fishing vessels to affix a tag to each tuna species product preferably at the time of kill, but no later than the time of landing. Tags shall have unique country specific numbers and be tamper proof. The tag numbers shall be linked to the TSCC and a summary of the implementation of the tagging program shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC.

PART VI

SIMPLIFIED TUNA SPECIES CATCH CERTIFICATE

20. Pre This part shall apply to fishing vessels:
- (i) with an overall length of less than 12 meters without towed gear; or
 - (ii) with an overall length of less than 8 meters with towed gear; or
 - (iii) without a superstructure; or
 - (iv) of less than measured 20 GT.
20. Catches by such fishing vessels which are only landed in the flag CPCs and which together constitute one consignment may be accompanied by a simplified tuna species catch certificate (hereinafter referred to as "simplified TSCC") instead of the TSCC.
21. The simplified TSCC shall contain all the information specified in the form shown in **Annex 4**, and shall be validated by the competent authority of the flag CPC. One of the ICCAT official languages shall be used to complete this form.

PART VII

COMMUNICATION AND VERIFICATION

22. Each CPC shall communicate, if possible electronically, a copy of all validated TSCCs, simplified TSCC or TSRCs within [five working days] following the date of validation, or without delay where the expected duration of the transportation should not take more than five working days, to the following:
- a) the competent authorities of the CPC where the tuna species will be imported, and;
 - b) [the ICCAT Secretariat.]
23. The ICCAT Secretariat shall extract from the validated TSCCs, simplified TSCC or TSRCs communicated under paragraph 22 above the information marked with an asterisk in **Annex 1** or **Annex 2** forms and enter this information in a database on a password protected section of its website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the Scientific Committee shall have access to the catch information contained in the database, except the vessel names.

24. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities take steps to identify each consignment imported into or exported or re-exported from its area and request and examine the validated TSCC(s), simplified TSCC or TSRCs and related documentation of each consignment of tuna species.

These competent authorities may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the TSCC, simplified TSCC or TSRCs and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications at with the operators concerned.

25. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 24, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a TSCC, simplified TSCC or a TSRC, the final importing CPC and the CPC whose competent authorities validated the TSCC(s), simplified TSCCs or TSRC(s) shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
26. If a CPC involved in trade of tuna species identifies a consignment with no TSCC, no simplified TSCC or no valid TSCC, it shall notify the findings to the exporting CPC and, where known, the flag CPC.
27. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 24 to confirm compliance of the consignment with the requirements in the present Recommendation and any other relevant measures adopted by ICCAT, the CPC shall not grant its release for import or export.
28. Where a CPC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 24 and in cooperation with the competent authorities concerned, determines that a TSCC, a simplified TSCC or TSRC is invalid, the import, export or re-export concerned shall be prohibited.
29. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties that are involved in import, export or re-export to cooperate with the implementation of the Scheme and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

PART VIII

COMMUNICATION OF DATA

30. CPCs that validate TSCCs and simplified TSCCs in respect of their flag fishing vessels and/or TSRCs, shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the name and full address of their competent authorities. If the national law of a CPC requires that such validation be granted on an individual basis, then the name, title, signature and sample impression of stamp or seal of the validating government officials who are individually empowered shall also be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

This notification shall indicate the date at which this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national laws and regulations for the purpose of implementing the tuna species catch certification scheme shall be communicated with the initial notification. Updated details on competent authorities, officials and provisions of national laws and regulations shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion.

31. The information on competent authorities and officials transmitted by notifications to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be placed on a password protected page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCs having notified their competent authorities, officials and the dates of entry into force of the entitlement shall be placed on a publicly accessible website held by the ICCAT Secretariat.

CPCs are encouraged to access this information to help verify the validation of TSCCs, simplified TSCC and TSRCs.

32. Each CPC shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the points of contact (name and full address of the authorities) that should be informed when there are questions related to TSCCs, simplified TSCC or TSRCs.
33. Notification pursuant to paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 shall be sent by CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat, by electronic means, whenever possible.
34. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat a report each year by October 1 for the period from July 1 of the preceding year to June 30 of the current year to provide the information described in **Annex 5**.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall post these reports on a password protected section of the ICCAT website, as soon as practicable. At its request, the Scientific Committee shall have access to the reports received by the ICCAT Secretariat.

- 34.*bis* The Commission shall consider the introduction of an electronic catch documentation scheme for tuna species taking into account the progress made in the development of other electronic programmes, in particular the electronic bluefin tuna catch document programme in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Bluefin tuna Catch Document Programme* [Rec. 10-11].
35. This Recommendation shall apply to products of tuna species caught on and after January 1st, 2014.
36. The *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Programme* (Rec. 01-21) [and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Programme* (Rec. 01-22)] are repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

[Note: All Annexes are in square brackets]

Annex 1

ICCAT Tuna Species Catch Certificate

Numéro de certificat*/Certificate number*/Certificado n°*		
1. AUTORITÉ DE VALIDATION/VALIDATING AUTHORITY/AUTORIDAD VALIDADORA		
Nom/Name/Nombre		
Adresse/Address/Dirección		
Tel.:		e-mail:
Fax:		
2. NAVIRE DE PECHE/FISHING VESSEL/DATOS DEL BUQUE		
Nom du navire de pêche*/Fishing Vessel Name*/Nombre del buque pesquero*		
Pavillon*, port d'attache et numéro d'immatriculation*/Flag - Home Port and Registration Number*/Pabellón – Puerto base y número de matrícula*		
Indicatif radio/Call Sign/Indicativo de radio		N° OMI/Lloyd (le cas échéant) IMO/Lloyd's Number (if issued) N° OMI/Lloyd (en su caso)
N° de la licence de pêche Fishing licence No. N° de la licencia de pesca	Date de fin de validité Valid to Fecha de expiración	N° Inmarsat, n° fax, n° téléphone, adresse courrier électronique (le cas échéant) Inmarsat No. Telefax No. Telephone No. E-mail address (if issued) N° Inmarsat, n° fax, n° teléfono, dirección correo electrónico (en su caso)
3. DESCRIPTION DU PRODUIT (VOIR PAGE SUIVANTE)/DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT (SEE NEXT PAGE)/DESCRIPCIÓN DEL PRODUCTO (VÉASE PAGINA SIGUIENTE)		
4. CAPITAINE DU NAVIRE / MASTER OF FISHING VESSEL / DATOS DEL CAPITÁN		
Nom du capitaine du navire de pêche Name of master of fishing vessel Nombre del capitán del buque pesquero		Signature/Signature/Firma

3. DESCRIPTION DU PRODUIT/DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT/DESCRIPCIÓN DEL PRODUCTO

Espèce* Species* Especie*	Code produit Product code Código de producto	Zone(s) et dates de capture* Catch area(s) and dates* Zona(s) y fechas captura*	Poids vif estimé (kg)* Estimated live weight (kg)* Peso vivo estimado (kg)*	Poids à débarquer estimé (kg) Estimated weight to be landed (kg) Peso estimado que vaya a desembarcar (kg)	Poids débarqué vérifié (kg), le cas échéant Verified Weight Landed (kg) where appropriate Peso desembarcado comprobado (kg), si procede	Type de transformation autorisé à bord Type of processing authorised on board Tipo de transformación autorizada a bordo

5. DECLARATION DE TRANSBORDEMENT EN MER/DECLARATION OF TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA/DECLARACIÓN DE TRANSBORDO EN EL MAR

Nom du capitaine du navire de pêche/Name of Master of Fishing vessel/Nombre del capitán del buque pesquero		Signature/Signature/Firma		Date/Date/Fecha
Date du transbordement Transshipment Date Fecha del transbordo	Zone du transbordement Transshipment Area Zona del transbordo	Position du transbordement Transshipment Position Posición del transbordo	Poids estimé (kg) Estimated weight (kg) Peso estimado (kg)	
Capitaine du navire receveur/Master of Receiving Vessel/Capitán del buque receptor		Signature/Signature/Firma		
Nom du navire/Vessel Name/Nombre del buque		Indicatif d'appel/Call Sign/Indicativo de llamada de radio	N° OMI/Lloyd's (le cas échéant)/IMO/Lloyds Number (if issued)/N° OMI/Lloyd's (en su caso)	

6. AUTORISATION DE TRANSBORDEMENT DANS UNE ZONE PORTUAIRE/TRANSHIPMENT AUTHORISATION WITHIN A PORT AREA/AUTORIZACIÓN DEL TRANSBORDO EN UNA ZONA PORTUARIA

Nom/Name/Nombre y apellidos		Autorité/Authority/Autoridad	Signature/Signature/Firma
Adresse/Address/Dirección		Tél.	
Port de débarquement/Port of Landing/Puerto de desembarque		Date de débarquement/Date of Landing/Fecha de desembarque	

7. EXPORTATEUR/EXPORTER/DATOS DEL EXPORTADOR

Nom et adresse de l'exportateur/Name and address of Exporter/Nombre y dirección del exportador		
Signature/Signature/Firma		Date/Date/Fecha

8. VALIDATION PAR L'AUTORITE DE L'ETAT DE PAVILLON/FLAG STATE AUTHORITY VALIDATION/VALIDACIÓN DE LA AUTORIDAD DEL ESTADO DE PABELLÓN

Nom-Titre/Name-Title/Nombre-Cargo		
Signature/Signature/Firma		Date/Date/Fecha

9. INFORMATION RELATIVE AU TRANSPORT (VOIR APPENDICE) TRANSPORT DETAILS : SEE APPENDIX I/INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL TRANSPORTE (APÉNDICE 1)

10. INFORMATION CONCERNANT L'IMPORTATEUR/ IMPORTER INFORMATION/ INFORMACIÓN DEL IMPORTADOR

Société/ Company/ Empresa	Point d'importation/Point of import/ Punto de importación (City,Country,State) (ville,pays, État) (ciudad, país, Estado)
Adresse/Address/Dirección	
Date (jj/mm/aa)/ Fecha (dd/mm/aa)/Date (dd/mm/yy)/	Signature/Signature/Firma

**APPÉNDICE . INFORMATION RELATIVE AU TRANSPORT/ APPENDIX . TRANSPORT DETAILS/
APÉNDICE . INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL TRANSPORTE**

1. Pays d'exportation*/Exporting country*/País exportador*		2. Signature de l'exportateur Exporter Signature Firma del exportador	
Port/aéroport/autre lieu de départ Country of exportation/Port/airport/other place of departure Puerto/aeropuerto/otro lugar de salida			
Nom/Name/Nombre y apellidos		Adresse/Address/ Dirección	
Nom et pavillon du navire Vessel name and flag Nombre y pabellón del buque		Numéro(s) du ou des conteneurs Container number(s) Número(s) de los contenedores	
Numéro de vol, numéro de lettre de transport aérien Flight number, airway bill number Número de vuelo, número del conocimiento de embarque aéreo			
Nationalité et numéro d'immatriculation du camion Truck nationality and registration number Nacionalidad y número de matrícula del camión			
Numéro de lettre de voiture ferroviaire Railway bill number Número del conocimiento de embarque en ferrocarril			
Autres documents de transport Other transport document Otros documentos de transporte			

ICCAT Tuna Species Re-Export Certificate

**CERTIFICAT ICCAT DE REEXPORTATION POUR LES ESPECES THONIERES/
ICCAT TUNA SPECIES RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICADO DE REEXPORTACIÓN DE ESPECIES DE TÚNIDOS**

Numéro du certificat*/Certificate Number*/Nº Certificado:

SECTION RÉEXPORTATION/RE-EXPORT SECTION/SECCIÓN REEXPORTACIÓN

1. PAYS-ENTITE-ENTITE DE PECHE DE REEXPORTATION/RE-EXPORTING COUNTRY-ENTITY-FISHING ENTITY/PAÍS/ENTIDAD/ENTIDAD PESQUERA REEXPORTADOR/A:

2. LIEU DE RÉEXPORTATION*/POINT OF RE-EXPORT*/PUNTO DE REEXPORTACIÓN*:

3. DESCRIPTION DES ESPÈCES THONIÈRES IMPORTÉES/DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTED TUNA SPECIES/DESCRIPCIÓN DE LAS ESPECIES DE TÚNIDOS IMPORTADAS:

Type de produit/Product Type/Tipo de producto		Poids net (kg)* Net weight (kg)* Peso neto (kg)*	CPC de pavillon Flag CPC CPC del pabellón	Date importation* Date of import* Fecha importación*	TSCC No*
F/FR	RD/GG/DR/FL/OT				

4. DESCRIPTION DES ESPÈCES THONIÈRES DESTINÉES A LA REEXPORTATION/DESCRIPTION OF TUNA SPECIES FOR RE-EXPORT/ DESCRIPCIÓN DE LAS ESPECIES DE TÚNIDOS PARA REEXPORTACIÓN:

Type de produit*/Product Type*/Tipo de producto*		Poids net (kg)* Net weight (kg)* Peso neto (kg)*	Numéro TSCC correspondant à la section 3. Corresponding TSCC number from section 3. Número correspondiente de TSCC en sección 3
F/FR	RD/GG/DR/FL/OT		

F= Frais/Fresh/Fresco, FR= Surgelé/Frozen/Congelado/, RD= Poids vif/Round weight/Peso vivo, GG=Eviscéré & sans branchie/Gilled & Gutted/Eviscerado y sin agallas, DR= Poids manipulé/Dressed/Canal, FL=Filet/En filetes, OT=Autres/Others/Otros (Décrire le type de produit/Describe the type of the product/ Describir el tipo de producto):

ETAT DE DESTINATION*/STATE OF DESTINATION*/ESTADO DE DESTINO*:

5. CERTIFICAT DU REEXPORTATEUR/RE-EXPORTER STATEMENT/ DECLARACIÓN DEL REEXPORTADOR

Je certifie que l'information ci-dessus est, à mon vu et su, complète, véridique et correcte.
I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Certifico que, a mi leal saber y entender, la información arriba consignada es completa, fidedigna y correcta.

Nom/Name/Nombre Adresse/Address/Dirección Signature/Firma Date/Fecha

6. VALIDATION DU GOUVERNEMENT/GOVERNMENT VALIDATION/VALIDACIÓN DEL GOBIERNO

Je déclare valide l'information ci-dessus, qui est, à mon vu et su, complète, véridique et correcte.
I validate that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Valido la información arriba consignada, que a mi leal saber y entender es completa, fidedigna y correcta.

Nom & poste/Name & Title/Nombre-Cargo Signature/Firma Date/Fecha Cachet de l'Autorité /Authority Seal/Sello de la Autoridad

SECTION IMPORTATION/IMPORT SECTION/SECCIÓN IMPORTACIÓN**7. CERTIFICAT DE L'IMPORTATEUR/ IMPORTER STATEMENT/ DECLARACIÓN DEL IMPORTADOR:**

Je certifie que l'information ci-dessus est, à mon vu et su, complète, véridique et correcte.

I certify that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Certifico que, a mi leal saber y entender, la información arriba consignada es completa, fidedigna y correcta.

Certificat de l'importateur/Importer Certification/Certificado del importador:

Nom/Name/Nombre	Adresse/Address/Dirección	Signature/Firma	Date/Fecha
------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------

Point final d'importation*/Final point of import/Punto de destino final de la importación*:

Ville/City/Ciudad	Etat-Province/State-Province/Estado-provincia	CPC
--------------------------	--	------------

NOTE : Le document de transport valide et les copies des TSCC devront être joints.

NOTE: Valid transport documents and copies of TSCC shall be attached.

NOTA: Se adjuntarán el documento de transporte válido y las copias de los TSCC.

**DECLARATION DE L'USINE DE TRANSFORMATION
STATEMENT BY THE PROCESSING PLANT
DECLARACIÓN DE LA FÁBRICA DE TRANSFORMACIÓN**

Je confirme que les produits de la pêche transformés: ... (description des produits et code de la nomenclature combinée) sont issus de captures importées au titre du ou des certificat(s) de capture suivant(s) :

I confirm that the processed fishery products: (product description and Combined Nomenclature code) have been obtained from catches imported under the following catch certificate(s):

Confirmo que los productos de la pesca transformados (descripción del producto y código de la nomenclatura combinada) se han obtenido a partir de capturas importadas de conformidad con el(los) siguiente(s) certificado(s) de captura:

Numéro du certificat de capture Catch certificate number Número de certificado de captura	Nom(s) et pavillon(s) du (des) navire(s) Vessel name(s) and flag(s) Nombre(s) del (de los) buque(s) y pabellón o pabellones	Date(s) de validation Validation date(s) Fecha(s) de validación	Description de la capture Catch description Descripción de la captura	Poids débarqué total (kg) Total landed weight (kg) Peso total desembarcado (kg)	Capture transformée (kg) Catch processed (kg) Captura transformada (kg)	Produits de la pêche transformés (kg) Processed fishery product (kg) Producto de la pesca transformado (kg)

Nom et adresse de l'usine de transformation/Name and address of the processing plant/Nombre y dirección de la fábrica de transformación:
.....

Nom et adresse de l'exportateur (s'ils diffèrent de ceux de l'usine de transformation)/Name and address of the exporter (if different from the processing plant)/Nombre y dirección del exportador (si es distinto de la fábrica de transformación):
.....

Numéro d'agrément de l'usine de transformation/Approval number of the processing plant/Número de aprobación de la fábrica de transformación:
.....

Responsable de l'usine de transformation Responsible person of the processing plant Persona encargada de la fábrica de transformación	Signature/Firma:	Date/Fecha:	Lieu/Place/Lugar:
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Approbation par l'autorité compétente/Endorsement by the competent authority/Aprobación de la autoridad competente :
.....

Agent/Official/Agente	Signature et cachet Signature and seal Firma y sello	Date/Fecha:	Lieu/Place/Lugar
-----------------------	--	-------------	------------------

ICCAT Simplified Tuna Species Catch Certificate

ICCAT SIMPLIFIED CATCH CERTIFICATE			
DOCUMENT NUMBER		VALIDATING AUTHORITY (NAME, ADDRESS, TEL., FAX)	
1. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT			
Species	Product code	Verified weight landed (kg)	
2. LIST OF VESSELS THAT HAVE PROVIDED CATCHES AND THE QUANTITIES BY EACH VESSEL (NAME, REGISTRATION NUMBER, ETC. ANNEXED)			
Name of vessels		Catch quantities	
3. NAME, ADDRESS, TEL. AND FAX OF EXPORTER		SIGNATURE	DATE
4. FLAG STATE AUTHORITY VALIDATION			
Name/Title	Signature	Date	Seal (stamp)
5. TRANSFER DETAILS (SEE APPENDIX)			
6. IMPORTER INFORMATION			
Company		Point of import (City, Country)	
Address			
Date (dd/mm/yy)		Signature	

Transport details: use Appendix of Annex 1.

**Report on the Implementation of
ICCAT Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna Species**

Reporting CPC:

Period of reference: July 1 [2XXX] to June 30 [2XXX]

1. Information extracted from TSCCs

- number of TSCCs validated;
- number of validated TSCCs received;
- total amount of tuna species products imported, exported, re-exported with breakdown by CPC of origin, re-export or destination, fishing areas and fishing gears;
- number of verifications of TSCCs requested to other CPCs and summary results;
- number of requests for verifications of TSCCs received from other CPCs and summary results;
- total amount of tuna species consignments subject to a prohibition decision with breakdown by products, nature of operation (import, export, re-export), reasons for prohibition and CPCs and/or non-Members of origin or destination.

2. Information on cases under Part VII paragraph 24

- number of cases
- total amount of tuna species with breakdown by products, nature of operation (import, export, re-export), CPCs or other countries referred to in Part VII paragraph 24 above.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for
Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port**

RECOGNIZING that many Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) currently have port inspection schemes in place;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further 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* [Rec. 11-18], and

RECALLING the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing;

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

Scope

1. In the exercise of their sovereignty over ports located in their territory, CPCs may adopt more stringent measures, in accordance with international law.
2. With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation measures, each CPC, in its capacity as a port State, shall apply this Recommendation for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed or transhipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
3. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port State, decide not to apply this Recommendation to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals [exclusively for fishing in areas under its jurisdiction and] operating under its authority [therein]. Such foreign fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the port CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
4. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other ICCAT Recommendations, this Recommendation shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 meters in length overall.
5. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 12 meters length overall and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to a comparable port inspection programme to be designed and implemented by that CPC.
6. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels' entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant ICCAT conservation measures.

Competent authority

7. Each CPC shall designate a competent authority to serve as a contact point for the purposes of receiving notifications, and issuing authorizations pursuant to this Recommendation. It shall transmit the name and contact information for its competent authority to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least [14] [7] days before such changes take effect. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
8. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of competent authorities based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

Designated ports

9. Each CPC shall designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation.
10. Each CPC shall, to the greatest extent possible, ensure that every designated port has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections pursuant to this Recommendation.
11. Each CPC shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
12. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port State CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

Prior notification

13. Each flag CPC shall take necessary action to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag or their representatives notify the competent authority of the port CPC whose designated port they wish to use for the purpose of landing and/or transshipment, at least [72 hours] before the estimated time of arrival at the port, of the following information:
 - a) Vessel identification (External identification, Name, IMO No, if any, and IRCS);
 - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the ICCAT register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (landing and/or transshipment);
 - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
 - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
 - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms live weight of each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a 'nil' report shall be transmitted;
 - f) The estimated quantities for each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms live weight to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.

The port CPC may also request other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, or related activities.

14. The port State CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter notification period than specified in paragraph 13, taking into account, inter alia, the type of fishery product, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall publish the information promptly on the ICCAT website.

[Use of port by foreign fishing vessels as authorized by the port CPC

15. Landing or transshipment operations shall be subject to verification by the competent authority of the port CPC to determine the completeness of the information submitted as prescribed in paragraph 13 and to carry out an inspection in accordance with paragraph 20 below, if required.
16. Notwithstanding paragraph 15, the port CPC may authorize all or part of a landing or transshipment in cases where the information set out in paragraph 13 is incomplete or verification is pending. In such cases, the fishery products concerned shall be kept in storage. The fishery products shall only be released once the information set out in paragraph 13 and the verification have been completed. If this information is not complied with within 14 days of the commencement of the landing or transshipment, the port CPC may seize and dispose of the fishery products in accordance with its domestic laws. The cost of storage shall be borne by the operators, [or supported] in accordance with the domestic laws of the port CPC.]

Port inspections

17. Inspections shall be carried out by the competent authority of the port CPC.
18. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least [5] % of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
19. In determining which foreign fishing vessel to inspect, the port CPC shall give priority to:
 - a) requests from other CPCs or relevant regional fisheries management organizations that particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing, by the vessel in question, and
 - b) other vessels for which there are clear grounds for suspecting that they have engaged in IUU fishing.
 - c) vessels included on the ICCAT list of IUU vessels, as specified in Rec [11-18]

Inspection procedure

20. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors may examine all relevant areas, decks and rooms of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any relevant documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, which they deem necessary to ensure compliance with the ICCAT conservation measures. They may take copies of any documents considered relevant, and they may also question the Master and any other person on the vessel being inspected.
21. Inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 13 above and held on board. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided, [to the extent practicable].
22. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port State competent authority. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report and to contact the competent authority of the flag State. The inspector and the Master shall sign the report and a copy of the report shall be provided to the Master. The Master's signature shall serve only as acknowledgement of the receipt of a copy of the report.
23. The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than [14] days following the date of completion of the inspection.
24. CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authority of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of infringements

25. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT conservation measures, the inspector shall:
 - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the ICCAT Secretariat [and, if the vessel fly the flag of another CPC, to the competent authority of the flag CPC;]
 - [c) if possible, take all necessary action to ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such alleged infringement.]
26. If the infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port CPC, the port CPC may take action in accordance with its domestic laws. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the competent

authority of the flag CPC and to the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website.

27. Other infringements shall be referred to the flag CPC. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the alleged infringement and notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within [6] months of such receipt. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website. CPCs shall include in their Annual Report [Rec. 04-17] information regarding the status of such investigations.
28. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Rec [11-18], the port CPC shall promptly report the case to the flag State and notify as soon as possible the ICCAT Secretariat, along with its supporting evidence, for the purpose of inclusion of the vessel in the draft IUU list.

General provisions

29. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. A description of such programs should be included in Annual Reports of CPCs [Rec. 04-17].
30. Without prejudice to domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe the inspection of its vessel, having previously received an invitation from the competent authority of the port CPC. Officials from the flag CPC shall not exercise any enforcement powers in the port CPC.
31. [Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall collaborate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Recommendation.]
32. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* [Rec. 97-10] is repealed and replaced by the Recommendation.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1

Draft Recommendation Amending the Recommendation By ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area

NOTING the SCRS, in its 2011 report, indicated that the six hour time interval between VMS reports does not have enough resolution to be used for more useful scientific purposes and, therefore, recommended that VMS signals should be reported at no more than two hour interval;

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

Paragraph 3 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel monitoring system for the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14] shall be replaced with the following:

3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag shall ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1b) is collected at least every two (2) hours for transmission on, at least, a daily basis. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month. After this period, the master of a fishing vessel is not authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip lasting more than one month, the repair or the replacement has to take place as soon as the vessel enters a port; the fishing vessel shall

not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment

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 pelagic longline vessels in the Convention area, including the control of their landings;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to ensure collection of catch data from such large-scale pelagic longline vessels 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 program to monitor transshipment at sea established in Section 2 below, all transshipment operations:
 - a) within the Convention Area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species, and
 - b) outside the Convention Area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention Area
 must take place in port.]
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 fishing vessels flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Annex 3** when transshipping tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species in port.

SECTION 2. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA

3. Flag CPCs may authorize their large-scale pelagic longline vessels to conduct at-sea transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species to carrier vessels authorized to receive such transshipments on the condition that they are conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in Sections 3, 4 and 5, and **Annexes 1** and **2** below.
4. For the purposes of this recommendation, large-scale pelagic longline vessels shall be defined as those greater than 24 meters length overall.

SECTION 3. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA

5. An ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area from large-scale pelagic longline vessels shall be established. 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 and any other species caught in association with these species in transshipment operations.

6. Each CPC shall continue to submit, electronically and in the format specified by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, its list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments from its large-scale pelagic longline vessels in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:
 - The flag of the vessel
 - Name of vessel, register number
 - IMO number (if any)
 - Previous name (if any)
 - Previous flag (if any)
 - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
 - International radio call sign
 - 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 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 through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
9. Carrier vessels authorized for at-sea transshipment and large-scale pelagic longline vessels which transship at sea shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with all applicable ICCAT recommendations, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14], or any successor recommendation, including any future revisions thereto.

SECTION 4. AT-SEA TRANSSHIPMENT

10. Transshipments by large-scale pelagic longline vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of CPCs are subject to prior authorization from the coastal State concerned. An original or copy of the documentation of coastal State prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer for inspection when requested. [In addition, a copy of the authorization must be provided to the observer if requested and should be included with the observer's report]. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that large-scale pelagic longline vessels flying their flag comply with the provisions of this Section, as follows:

Flag CPC authorization

11. Large-scale pelagic longline vessels are not authorized to transship at sea unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag State. An original or copy of the documentation of prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer for inspection when requested. [In addition, a copy of the authorization must be provided to the observer if requested and should be included with the observer's report].

Notification obligations

Fishing vessel:

12. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 11 above, the master and/or owner of the large-scale pelagic longline vessel must notify the following information to its flag CPC authorities at least [24] hours in advance of the intended transshipment:
 - the name of the large-scale pelagic longline vessel 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, by species, where known, [and, if possible, by stock],
- the tonnage by product to be transshipped, including by species, where known, [and, if possible, by stock],
- the date and location of transshipment,
- the geographic location of the catches,

The large-scale pelagic longline vessel concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC, not later than 15 days after the transshipment, the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 1**.

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 large-scale pelagic longline vessel, 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 Convention area, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing is to take place.

ICCAT Regional Observer Program

15. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer program specified in **Annex 2**. The ICCAT observer shall observe the adherence to this Recommendation, and, notably, that the transshipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transshipment declaration and, as feasible, as recorded in the fishing vessel logbook.
16. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing transshipping in the ICCAT Convention 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 Catch and Statistical Document Programs:
 - a) In validating the Catch or Statistical Documents, flag CPCs of large-scale pelagic longline vessels shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each large-scale pelagic longline vessel.
 - b) The flag CPC of large-scale pelagic longline vessels shall validate the Catch or 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 Catch or Statistical Document Programs caught by large-scale pelagic longline vessels in the Convention area, when imported into the area or territory of a CPC, be accompanied by catch or statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transshipment declaration.

[17 *bis*. At a minimum, each CPC shall ensure at least [15%] domestic observer coverage of fishing effort of its large-scale pelagic longline fleet engaged in at sea transshipment, which is in addition to the observer coverage requirement specified in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Programs* [Rec. 10-10]. CPCs shall implement such additional observer coverage consistent with the provisions of Rec. 10-10 and shall also report on this implementation to the Commission consistent with the reporting requirements of said recommendation.]

18. The CPCs shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:
- The quantities by species [where known, (and, if possible, by stock)] transshipped during the previous year.
 - The list of the large-scale pelagic longline 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 large-scale pelagic longline vessels. These reports shall be made available to the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration.
19. All tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with those species landed in or imported into the area or territory of 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, *inter alia*, 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. 06-11].

ICCAT Transshipment Declaration

Carrier vessel

Vessel Name and radio call sign:
 Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity:
 Flag State authorization number:
 Domestic Registration Number:
 ICCAT Record Number:
 IMO Number, if any:

Fishing vessel

Vessel Name and radio call sign:
 Flag CPC:
 Flag CPC authorization number:
 Domestic Registration Number:
 ICCAT Record Number, if applicable:
 IMO Number, if any:
 External identification:

	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	Agent's name:	Master's name of fishing vessel:	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 TRANSSHIPMENT.....

Species (and stock, if known) ²	Port	Sea	Type of Product ¹ RD/GG/DR/FL/ST/OT	Net Weight (Kg)					

ICCAT Observer signature and date (if transshipment at sea):

¹ Type of Product should be indicated as Round (RD), Gilled and Gutted (GG), Dressed (DR), Fillet (FL), Steak (ST), Other (OT) (describe the type of product)
² A list of species and stocks is included on the back of this form. Please provide as much detail as possible.

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 large-scale pelagic longline vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) that implement the ICCAT observer program.
3. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure observers are properly equipped to perform their duties [including providing scales for weighing fish if none are present on the carrier vessel].

Designation of the observers

4. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - demonstrated ability to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear with a strong preference given to those with experience as observers on pelagic longline vessels;
 - 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

5. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) to the extent possible, not be nationals or citizens of the flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 6 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not be a crew member of the large-scale pelagic longline vessel or the carrier vessel or an employee of the large-scale pelagic longline vessel or carrier vessel company.
6. The observer shall monitor the large-scale pelagic longline vessel's and carrier vessel's adherence to the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. The observers' tasks shall be, in particular, to:
 - 6.1 Visit the large-scale pelagic longline vessel intending to transship to a carrier vessel, taking into account the safety concerns reflected in paragraph 10 of this Annex, and before the transshipment takes place, to:
 - a) Check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorization or license to fish for tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with those species in the Convention area;
 - b) Inspect the fishing vessel's prior authorizations to transship at sea from the flag CPC and, if appropriate, the coastal State; [obtain a copy of these documents, if appropriate, to include with the observer report].
 - c) Check and record the total quantity of catch on board by species [and, if possible, by stock] and the quantities to be transhipped to the carrier vessel;
 - d) Check that the VMS is functioning and examine the logbook and verify entries, if possible;
 - e) Verify whether any of the catch on board resulted from transfers from other vessels, and check the documentation on such transfers;
 - f) In the case of indication that there are any violations involving the fishing vessel, immediately report the violation(s) to the master of the carrier vessel (taking due regard of any safety considerations) and to the observer program implementing company, who shall promptly forward it to the flag CPC authorities of the fishing vessel; and
 - g) Record the results of these duties on the fishing vessel in the observer's report.

6.2 Observe the activities of carrier vessel and:

- a) record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
- b) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
- c) observe and estimate quantities of products transshipped by species, if known, [and, if possible, by stock];
- d) verify and record the name of the large-scale pelagic longline vessel concerned and its ICCAT record number;
- e) verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration, including through comparison with the large-scale pelagic longline vessel logbook, where possible;
- f) certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
- g) countersign the transshipment declaration; and
- h) observe and estimate quantities of product by species when offloaded in the port where the observer is disembarked to verify consistency with quantities received during at sea transshipment operations.

6.3 In addition, the observer shall:

- a) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transshipping activities;
 - b) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with the observer's duties and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
 - c) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
 - d) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
7. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the large-scale pelagic longline vessels and of the large-scale pelagic longline vessels' owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
8. 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.
9. 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.

Responsibilities of the flag States of carrier vessels

10. The conditions associated with implementation of the regional observer program *vis à vis* the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel, pertinent documentation, 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 6:
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) electronic means of communication; and
 - iv) scale used for weighing transshipped product;
 - 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;
 - e) Observers shall be allowed to determine the most advantageous location and method for viewing transshipment operations and estimating species/stocks and quantities transshipped. In this regard, the master of the carrier vessel, giving due regard to safety and practical concerns, shall accommodate the needs of the observer in this regard, including, upon request, temporarily placing product on the carrier vessel deck for inspection by the observer and providing adequate time for the observer to carry out his/her duties. Observations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes interference and avoids compromising the quality of the products transshipped.

- f) In light of the provisions of paragraph 11, the master of the carrier vessel shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and fishing vessels should weather and other conditions permit such an exchange; and
- g) 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 large-scale pelagic longline vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports (covering the information and activities of both the fishing and carrier vessels) to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Responsibilities of large-scale pelagic longline vessels during transshipments

- 11. Observers shall be allowed to visit the fishing vessel, if weather and other conditions permit, and shall be granted access to personnel, all pertinent documentation, and areas of the vessel necessary to carry out their duties set forth in paragraph 6 in this Annex. The master of the fishing vessel shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and fishing vessels. Should conditions present an unacceptable risk to the welfare of the observer such that a visit to the large-scale pelagic longline vessel is not feasible prior to the start of transshipment operations, such, operations may still be carried out.

Observer fees

- 12. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of large-scale pelagic longline vessels 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;
- 13. No large-scale pelagic longline vessel may participate in the at-sea transshipment program unless the fees as required under paragraph 12 are paid.

Information Sharing

- 14. To facilitate information sharing and, to the extent possible, harmonization of at sea transshipment programs across relevant regional fisheries management organizations, all training materials, including observer manuals, and data collection forms developed and used to support implementation of ICCAT's at sea transshipment regional observer program shall be posted on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

Identification Guides

- 15. The SCRS shall work with the ICCAT Secretariat and others as appropriate to develop new or improve existing identification guides for frozen tuna and tuna-like species. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure that these identification guides are made broadly available to CPCs and other interested parties, including to ICCAT regional observers prior to deployment and to other regional fisheries management organizations running similar at sea transshipment observer programs.

In-Port Transshipment

1. Pursuant to Section 1 of this Recommendation, transshipment in port by any CPC of tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species from or in the Convention area may only be undertaken in accordance with [reference relevant ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme] and the following procedures:

Notification obligations

2. Fishing vessel:

- 2.1 At least 48 hours in advance of transshipment operations, the captain of the fishing vessel must notify to the Port State authorities the name of the carrier vessel and date/time of transshipment.
- 2.2 The captain of a fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the following;
 - the products and quantities involved, by species [and, if possible, by stock],
 - the date and place of the transshipment,
 - the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel,
 - the major fishing grounds of the catches.
- 2.3 The captain of the fishing vessel concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, where applicable, 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 transhipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the competent authorities within 24 hours.
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.

Port and Landing State Cooperation:

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 fishing vessel to ensure that landings are consistent with the reported catches 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.

Reporting

6. Each flag CPC of the fishing vessel shall include in its Annual Report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

Statements Concerning the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Catch Certification Scheme for Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye [Albacore] tuna [and Swordfish]”

– *Statement of United States*

Given the conservation status of the resources in question and the ongoing implementation of ICCAT’s statistical document programs, the United States would like to better understand the need for this proposal. The United States recognizes the role of traceability systems as part of an integrated approach to fisheries management and is willing to continue to discuss potential ICCAT measures where such a tool can effectively address a clear need. Additionally, in light of the nature of tropical tuna fisheries, the volume and complexity of trade, and the diversity of product types involved, the United States has serious questions about how effective the proposed scheme could be in meeting its stated objectives.

The United States believes that adopting the proposed traceability system for all bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tuna products may be premature at this time. Given limited CPC and Commission resources, the United States highlights the importance of efforts to develop and effectively implement integrated control measures on the fishing grounds and in port. The United States further recalls that the eBCD system is anticipated to be able to accommodate other species as necessary in the future. This electronic system will be more reliable, efficient, and effective than the current paper-based system. Any enhanced traceability scheme should, therefore, be developed as an electronic system. The United States would not support directing scarce financial and human resources toward any new paper-based traceability systems.

– *Statement of Japan supported by the European Union*

Japan stated that last year ICCAT for the first time introduced a set of comprehensive measures for yellowfin tuna and strengthened measures for bigeye tuna mainly in response to concerns regarding purse seine activities, and that the compliance of such measures would be greatly enhanced with the proposed catch certification scheme, given the past experience on similar measures.

Japan also stated that the initial cost might be high, but this was expected to reduce greatly with the introduction of an electronic scheme, the basis of which would be established by the end of this year in the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme. Japan suggested that if the Commission considers that the cost is too high, the implementation of compilation of the information by the Secretariat as in paragraphs 22 and 23 of the document IMM-006C/i2012 could be delayed until the scheme becomes an electronic one.

– *Statement of Brazil and Mexico*

As regards the discussion on traceability systems for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna products, both Mexico and Brazil agreed that the establishment of an ICCAT programme for this must be analyzed and, if this type of system is adopted, it should be the result of negotiations and multilateral agreements within the framework of the Commission, not only incorporating the regulations which each Party had already adopted internally.

– *Statement of Turkey*

Turkey considers that the expression written in the draft report of the 7th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures “Turkey expressed general reservation to the proposal” does not correctly reflect what has been expressed by our delegation. We request this be deleted accordingly.

During the discussions made on the Japanese proposal “Traceability system for all bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna products”, Turkey has expressed the need to consult a number of other domestic bodies which are responsible from importing and/or exporting tuna and tuna like species in Turkey. Since a great deal of amendments would be required as regards domestic rules and customs procedures, the above mentioned internal consultation is essentially required at this stage. Therefore, we have reserved our decision at a later stage.

4.2 REPORT OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF ICCAT (Madrid, Spain – May 28 to 31, 2012)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Ms. Deirdre Warner Kramer (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegations to the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT. She proposed to deal with the matters already opened and under discussion from the previous meeting as well as the matters proposed by the CPCs in the documents circulated in advance of the meeting.

2. Nomination of the Rapporteur

In the absence of a volunteer from among the delegations, the ICCAT Secretariat was requested to serve as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted with the inclusion of an item on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) under Agenda item 5 as proposed by the delegation of the United States. The revised Agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**.

The Executive Secretary introduced the following 21 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Algeria, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Ghana, Guinea Republic, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, México, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America and Uruguay. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei that attended the meeting as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. The Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT) attended the meeting as an observer from an inter-governmental organisation.

The following non-governmental organisations were admitted as observers: International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and the Pew Environment Group.

Dr. Gerry Scott attended the meeting, as consultant of the GEF project, to present information on the global tuna project being sponsored by the FAO and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The list of observers is included in the List of Participants (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**).

4. Discussion of appropriate next steps to address issues identified by CPCs

Norway and the United States each presented papers highlighting priority issues for any future process to amend the ICCAT Convention, including possible options for text. Both papers touched on a number of the specific topics discussed below. Norway's document is attached to this report as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4**, and the U.S. document is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**.

4.a Precautionary Approach

The Working Group agreed that the precautionary approach was fundamental to ICCAT's objectives and noted that ICCAT had already taken some steps to implement the precautionary approach even without a specific provision defining the precautionary approach in the Convention. Some participants noted it would not be necessary to formally incorporate reference to the Precautionary Approach in the Convention to continue to implement it in ICCAT. Nonetheless, most participants agreed that text to enshrine the concept of the precautionary approach should be considered in any future Convention amendment process.

4.b Ecosystem approach including by-catch and

4.c Convention scope, in particular sharks conservation and management

These two Agenda items were discussed together, in light of the interrelationship between these issues.

As in the discussion of the precautionary approach, the Working Group noted that ICCAT had already taken significant action to incorporate ecosystem considerations into the work of the SCRS and the Commission, and a Convention amendment was not necessary to continue this work. However, most participants agreed that formally incorporating ecosystem considerations into the Convention would serve to clarify and facilitate additional work by ICCAT in this regard, and that any future amendments should not be overly restrictive. It was also noted that the ecosystem approach includes socio-economic parameters and its implementation is closely linked to capacity-building in developing countries. The Working Group agreed that any expansion of the scope of species managed by ICCAT would require amendment of the Convention. There was a broad view that there would be merit in clarifying the species to be covered by the Convention, in particular sharks. Participants noted some of the important considerations should ICCAT decide to move forward with this effort, including improving data on the types of sharks currently being taken as incidental or directed catch in the Convention Area and the effects of including small pelagic fish.

4.d Contribution scheme

Some CPCs expressed that the present calculation of contributions is extremely complex and lacks transparency and, therefore it would be beneficial to somehow find ways to simplify it. Some CPCs also expressed a concern that ICCAT's contribution scheme was inequitable. Given the importance of the issue, some delegations proposed to establish a Technical Working Group to evaluate other ways of calculating the contribution giving different treatment to small tuna catches and canning. These delegations considered that this would facilitate obtaining more accurate statistics on small tuna. However, other delegations stated that it would be extremely complicated to agree on a fairer formula for all. These delegations preferred maintaining the current scheme. No agreement could be reached on a change to the contribution scheme; nevertheless, it was decided to further examine how to improve data on small tuna.

4.e Capacity building and assistance

No specific document was presented under this Agenda item. Participants noted that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 11-26] was adopted in 2011. The Working Group recognized the importance of capacity building assistance not only to support the full participation of developing countries in meetings but also in implementing the ICCAT conservation and management measures. It was also acknowledged that Rec. 11-26 was good progress but that more could be done to strengthen scientific collaboration. The Working Group recommended that ICCAT further develop programmes to this end, and in particular look for ways to collaborate with other international organisations. The Working Group also recommended additional efforts to coordinate and streamline the use of the existing capacity-building funds; some supported the creation of a single ICCAT fund while others cautioned that doing so would make it more difficult for some CPCs to provide voluntary contributions. The Working Group also emphasized the importance of respecting the existing deadlines and procedures for use of ICCAT funds. While several CPCs spoke in support of inclusion of this concept in Convention's amendment, there was no agreement on whether to amend the Convention to reflect the need to enhance capacity building and assistance to developing CPCs.

4.f Non-Party participation

The Working Group took note of the "Proposal to the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT" submitted by the United States. Chinese Taipei mentioned the examples of the full participation of fishing entities in WCPFC and IATTC, and requested the amendment of the Convention so as to allow fishing entities to be fully engaged in the work of the Commission. While some CPCs voiced support for this proposal, the Working Group expressed that this issue should be considered at the annual meeting of the Commission to enable all CPCs to discuss the matter.

4.g Strengthening the SCRS

The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr. Josu Santiago, presented the document "Notes to the FIWG Agenda Item 4.g - Strengthening the SCRS", pointing out the main outcomes of the Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods

in response to the *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science* [Res. 11-17]. He also presented an update of the SCRS response to the findings of the performance review panel relevant to the work of the SCRS. Both documents are attached as **Appendices 5 and 6 to ANNEX 4.2**, respectively.

The Working Group took note of the recommendations contained in both documents and agreed on the critical need for more capacity building and assistance to developing CPCs, both to support attendance at SCRS meetings and to further develop the necessary technical expertise to fully contribute to these meetings. The Working Group also endorsed the effort of SCRS to develop a SCRS Strategic plan for 2014-2020.

4.h Decision making processes and procedures

i) Entry into force provisions for Recommendations

The Working Group agreed that any change to the timing of the entry into force of recommendations would require an amendment to the Convention. Many delegations noted that ICCAT's current delay of six months could be excessive for some measures or not enough for others, and supported a process to amend the Convention to allow flexibility in the timing of entry into force, taking into account cases of urgency or specific scientific advice.

ii) Voting rules/quorum

Canada presented its proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure concerning inter-sessional voting by changing the method to calculate the quorum for a mail vote as well as the effect of abstentions (attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2**). The Working Group agreed on the need to improve inter-sessional mail voting procedures and to consider the issue at the forthcoming Commission meeting.

The Working Group agreed that ICCAT decisions should be made on the basis of consensus to the greatest extent possible, but that it was important to maintain an opportunity to vote where consensus was not possible. Many delegations noted the need to clarify the rules for voting, and several delegations noted that the current rules for the calculation of votes in the Convention created a unduly high standard. The Working Group took note of the submissions of the United States (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**), and Libya (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2**), which included proposed approaches to amend Article VIII of the Convention to change the way that majorities were determined.

iii) Objection procedures

The Working Group agreed on the fundamental right of all CPCs to object. Canada presented a draft resolution on the use of the objection procedure, attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.2**, which sets out additional guidance on the process for presenting objections. The Working Group expressed general support for the concepts contained in Canada's proposal, though delegations expressed different views about whether these processes could be most appropriately addressed through resolution, recommendation, or Convention amendment. The Working Group recalled the importance of working by consensus but also the need to maintain the right to object for occasional situations. Some delegations emphasized that there should be a mechanism to ensure the Commission reviews and takes action to address the core issues that led to an objection, including the possibility of arbitration. The Working Group took note of Norway's proposal to eliminate the restriction currently in Article VIII of the Convention that only members of a given Panel may object to decisions that originate in that Panel, but was not able to achieve consensus on this issue. The Working Group noted the link between the objection procedure and dispute resolution.

iv) Dispute resolution

Some participants noted the need to develop an ICCAT dispute resolution scheme, and that the establishment of such a scheme would require amendment of the Convention. The Working Group noted the link between dispute resolution and the objection procedure. Some CPCs noted existing models for dispute resolution schemes in international texts are already in force.

4.i Procedural issues

i) Transparency

Norway presented its proposal on transparency, "Future of ICCAT Working Group - Proposals from Norway" and stated that it would be essential to amend the Convention to insert a provision ensuring transparency. The

Working Group emphasized that transparency was a key element of the decision-making process. Some delegations strongly supported Norway's proposal to enshrine the concept in the Convention, while some other delegations emphasized that ICCAT could take other steps to improve transparency and full participation without a Convention amendment.

ii) Allocation of fishing possibilities

Turkey presented its proposal on fishing allocation, attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.2**, to task the SCRS to develop a mathematical formula to implement the current ICCAT allocation criteria [Ref. 01-25]. While some delegations supported the idea of developing a formula to weight the allocation criteria, there were a range of views about whether the SCRS would be the appropriate body to do so. Other delegations noted that the criteria were intended to be applied on a Panel by Panel, and stock by stock basis, and that it may not be possible to develop such a formula. However, the Working Group agreed that ICCAT should improve the clarity and transparency of how the ICCAT allocation criteria were applied by Panels in developing conservation and management measures. CPCs noted that there was a fundamental relationship between fair application of the criteria and transparency and inclusivity in decision-making.

iii) Panel structure

It was recalled that the proposal presented by STACFAD in 2011 (i.e., to redistribute the species among the four Panels or to add a fifth Panel) did not reach a consensus during the annual meeting. The Working Group recommended that STACFAD consider the issue further at the forthcoming annual meeting as well as determining the most appropriate body to develop measures related to non-commercial species and by-catches that may be of interest to all ICCAT CPCs.

iv) Streamlining / simplifying conservation measures

The Working Group agreed on the importance and the need to streamline the work of the Commission. Delegates discussed the different possibilities to improve the drafting of the Recommendations and also reviewed the document "ICCAT Reporting Requirements Review" prepared by the Compliance Committee Chair in 2011 (attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.2**). The Working Group considered a number of actions CPCs could take to address this, including: respect the deadlines for the presentation of proposals, avoid presenting Recommendations with similar issues, eliminate redundancy in texts adopted, ensure consistency among Recommendations, reduce the number of Recommendations, and adopt a standard format for proposed recommendations. The Working Group recommended that the Panels review the "ICCAT Reporting Requirements" and identify further ways to streamline requirements.

v) Election of Chairs

The Working Group considered means to clarify the process for selection of chairs of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Some delegations suggested establishing a geographical distribution of the mandate so as to ensure equitable and fair rotation. The Working Group took note of the differences between the provisions in the Convention and the Rules of Procedure regarding the rules for re-election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Commission and supported consideration of ways to ensure these provisions were consistent with each other and with current practice.

5. Other issues to strengthen the Commission

5.a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

In their document with several proposals for the meeting, the United States considered that MCS provisions should be updated in the Convention. Most participants agreed that any future Convention amendment process should include language on MCS that would reflect the goals of MCS programs but not prescribe specific tools. The Working Group noted the extensive ICCAT MCS tools already in place and agreed this work should continue.

5.b Force majeure

Libya presented the document "Issues for discussion by the Working Group on the future of ICCAT". Based on its experience during the 2011 bluefin tuna fishing season, Libya proposed including the principle of *force*

majeure in the Convention. Some CPCs felt this matter would be best taken up on a case by case basis in conservation and management recommendations. There was no agreement on this issue, but the proposal is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2** to enable further consideration.

5.c ICCAT Communication policy

Several CPCs expressed concern about the lack of a clear and efficient ICCAT communication policy that would enable ICCAT to quickly and effectively convey the results of its work. The Working Group recommended that the Chair of STACFAD, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission and CPCs, should prepare a draft communication policy for consideration at the next annual meeting. In addition, the Working Group requested the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of engaging an expert in communication or hiring a media company to assist ICCAT in communicating the facts of its work with the media. STACFAD should consider the financial and logistical implications of these options at the next annual meeting.

6. Development of Recommendations to the Commission, including, as appropriate, a process and procedures for negotiation and adoption of the Convention amendments

Further to the discussion of all the items under agenda 4, the delegates considered the document presented by Chinese Taipei, “Explanatory Note on the Draft Resolution by ICCAT for Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT in Annex 2 to Resolution 06-18” proposing a mandate to amend the *Basic Texts*.

The delegations of the European Union, Republic of Guinea, Norway, Chinese Taipei, the United Kingdom-Overseas Territories and the United States presented a “Draft [Resolution] [Recommendation] by ICCAT to Establish a [Working Group] to Develop Amendments to the ICCAT Convention“ that established terms of reference for this new body. Taking into account additional changes proposed by other delegations, the Working group decided to refer the amended proposal to the Commission to finalize. Canada and Japan presented a general reservation on the document attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.2**.

7. Other matters

Japan presented an explanatory note on a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shark Action Plan”, which is attached as **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 4.2**. The Working Group supported the need to further refine the meaning of “sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries” and recommended that the proposal should be discussed in Panel 4.

There were no other matters discussed by the Working Group under this Agenda item.

8. Adoption of the report

The report was adopted at the meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on Thursday, 31 May 2012.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Discussion of appropriate next steps to address issues identified by CPCs
 - a) Precautionary Approach
 - b) Ecosystem considerations, including bycatch
 - c) Convention scope, in particular sharks conservation and management
 - d) Contribution scheme
 - e) Capacity building and assistance
 - f) Non-party participation
 - g) Strengthening the SCRS
 - h) Decision making processes and procedures
 - i) Entry into force provisions for recommendations
 - ii) Voting rules/quorum
 - iii) Objection procedures
 - iv) Dispute resolution
 - i) Procedural issues
 - i) Transparency
 - ii) Allocation of fishing possibilities
 - iii) Panel structure
 - iv) Streamlining / simplifying conservation measures
 - v) Election of chairs
5. Other issues to strengthen the Commission
 - a) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
6. Development of recommendations to the Commission, including, as appropriate, a process and procedures for negotiation and adoption of Convention amendments
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report
9. Adjournment

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2

Issues for Discussion at the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT

(Submitted by Norway)

In response to ICCAT Circular #5000/2011, requesting CPCs to indicate which issues they intend to work on in 2012 in the framework of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, Norway informed by letter of 19 December 2011 that we would like to address the following issues:

- Application of Ecosystem Considerations and reference to the Precautionary Approach in the ICCAT Convention
- Amendments to the Objection Procedures and application of Provisions on Transparency in the decision-making process.

According to Resolution 11-25, Annex 1 paragraph 3, CPCs should, at least 45 days in advance of the meeting of the WGFI, submit to the Secretariat proposals addressing:

- Objectives and desired outcomes of a proposed initiative to address a particular priority issue;
- Mechanisms envisaged for the proposed initiative (modifying Basic Texts, decisions of the Commission or both),
- Potential legal, management and policy implications associated with the proposal; and
- Possible drafting suggestions for eventual amendments to Basic Texts or for decisions of the Commission, as appropriate.

In line with this, Norway would propose the following:

Precautionary Approach

Some provisions of the ICCAT Convention might be considered to touch upon elements of the precautionary approach, and this principle has increasingly been reflected in ICCAT conservation and management measures. Nevertheless, it is fundamental that the precautionary approach is applied throughout the work of ICCAT. To ensure compliance with relevant international rules, an obligation to apply the precautionary approach should be explicitly expressed in the Convention. Norway would therefore propose to include in Article VIII.1 (a) an obligation for the ICCAT Commission to apply the precautionary approach as a basic principle for recommendations pertaining to conservation and management.

Proposed amendments to Article VIII.1 (a) (i):

Article VIII

1.(a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed 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~~ yield. When making such recommendations the Commission shall, in accordance with relevant international instruments:

(i) apply the precautionary approach;

Article VIII in its entirety, with all amendments proposed is to be found below.

Ecosystem considerations

In recent years ICCAT has adopted a wide variety of measures which takes into account the impact of ICCAT fisheries on ecosystems. According to the Convention, the mandate of ICCAT is to cooperate to maintain the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes. Article IV.1 of the Convention tasks the Commission with the study of these fish as well as “such other species of fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area as are not under investigation by another international fishery organization”. There is, however, no explicit link between these studies and the adoption of recommendations under Article VIII. Furthermore, there are no other specific provisions in the ICCAT Convention relating to ecosystem considerations. Hence, it should be clearly expressed in the Convention that recommendations shall be based on ecosystem considerations. Norway therefore suggests that this be reflected in general terms in the Convention as follows:

Article VIII

1.(a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed 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~~ yield. When making such recommendations the Commission shall, in accordance with relevant international instruments:

(i) apply the precautionary approach;

(ii) take ecosystem considerations;

(iii) take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity.

Article VIII in its entirety, with all amendments proposed is to be found below.

In addition, to the amendments above, it would be appropriate to add an Article to the Convention stating the objective of the Convention. Norway would propose a new Article II as follows:

Article II

The objective of this Convention is to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention Area and, in doing so, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found.

Objection procedures

All ICCAT Recommendations are binding for all ICCAT CPCs. However, Article VIII.3 of the ICCAT Convention grants all Contracting Parties the right to object to a recommendation before its entry into force, with the exception of objections to recommendations that originated within a Panel. Such objections may only be

lodged by the members of that Panel, or by other non-Panel members if a member of the relevant Panel has lodged an objection, c.f. Article VIII.3 (a) and VIII.1 b) (ii) and (iii). This means that CPCs have to be members of all Panels in order to ensure the right to object to all recommendations. However, all Panels may propose recommendations of principle nature which may have bearings on CPCs not member of the relevant Panel. Becoming member of all Panels could represent an economic obstacle. Hence, these objection procedures could be perceived as discriminatory.

The right to object is of fundamental importance and in order to allow all Contracting Parties to object to recommendations, including those originating within a Panel to which it is not a member, the Convention should be amended accordingly.

It might be argued that such an amendment could lead to an increase in the number of objections. This could be avoided by introducing requirements for Contracting Parties to specify the reasons for their objections.

The right to object is already explicitly set out in the Convention. Hence, amendments to the objection procedures can only be accomplished by amending Article VIII.3.

Amendments to the objection procedures must also be seen in connection with the rules regarding entry into force of recommendations. These rules need to be amended to shorten the period for entry into force.

Proposal for amendments to Article VIII.3 (a):

3. (a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1 (b)(i) above ~~or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(ii) or (iii) above~~ presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six~~ XX months period provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for an additional ~~sixty~~ XX days.

Article VIII in its entirety, with all amendments proposed is to be found below.

Transparency

The ICCAT Convention does not include any provisions requiring transparency in the Commissions decision-making processes. There are, however, some requirements in Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure, and policies have been instituted to improve the ability of CPCs to undertake a timely review of proposals.

Lack of transparency within the Commission in its decision-making processes has represented a problem in ICCAT. Late distribution of documents and incomplete explanation of proposed recommendations are important parts of this problem. In order to ensure transparency in the decision-making processes it is necessary to amend the Convention accordingly. Such an amendment could be implemented in form of a new Article VIII bis or possibly by a preambular provision.

Proposal for a new Article VIII bis or a new preambular provision:

The Commission shall promote transparency in the implementation of this Convention, in its decision-making processes and in other activities.

Drafting suggestions

– Article II

The objective of this Convention is to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention Area and, in doing so, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found.

– Article VIII

1.(a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed 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~~ yield. When making such recommendations the Commission shall in particular:

(i) apply the precautionary approach;

(ii) take ecosystem considerations;

(iii) take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity.

These recommendations shall be applicable to the Contracting Parties under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

(b) The recommendations referred to above shall be made:

- (i) at the initiative of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has not been established or with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the Contracting Parties if an appropriate Panel has been established;*
- (ii) on the proposal of an appropriate Panel if such a Panel has been established;*
- (iii) on the proposal of the appropriate Panels if the recommendation in question relates to more than one geographic area, species or group of species.*

2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all Contracting Parties ~~six~~ XX months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Contracting Parties, except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article.

3. (a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1 ~~(b)(i)~~ above ~~or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1 ~~(b)(ii)~~ above~~, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six~~ XX months period provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for an additional ~~sixty~~ XX days.

(b) Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional ~~sixty~~ XX days period, or within ~~forty-five~~ XX days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional ~~sixty~~ XX days, whichever date shall be the later.

(c) The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.

(d) However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one-fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.

(e) In the case referred to in sub-paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of ~~sixty~~ XX days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.

(f) If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one-fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall become effective for the Contracting Parties that have not presented an objection thereto.

(g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Contracting Parties the recommendation shall not become effective.

4. Any Contracting Party objecting to a recommendation may at any time withdraw that objection, and the recommendation shall become effective with respect to such Contracting Party immediately if the recommendation is already in effect, or at such time as it may become effective under the terms of this Article.

5. The Commission shall notify each Contracting Party immediately upon receipt of each objection and of each withdrawal of an objection, and of the entry into force of any recommendation.

– Article VIII bis or preambular provision

The Commission shall promote transparency in the implementation of this Convention, in its decision-making processes and in other activities.

Proposal to the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT

(Submitted by the United States)

ICCAT Resolution 11-25 directed the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT to “discuss concrete proposals to address the priority issues identified during the first two meetings of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT with a view to making recommendations to the Commission at the 18th Special Meeting to achieve progress on strengthening ICCAT.”

The United States believes that targeted amendments to certain Convention articles are necessary to address fully many of the priority issues identified in the Future of ICCAT process and to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of ICCAT in the long run. With that in mind and pursuant to Resolution 11-25, the United States would like to offer proposals on some of the priority issues that will be considered by the working group during its May 2012 meeting. This initial contribution focuses on needed changes to the ICCAT Convention in the following five key areas: (1) the precautionary approach; (2) ecosystem considerations and Convention scope; (3) decision-making processes; (4) non-party participation; and (5) monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures. In addition, given the nature of some of our suggestions, we first touch on a possible addition to the structure of the Convention that would help incorporate and put into context these and potentially other priority issues.

In this submission, the United States has not fully addressed all the priority issues identified by the working group in its first two meetings. The United States remains very interested, however, in working with other parties on ways to address all of the issues to be considered in May.

Convention objective, principles, and approaches. To help address the five areas covered in this proposal and potentially other issues highlighted previously in the Future of ICCAT process, the Commission should consider amending the Convention to include clearly articulated Convention objectives and to outline guiding principles and approaches to decision-making. Principles and approaches such as the ecosystem approach to management, the precautionary approach, science-based management, transparency, capacity building and assistance, effective MCS measures and potentially others, are key to good fisheries management and should be reflected in the ICCAT Convention. ICCAT has incorporated some of these elements in its operations and decision-making through conservation and management recommendations adopted under Article VIII of the Convention. However, many of these important concepts are noticeably absent from the Convention itself. ICCAT needs to enshrine these guiding principles and approaches in its Convention to provide the strongest foundation possible to support its operations and decisions. Articles outlining the Commission’s overarching objective and guiding principles and approaches could be accomplished by:

- ◆ Redrafting the preamble to become an operative article outlining the overarching objective, which may be the appropriate place to reflect the concepts of maximum sustainable yield or long-term conservation and sustainable use;
- ◆ Adding an article that sets forth concepts and approaches to guide the work of the Commission, including, at a minimum:
 - Decisions should be based on the best available science and should reflect the precautionary approach;
 - Decisions should reflect the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management;
 - Decisions should be made in a fair and transparent manner;
 - Decisions should take into account the needs and special circumstances of developing coastal States; and
 - Decisions should take into account allocation criteria as developed by the Commission.

The Precautionary Approach. The ICCAT Convention must more clearly reflect the central role of science-based management and the application of the precautionary approach with respect to the species under its purview. A core aspect of these concepts is that States should be more cautious when information is uncertain unreliable, or inadequate and that the absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures. Recent actions taken by the Commission to help ensure its decisions are based on the best available science and implement the precautionary approach are welcome advancements; however, we believe that these will not address the matter in its entirety and into the future. These concepts should also be central, guiding tenets in the ICCAT Convention.

To more clearly incorporate the precautionary approach, amendments to the Convention should include, at a minimum, the following elements:

- ◆ A provision that establishes the precautionary approach as a guiding tenet of Commission, as proposed in section above (“Convention objective, principles, and approaches”);
- ◆ Stocks should be managed for their long-term conservation and sustainable use, appropriately taking into account scientific uncertainty.

Several recent multilateral fisheries agreements, including the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (NAFO Convention), the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific (WCPFC Convention), and the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources of the South Pacific Ocean (SPRFMO Convention) incorporate the precautionary approach as reflected in the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and offer useful examples to consider.

Ecosystem considerations and Convention scope. ICCAT's objective as set forth in the Convention must move beyond a focus on managing only tuna and tuna-like species in a manner that achieves maximum sustainable yield to more fully reflect a comprehensive ecosystem approach. Toward that end, we believe ICCAT needs to clarify the scope of the ICCAT Convention with respect to target and bycatch species so that there is no misunderstanding about what falls within ICCAT's mandate. The urgency of this matter is clear. Some CPCs have already expressed uncertainty about ICCAT's ability to adopt management measures for certain species, such as sharks. Failure to more formally incorporate the ecosystem approach into ICCAT's Convention and to address questions of Convention scope decisively and for the long term could undermine ICCAT's ability to ensure the conservation and management of important ocean resources. The United States believes that clarifying the scope of the Convention would require amendments to the preamble, Articles IV, and Article VIII. At a minimum, the amendments should contain the following elements in order to adequately address this issue:

- ◆ Clarity in ICCAT's authority to manage non-tuna, highly migratory fish species found in the Convention area;
- ◆ Clarity in ICCAT's authority to adopt conservation and management measures for species belonging to the same ecosystem and that are affected by fishing for, or dependent on or associated with, ICCAT species;
- ◆ The unambiguous authority to adopt standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;
- ◆ Addition of the concept of ecosystem-based management in a new section to the Convention setting forth guiding principles and approaches as discussed above.

Some of these changes could be accomplished, at least in part, by amending the scope of species referred to in the preamble, deleting the text “(the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*)” in Article IV, and/or through other means.

The Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention) and the WCPFC Convention provide useful models to consider in addressing this important priority.

Decision-making processes. There are a variety of provisions in the ICCAT Convention related to decision-making that are unclear, confusing, and/or out of step with other international fisheries instruments and ICCAT's current and future operational needs. Provisions identified in the Future of ICCAT process in this regard include: (1) timing of entry-into-force of recommendations, (2) objection procedures, (3) voting rules, and (4) dispute settlement procedures. The need for clarification on these issues is clearly highlighted by the significant difficulties encountered in recent months and years associated with votes, objections, and entry into force dates as well as disagreements between CPCs concerning the proper interpretation or application of ICCAT requirements. Convention amendment is necessary to address fully all aspects associated with these four items. We must modernize and clarify the Convention's decision-making provisions to ensure consistent and transparent application and to make the organization as efficient and effective as possible.

Timing of entry into force of recommendations: Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention specifies that recommendations shall become effective six months after the date they have been transmitted to the Contracting Parties. This long time period was necessary to account for the delays associated with international

communication. Such communication, however, can be done much more rapidly today. In addition, ICCAT has been adopting stronger and more comprehensive management measures for a number of the stocks under its purview to address conservation needs and is likely to continue to do so. Such actions can and have created a need for an earlier entry into force date given the nature and timing of some fisheries. The Convention has been understood to allow recommendations to specify entry into force dates that are later than the current 6 month deadline but not earlier.

Under the circumstances, therefore, reconsideration of the entry into force provisions of the ICCAT Convention is needed. Specifically, this effort should eliminate unnecessary delays in the entry into force of management recommendations and support effective stock conservation. Toward that end, any agreed approach must reinforce the obligation of Contracting Parties to effectively manage their fisheries in accordance with ICCAT's conservation and management measures no matter when those fisheries occur. Article VIII, paragraph 2, should be amended to take these considerations into account. Conforming amendments would be needed in paragraph 3(a) of this same Article.

Objection procedures: Like the entry into force provisions, ICCAT's objection procedures reflect a time when international communications were difficult and slow. In addition to being lengthy, they are cumbersome and can be confusing as recent experience has shown. The process and procedures for lodging objections, therefore, need to be clarified, modernized, and, if possible, streamlined. Improving the transparency of the objection process and strengthening their foundation are important goals. Article VIII, paragraph 3, should be amended to provide, at a minimum, that:

- ◆ An objection should not delay the entry into force for a recommendation for non-objecting Contracting Parties unless a certain number of Contracting Parties object to the measure;
- ◆ The objecting Contracting Party must explain the reason for their objection as well as what alternative measures they will put in place to ensure that the objectives of the ICCAT measure are not undermined.

CPCs could also consider whether the Convention should include a limited number of grounds on which an objection can be made. The NAFO Convention, SPRFMO Convention, and the new North Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention provide useful models to consider with regard to improving ICCAT's objection procedures.

Voting rules: The current rules create an extremely high bar for adopting measures by vote. To date, voting in ICCAT has been shown to be an ineffective tool for taking decisions – intersessionally or otherwise. Currently, two-thirds of ICCAT's Contracting Parties constitute a quorum; however, the threshold needed to adopt a measure is a majority of all Contracting Parties in almost all cases. Thus, for a measure to pass, a qualified or absolute majority of ICCAT's full membership must vote in favor. Abstentions under ICCAT's current rules effectively act as negative votes. Amendments to Article III, paragraph 3, will be necessary to address these issues, and, at a minimum, should reflect the following:

- ◆ Decisions should be taken by consensus when possible, but, if all attempts to reach consensus fail, a vote may be called;
- ◆ Decisions of the Commission should be based on the votes of those Contracting Parties present and casting a positive or negative vote;
- ◆ Conforming amendments to Article 1(b)(i) and ICCAT's Rules of Procedure.

The SPRFMO Convention may be a useful model in this regard.

Dispute settlement procedures: Currently the issue of dispute settlement is absent from the ICCAT Convention and Rules of Procedure. Given the potential for disagreements among ICCAT members concerning the interpretation or application of ICCAT requirements, the addition of an article to the ICCAT Convention establishing a dispute settlement procedure in line with that provided in UNCLOS/UNFSA should be considered. Other approaches to this matter, such as through adjustment to the Rules of Procedure, may also be appropriate.

Participation of non-Parties to the Convention. To enhance ICCAT's ability to manage the resources under its purview fully and effectively, it is in the interest of all to create better opportunities for Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities who have significant interests in ICCAT fisheries but who are not currently able to be members of ICCAT to develop a stronger and more stable relationship with the

Commission, as has been done in other RFMOs. While ICCAT has taken interim steps in this regard, the fullest and most appropriate treatment can only be accomplished through Convention amendment. The WCPFC Convention, the Antigua Convention, the SPRFMO Convention, and the new North Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention contain provisions that address the participation of non-Parties and provide helpful guidance on this matter.

Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS). Effective MCS programs are critical for ensuring that management measures can be well implemented. While ICCAT has adopted a variety of MCS measures through recommendation, the MCS provisions of the ICCAT Convention specified in Article IX are somewhat limited and do not fully reflect concepts contained in more modern instruments. Enhancing this aspect of the Convention by establishing clear and modern MCS mandates would provide ICCAT with the strongest foundation possible to ensure compliance with its rules.

The United States will be considering if there are additional contributions we might make to facilitate the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT at its May meeting. In support of this, we encourage CPCs to contact us in advance of that meeting to share their views on issues raised herein and any other matters to be considered by the Working Group. The United States anticipates that a key outcome of the May meeting will be clear agreement on ways and means for bringing the ICCAT Convention and other basic texts in line with modern fisheries management approaches and current international legal norms.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2

Notes to the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT Concerning Agenda Item 4.G – Strengthening the SCRS

(Submitted by the SCRS Chair)

During the 2011 Commission meeting in Istanbul, reaffirming the necessity that any conservation and management measure is based on the best possible scientific advice, the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science* [Res. 11-17]. The Commission recognizes the high quality work of the SCRS and, with this Resolution, intends to reinforce the role of the Committee.

The SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (Madrid, 16-20 April 2012) analyzed the implications of this Resolution and the main outcomes are summarized below:

- **Quality control and validation of stock assessment software used by SCRS.** The SCRS has a protocol for software validation and quality control in place, the ICCAT software catalogue. The Working Group agreed to continue collaborating with other initiatives, like the Strategic Initiative on Stock Assessment Methods (SISAM) and to explore the possibility of the ICCAT software catalogue becoming part of a worldwide repository of stock assessment methods.
- **Transparency.** On the issue of the transparency of the work of the SCRS, it was indicated that the Performance Review of ICCAT considered the SCRS work to be highly transparent. The Group recognized the importance of taken steps towards maintaining and even improving the transparency of the work of the SCRS.
- **Code of conduct.** The Group acknowledged that currently the SCRS does not have a code of conduct for scientists and observers attending its meetings and, therefore, it recommended that such a code of conduct be drafted to comply with the requirements of [Res. 11-17].
- **Peer reviews.** The Group was reminded that peer reviews of the work of SCRS Working Groups have already been conducted in the past and that a protocol to conduct such reviews is already in place.

It was agreed that the current protocol for peer review of the SCRS work should be revised and updated. The Group also agreed that the Secretariat should prepare and keep a list of experts who have been agreed to participate in the peer review process and who have been judged to have the necessary experience and expertise to perform that task. This will allow the selection of external experts as soon as the SCRS calendar of assessment meetings has been approved by the Commission.

The Group recognized that for effectively implement peer review of stock assessments with the participation of external reviewers, the Commission needs to allocate specific funds to cover the costs of this process. For that purpose, the Commission should be provided with multiannual plans detailing the financial requirements for that period or, alternatively, the Commission could allocate permanent funds to support the financial needs of a peer review process. It was also suggested by the Group that an external performance review of the review process be conducted after a period of approximately 5 years to assess its effectiveness, financial implications, and to consider potential improvements.

- **SCRS Science Strategic Plan.** During 2013, the 2014-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan (including Quality Assurance and Capacity Building) should be developed by the SCRS.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2

Indicative List of Performance Review Panel Findings and Recommendations to be Considered by the SCRS, According to the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT

(Submitted by the SCRS Chair)

The Working Group on the Future (FUT) of ICCAT encouraged the SCRS to consider the recommendations of the Performance Review Panel that FUT considered relevant to the work of SCRS. The Committee provided its comments in Table 16.9.4 of the 2009 SCRS Report, and they are updated in the present document.

19. For albacore tuna, the Panel recommends that catches for the northern stock be decreased such that fishing mortality is consistent with F_{MSY} . The Panel also recommends that more information be collected for Mediterranean albacore and that an assessment be conducted at the earliest possible date.

- a) The setting of TACs and catch limits is not a function of SCRS, since it is considered a policy function of the Commission. SCRS shall continue to advise the Commission on the risks related to achieving its management goals under different management options, considering uncertainty in estimates of stock status and productivity, to the degree that uncertainty can be characterized.
- b) In 2011, an assessment of Mediterranean albacore was carried out, although the general lack of pertinent data leads to a high level of unquantified uncertainty.

26. Given the steady decline in catches of yellowfin tuna, the Panel is surprised that stock assessments are not conducted more frequently.

Yellowfin was last assessed in 2008 and at the request of the Commission in 2010, yellowfin tuna was again assessed in 2011. In support of Commission decisions on potential TAC for this stock, a Kobe 2 strategy matrix was prepared based upon a range of plausible hypotheses regarding stock condition.

28. The Panel urges CPCs to make data and scientific expertise available to the SCRS so that progress can be achieved in short order on evaluating the effect the fisheries under the purview of ICCAT have on seabirds and turtles.

The Committee agrees that the collection and reporting of relevant information and the availability of experts are essential if the Commission wishes to evaluate fishery impacts on seabirds and turtles. Furthermore, assessments of several seabird populations were conducted by SCRS in 2009.

Increased observer coverage of all major fishing fleets is an essential element for this task.

Although the Commission has since required observer sampling of CPC fleets at least a 5% sampling level, information from such observer data collection systems across the fleets have yet to be provided to SCRS. In fact, in 2011, only a small proportion of CPCs with observer sampling data collection systems provided information required under [Rec 10-10]. Adoption of data confidentiality policies by the Commission in 2010 should promote the provision of detailed, operational level observer data needed to carry out or refine assessments of impacts of the tuna fleets on seabirds or turtles, although such data has yet to become commonly available to SCRS. Such operational level data are also required to refine assessments of target species, as referenced in the Kobe III science report, but these data remain largely unavailable to SCRS.

To expedite the evaluation of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtle populations [Rec. 10-09], an expert was contracted for a 6 months' term working in coordination with the convener of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems.

The Sub-Committee on Ecosystems also established a work plan for activities and will meet again in 2012 to review information available and make recommendations with regard to the methodologies.

The By-catch Coordinator was contracted by the Secretariat in May 2012.

Starting in 2011, the SCRS Report includes reporting scores on data completeness and quality. The *Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detailed Reports* [Res.11-14] includes a proposal of format to report this information.

29. The Panel recommends that CPCs ensure that scientists participating in SCRS activities have a good balance between quantitative skills and knowledge of the fisheries and of tuna biology.

The Committee agrees with this recommendation. The needs of developing CPCs in terms of capacity building in this regard need to be addressed.

30. The Panel recommends that CPCs send trained and knowledgeable scientists to the SCRS meetings for all fisheries in which they have substantial involvement.

The Committee agrees with this recommendation. The needs of developing CPCs in terms of capacity building in this regard need to be addressed.

In 2011 the SCRS adopted guidelines for the use of different funds available at the Secretariat which should further facilitate this capacity building. Nonetheless, lack of participation in assessments of scientists from CPCs directly involved in tuna fisheries remains a problem, especially for southern hemisphere and Mediterranean stocks. In 2011, only limited participation by scientists with fishery expertise in the South Atlantic and Mediterranean albacore stock assessments was attained.

31. The Panel recommends that CPCs collect accurate Task I and Task II data from all their fisheries according to ICCAT protocols and report them in a timely fashion to the ICCAT Secretariat. The Panel further recommends that consideration be given to modify the ICCAT observer program to collect such data.

a) The Committee agrees that it is essential that CPCs collect and report accurate fishery statistics.

In 2011, although some improvements in data reporting across CPCs were noted, the overall quality of the data reported in support of stock assessments remains unconfirmed. Future work of the SCRS will involve assessing the quality of data collected and reported, rather than evaluating the timeliness of reports.

b) The Committee believes that using observer programs to collect scientific information is an important complement to regular logbook collection and other sampling activities that ICCAT typically uses to estimate Task I and II data, and should be more broadly implemented by CPCs. Observers can also help cross-check logbook data and collect information on dead discards, non-target species, size composition, etc. Modification of the ICCAT observer program could be a reasonable option, especially for CPCs for which national programs could not be implemented.

While requirements for observer sampling have been agreed, such data are not generally available to SCRS.

32. The Panel recommends that the provision of Rec. 07-08 preventing access to VMS data less than three years old by SCRS scientists be removed at the next Commission meeting and that SCRS scientists be immediately given access to current VMS data.

The 3-year provision was removed in [Rec. 08-05]. In 2009 the Committee was able to obtain summary VMS information for 2008 and 2009. The Committee notes that if the Commission adopts confidentiality rules for data protection and sharing, then more detailed VMS information could become available in the future.

In 2010, the Commission adopted confidentiality policy. SCRS has evaluated the utility of the VMS data reported at six hour intervals and finds it of limited scientific value for indexing fishing effort in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin fisheries. It is recommended that VMS at 2 hr. or finer resolution be made available across the Atlantic tuna fleets and for FADS to provide a basis for indexing effort applied in all the ICCAT fisheries.

33. The Panel recommends that ICCAT identifies three or four priority knowledge gaps that need to be resolved and that scientific programs be developed to resolve those issues in a timely manner.

a) General recommendations are given in Section 15.

General recommendations have been provided annually, including those with financial implications for the Commission. To date, there has been relatively little progress in implementing the recommendations and these often remain outside of the regular budget for the Commission.

b) Bluefin tuna research to better understand mixing, to recover basic data, and to improve management advice is of very high priority (see Item 16.4). The GBYP started in 2010 after the voluntary contributions by CPCs and other interested parties.

c) There are activities that, if funded, could help fill data gaps for more than one species at a time. For example, large-scale tagging programs for tropical tunas, or scientific observer programs in major fisheries.

d) There is a need to obtain fishery-independent data, including tagging

e) Progress should be made on the collection of fishery statistics and the improvement on the knowledge of the population dynamics of small tunas.

f) With the continued depression of the albacore fishery in the Bay of Biscay, it is becoming critical to understand the underlying reasons through enhanced research as outlined in the proposal submitted for consideration in 2010 and 2011.

34. The Panel recommends that for stocks where fishing mortality is estimated to be close to FMSY or biomass is expected to be less than or close to B_{MSY} , comprehensive conventional tagging programs be developed and carried out to estimate fishing mortality and biomass more reliably.

The Committee agrees with this recommendation. In 2010 the Committee developed a comprehensive large-scale tagging program for tropical tunas for consideration by the Commission

40. In addition the Panel recommends that the extent and consequences of mixing of the East and West Atlantic stocks be fully evaluated as a matter of priority, including, if necessary through further field studies and research program to better understand migratory and spawning patterns. The basis for management should be made consistent with the results of those investigations as soon as the results are available. This recommendation is not to be used in any way as an excuse for inaction on the first recommendation; it is supplementary research.

a) The Committee is hopeful that the new Bluefin Research Program (see Section 16.4), if funded at a sufficient level for 5-6 years, will provide critical information about the extent and consequences of mixing.

b) The Committee will continue to endeavor to provide scientific advice for management that is consistent with its findings.

49. Given the numerous references and recommendations and resolutions in the ICCAT Compendium relating to improvements in data collection, the Panel finds it difficult to formulate a recommendation that might make a difference. The Panel strongly believes that: misreporting must stop immediately; CPCs must collect and report Task I and Task II data in a timely manner within the agreed time limits; effort should be continued to build capacity in developing CPCs and improve reporting by developed CPCs and CPCs who continually fail to comply should be subject to an appropriate penalties regime. Such a regime should be severe and be enforceable.

The Committee believes that a response to this recommendation could be best handled by the Compliance Committee and the Commission as a whole.

Beyond meeting time-lines for reporting, at issue remains the quality of the information being reported, which has largely not been fully analyzed. It is the intent of SCRS to move beyond examination of reports for timeliness and evolve toward a more structured evaluation of the quality of the information being reported by CPCs, with an eye toward improvements in that area.

51. The Panel recommends that the SCRS endeavour to provide simple, succinct and user-friendly advice to fisheries managers and Commissioners on the status of ICCAT stocks and the expected effects of potential management measures; that ICCAT Contracting Parties review their current management recommendations to ensure that they align with the current scientific assessment of the status of the stocks; and that ICCAT consider seriously the structure and basis of its decision making framework particularly in relation to fisheries management. A decision making framework should be adopted that guides the outcome of decisions and forces discipline consistent with the objectives of ICCAT on CPCs.

- a) The Committee endeavors to provide simple, succinct and user-friendly advice, although it may not always achieve it. The Committee welcomes suggestions for improvement such as the Kobe II Strategy Matrix and the *Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detailed Reports* [Res. 2011-14]
- b) The Committee believes that the other sentences in this recommendation would be best handled by the CPCs and by the Commission as a whole. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13] will guide the Commission on actions to be taken to achieve the Convention objectives, and the SCRS should also use it as a framework when developing limit reference points and harvest control rules and when conducting Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE).

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2

Proposal for Consideration at the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT: Modification of Rule 9 in ICCAT Rules of Procedure in Respect of Inter-sessional Voting

(Submitted by Canada)

Inter-sessional votes at ICCAT have become more common. Recent examples have shown that a high proportion of Parties not responding in an inter-sessional vote may have a determining outcome on a decision. Under the current Rules of Procedure, an omission to vote is recorded as an abstention and, as such, has the same effect as a vote against a proposal. While modifying the quorum, the majority or how abstentions are counted in a vote might require an amendment to ICCAT's Convention, modifications could be made to Rule 9 (Voting) of ICCAT's Rules of Procedure to improve the inter-sessional voting process.

A) Objectives and outcomes of the proposal

The proposal to modify Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure seeks to encourage greater participation in inter-sessional votes by members of the Commission as well as to ensure that outcomes of inter-sessional votes reflect more accurately the will of the Commission, by:

- 1) Modifying how the quorum is calculated for an inter-sessional vote;
- 2) Providing additional steps throughout the process to remind members of the requirement to respond to an inter-sessional vote, and;
- 3) Not considering a failure to respond to an inter-sessional vote as an indication that a member is abstaining from voting.

1) Modifying how the quorum is calculated for an inter-sessional vote

The ICCAT Convention provides, in article III (3):

Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, decisions of the Commission shall be taken by a majority of the Contracting Parties, each Contracting Party having one vote. Two-thirds of the Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum.

At a meeting of the Commission, the quorum is defined as the minimum number of members that must be present for a decision to be taken. Hence, the criterion for the quorum is merely that the members be present, not that they vote. Nevertheless, in practice, the members present will usually vote or register an abstention when a vote is called, rather than refrain from participating in a vote. Consequently the quorum will be representative of the number of members participating in a decision on a proposal put to a vote.

In the case of inter-sessional votes, paragraphs 12 and 15 of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure currently provide that the members that have confirmed their reception of a proposal or request put to an inter-sessional vote be considered for the purpose of a quorum. As a result the quorum can differ significantly from the number of members who respond to the Executive Secretary indicating whether they cast votes or abstain from voting.

It is proposed to modify paragraphs 12 and 15 of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure so that for the purpose of an inter-sessional vote, the quorum should only include responses received from members, indicating whether they cast an affirmative vote, cast a negative vote or abstain from voting. Ultimately, if less than two thirds of the members respond to an inter-sessional vote, there would be no quorum and no decision would be taken.

2) Providing additional steps throughout the process to remind members of the requirement to respond to an inter-sessional vote

Under paragraph 14 of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, members have 40 days to respond to an intersessional vote, either with an affirmative vote, a negative vote, an indication of their abstention or a request for additional time for voting, in which case a further 30 days shall be allowed from the expiration of the initial 40-day period. In the event of an extension, the Executive Secretary has to inform all members of the final date by which responses must be received. Aside from this information, the Executive Secretary is not required to communicate with the members during the 40 or 70-day voting period.

To encourage members to respect the requirement to respond to an inter-sessional vote, it is proposed that Rule 9 be modified to require additional communications by the Executive Secretary to the members at various stages of the process:

- In paragraph 13 of Rule 9, if no request for an inter-sessional vote on the chairman's determination has been received after 10 days, the Executive Secretary informs the members and reminds them of the number of days left to respond to the initial proposal.
- 10 days before the end of the initial voting period, if no request for an extension of time has been received, the Executive Secretary informs the members of the approaching expiration of the 40-day period, reminds them of the requirement to respond and could identify the members whose responses have not yet been received.
- In paragraph 14 of Rule 9, the Executive Secretary when informing the members of the final date by which responses must be received after an extension could identify the members whose responses have not yet been received.

3) Not considering a failure to respond to an intersessional vote as an indication that a member is abstaining from voting

Under paragraph 15 of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, 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.

An abstention is an expression of the refusal to vote in favour or against a proposal, but it is an expression nevertheless. By assimilating a failure to vote to an abstention, the current version of Rule 9 might have the effect of discouraging the members who may wish to abstain from responding to an inter-sessional vote, even if a response is required by paragraph 14 of Rule 9, given that their failure to do so will have the same effect as abstaining. Furthermore, assimilating the failures to vote to abstentions assumes that all the non-respondent would have abstained and therefore ignores the possibility that some non-respondent might have voted in favour or against a proposal, but just failed to do so.

It is proposed to modify paragraph 15 of Rule so that a member's failure to respond would not be recorded as an abstention. Instead, a failure to respond could be recorded as such and not be considered for the constitution of the quorum, not unlike a member who is not present for a vote at a meeting¹.

B) Possible drafting suggestions

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 inter-sessional 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. **[If no such request is received, the Executive Secretary shall inform all members and indicate the number of days remaining to respond to the proposal.]**
14. Members shall respond within 40² 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 no request for an extension of time has been received within 30 days of the initial transmittal of a proposal or request, the Executive Secretary shall inform all members of the approaching expiration of the 40 day period, indicate which responses have yet to be received and remind the members of the requirement to respond.]**
- 14 *bis* 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 permitted³. In the event of such an extension, the Executive Secretary shall **[indicate which responses have yet to be received and]** 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 **[not]** be considered part of the quorum for voting purposes.

C) Additional measures to encourage participation of members in inter-sessional votes

In addition to modifying the Rules of Procedures, further means could be envisaged to encourage members to respond in an inter-sessional vote. Compliance of members with Rules of Procedures could be assessed during the annual meeting of the Commission. The Secretariat could also make use of the different means envisaged in the current Rules of Procedures to secure the greatest amount of responses from Contracting Parties (e.g. secure web-site, an e-mail with a voting button sent as a reminder, etc.).

¹ Alternatively, a failure to vote by a member, provided that the Secretariat has confirmed receipt of the inter-sessional vote transmittal by that member, could also be counted either as: 1) a vote in favour of a proposal; 2) a vote neither in favour nor against a proposal (1/2 vote in favour and 1/2 vote against, having a neutral effect on the outcome of a proposal), or; 3) an undetermined response (1/3 vote in favour, 1/3 vote against and 1/3 abstention, having a slight effect (1/3 of a vote) against a proposal).

² The duration of the voting period and of an extension to the voting period were not considered as part of this proposal but could be reviewed to improve the efficiency of the process.

³ The possibility of allowing an additional extension should the quorum not be satisfied was not considered as part of this proposal but could be envisaged.

Issues for Discussion by the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT

(Submitted by Libya)

Reference is made to ICCAT circular No 5000/2011, requesting CPCs to indicate which issues they intend to work on in the framework of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT during its May 2012 meeting.

In addition to the issues identified by the working group on the future of ICCAT, Libya would like to address the following:

- Due to the advent of the Libyan 17th February revolution to overthrow the tyrant regime, the Libyan quota of bluefin tuna for fiscal year 2011 has not been used (i.e., typical case of *force major*); thus Libya, and as an exceptional case, would like to have last year's quota carried-over, either wholly or partially, to this year and/or the following fiscal years. We would also like see the principle (the *force major* principle) of carrying-over be reconsidered in any suggested future amendments to the Convention, based on similar cases in future.
- Libya agrees with the proposal made by USA regarding the current voting rules which create an extremely high bar for adopting measures by vote. To date, voting in ICCAT has been shown to be an ineffective tool for taking decisions – intersessionally or otherwise. Currently, two-thirds of ICCAT's Contracting Parties constitute a quorum; however, the threshold needed to adopt a measure is a majority of all Contracting Parties in almost all cases. Thus, for a measure to pass, a qualified or absolute majority of ICCAT's full membership must vote in favor. Abstentions under ICCAT's current rules effectively act as negative votes. Amendments to Article III, paragraph 3, will be necessary to address these issues and, at a minimum, should reflect the following:
 - ◆ Decisions should be taken by consensus when possible, but, if all attempts to reach consensus fail, a vote may be called;
 - ◆ Decisions of the Commission should be based on the votes of those Contracting Parties present and casting a positive or negative vote;
 - ◆ Conforming amendments to Article 1(b)(i) and ICCAT's Rules of Procedure.

Proposal for Consideration at the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT on the Objection Procedure

(Submitted by Canada)

Pursuant to Article VIII (3) of the Convention, any Contracting Party may present an objection to a recommendation of the Commission on a matter not under the purview of a Panel. Recommendations on matters under the purview of one or more Panels can only be the subject of an objection by a Contracting Party that is also a member of the relevant Panel or Panels, unless a valid objection has already been presented by another Contracting Party. Objections have to be presented within the six month period for recommendations to become effective and will delay the entry into effect of such recommendation for an additional 60 to 105 day period. The ICCAT Convention does not require that objections presented by Contracting Parties be justified or based on specific grounds.

Objectives and desired outcomes of a proposed review of the ICCAT Objection Procedure

- 1) Preserve the right of Contracting Parties to present objections to decisions of the Commission;

The possibility for Contracting Parties to present an objection to a decision of the Commission would not be restricted. As is the case currently, all recommendations of the Commission would be subject to objections by Contracting Parties. This principle could be reflected in a resolution or in an amendment to the Convention.

- 2) Extend, when possible, the right of a Contracting Party to object;

The possibility for a Contracting Party to object to a recommendation of the Commission should not be limited to those recommendations under the purview of the Panels of which it is a member. However, allowing Contracting Parties to object to recommendations originating from Panels of which they are not member would require an amendment to the Convention.

- 3) Reduce, to the extent possible, the impact of objections on the entry into effect of recommendations of the Commission;

Contracting Parties have six months after the date of notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Contracting Parties to present an objection to the Commission, which automatically extends by another 60 days the period for a recommendation to become effective. Other Contracting Parties can present an objection at any time during that extended eight month period. Additionally, Contracting Parties have 45 days to present an objection from the last objection made during the 60 day extension, which has the potential to further delay the entry into effect of a recommendation. Consequently, if all parties present their objections early (no less than 45 days before the end of the extended objection period), a further extension is avoided.

Such a change could be the object of a resolution or an amendment to the Convention. The latter could also reduce the period in which objections can be presented so that it would be included in the period necessary for recommendations to become effective, thereby avoiding any delay in the entry into effect of recommendations.

- 4) Require that objections be justified and based on specific grounds;

An objection does not exempt a Contracting Party from its duty to cooperate within the Commission to pursue the objectives of the Convention. As such, without restricting its right to present an objection, a Contracting Party should, when presenting an objection to the Commission, include its justifications for doing so, based on the following grounds:

- The recommendation is inconsistent, with UNCLOS, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the ICCAT Convention, or another ICCAT recommendation still in effect;
- The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in fact or law against the objecting Contracting Party;
- The recommendation is inconsistent with a domestic measure that pursues compatible conservation and management objectives and that is at least as effective as the recommendation, and;

Such a mechanism would not restrict the right to present an objection to a recommendation since the justifications and grounds for the objections would be determined by the Contracting Party presenting the objection. Furthermore, providing justifications to the objections would give them more weight and credibility, while at the same time bringing more transparency to the decision making process at ICCAT.

Such a change could be the object of a resolution or an amendment to the Convention.

- 5) Require that a Contracting Party presenting an objection also propose to adopt and implement, to the extent applicable, alternative management and conservation measures consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

An objection does not exempt a Contracting Party from its duty to cooperate within the Commission to pursue the objectives the Convention. When presenting an objection, to the extent applicable, a Contracting Party should specify the management and conservation measures it proposes to adopt and implement in lieu of the recommendation and which would be consistent with the objectives of the Convention. While objecting to a specific element of a recommendation, a Contracting Party could commit to implement the rest of the recommendation.

Such a change could be the object of a resolution or an amendment to the Convention.

Mechanisms envisaged for the review of the ICCAT Objection Procedure

A draft resolution is proposed below to implement the proposed changes more rapidly. Convention amendments might be needed to address this issue more effectively.

Draft Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by ICCAT

(Submitted by Canada)

RECALLING that pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, Contracting Parties may present objections to recommendations adopted by the Commission;

CONCERNED that the presentation of objections by ICCAT Contracting Parties has increased;

CONSIDERING that the presentation of an objection does not exempt a Contracting Party from the obligation to cooperate with Contracting Parties in pursuing the objectives of the ICCAT Convention;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that in conformity with the aims of the Commission and in view of the rights accorded by Article VIII of the Convention and taking account of the fundamental obligation of all Contracting Parties not to undermine the ICCAT objectives, it is essential that the terms relating to the presentation of objections be clearly defined;

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

1. Contracting Parties wishing to present objections should do so no less than 45 days before the end of the extended objection period, so not as to delay further the entry into effect of a recommendation.
2. Each Contracting Party that presents an objection pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention should provide to the Commission, at the time of presenting its objection, the reasons for its objection, based on the following grounds:
 - The recommendation is inconsistent, with UNCLOS, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the ICCAT Convention or another ICCAT recommendation still in effect;
 - The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in fact or law against the objecting Contracting Party;
 - The recommendation is inconsistent with a domestic measure that pursues compatible conservation and management objectives and that is at least as effective as the recommendation, and;
3. Each Contracting Party that presents an objection pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention should, at the same time, to the extent applicable, specify to the Commission the alternative management and conservation measures consistent with the objectives of the Convention it proposes to adopt and implement.
4. At each Commission meeting thereafter while its objection is maintained, the Contracting Party concerned should communicate to the Commission the alternative conservation and management measures it has adopted to respect the objectives of ICCAT and their effectiveness.
5. The Executive Secretary should provide all Contracting Parties with the details of all information and clarifications that have been received in conformity to paragraphs 2 and 3.
6. Each year the Commission should consider the effectiveness of the measures identified in paragraph 3.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.2

**Proposal for Consideration at the Third Meeting of the Working
Group on the Future of ICCAT for an Amendment to the
ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]**

(Submitted by Turkey)

It is proposed that paragraph 19 of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25] be amended as follows:

“19. The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair, equitable **and transparent** manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants. **The allocation of fishing possibilities shall take into account the criteria listed under the Title III. Allocation Criteria by using a mathematical formula to be developed by the SCRS. In this regard, SCRS shall be mandated to develop such a formula based on the criteria referred to in this resolution to be provided to the relevant Panels.**”

ICCAT Reporting Requirements Review

<i>No</i>	<i>Information required</i>	<i>Rec/Res</i>	<i>Frequency & deadline</i>	<i>Form adopted by Commission</i>	<i>Processed / stored / published</i>	<i>Purpose of information</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Possible overlap</i>	<i>Recommended Action</i>	<i>Referred for Action</i>	<i>Referred for Action</i>
GENERAL											
1	Annual Reports (Scientific).	Convention; Res. 01-16 and Ref. 04-17.	Annual; At the start of the SCRS meeting.	Yes, see Ref. 04-17.	Biennial Report.	Scientific.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
2	Annual Reports (Commission)	Convention; Res. 01-16 and Ref. 04-17;	Annual; One month before the Commission meeting.	Yes, see Ref. 04-17.	Biennial Report.	Management Implementation.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
3	Compliance Tables.	Rec. 98-14.	Annual, with Annual report (one month before the Commission meeting).	Yes (outdated-CP13-COC_Sec).	Published in COM report.	To determine if reported catches and size distribution are within CPC catch/size limits for the purposes of the Compliance Committee reviews; To agree on adjustments for under/over harvest in prior year.	Current system of allowing changes until first day of meeting inconsistent with Rec. Form adopted by the Commission no longer relevant to current methods. Adjustments are agreed for the prior year after fishing has occurred. Difficulty accounting for prior year revised data and unreported catches. COC (2008) agreed on 31 July submission deadline without amending Rec.98-14.	Task 1 and 2 data submissions. For E-BFT, overlap with weekly/monthly Catch Reports.	1) Resolve deadline difference between Rec. 98-14 and deadline adopted by the Commission in 2008. 2) Revise rec. to reflect current reporting practices.	COC	Rec 11-11 addresses overlap with Task I and II data and weekly/monthly BFT catch reports, resolves the deadline conflict, and establishes a process for subsequent changes made by CPCs to compliance table submissions.

ICCAT REPORT 2012-2013 (I)

4	List of vessels greater than 20 meters.	Rec. 09-08.	At time of change.	No reporting form but data elements specified in rec. and electronic submission encouraged (CP01-VessLsts.xls)	ICCAT web site.	To ensure only authorized vessels fish in the Atlantic. To support at-sea and port inspection and trade monitoring by verifying vessel's flag state authorization.	Vessels often included after fishing activities have begun. Information often incomplete. Many vessels with expired authorizations on list.	With other vessel lists.	Develop protocol that places vessels with expired authorizations on an archive list. Facilitate search of active list and archive by period of validity. Always include notification date. Consider consolidation with other lists.	Commission	Rec 11-12 addresses retroactive authorizations and removal of vessels with expired authorizations.
5	Vessels 20 m internal actions report.	Rec. 09-08, para. 6.	Annual; not specified.	Yes (CP10-IntAc20).	Currently not processed.	Ensure that flag states exercise legal control over vessels.	Few CPCs submit information.	Overlap with previous years' reports, Annual reports and Rec. 06-14 Reports.	Combine Rec. 09-08 and Rec. 06-14 reports with Annual Report, Section 4.	Commission	- Rec 11-12 replaced Rec 09-08 but did not change this provision. - COC report modified review process.
6	LSTLV Management Standard.	Res. 01-20.	Annual; not specified.	Yes (CP17-LSTLV.doc).	Currently not processed.	Ensure that flag states exercise legal control over vessels.	Few CPCs submit information, most with no changes from prior year.	With previous years' reports.	Include in Annual Report.	Commission	Addressed by COC in 2011 – submit reports only when changes occur.

7	Vessel chartering - arrangements and termination.	Rec. 02-21.	At time of arrangement and termination.	No (CP05-ChartrCP.xls / CP06-ChartrFS).	Partially published on ICCAT web site within consolidated vessel list.	To ensure chartered vessels are operated by ICCAT regulations and that the flag State and chartering State agree on catch reporting and accounting for catch limits.	Summary reports rarely sent, so no data base has been developed. Secretariat not always informed of termination.	With other vessel lists.	Revise to include complete chartering information on the list maintained under Rec. 09-08, including expiration dates and real time updates. Chartering states should include summaries of effort and catches under charter in the Annual Report.	Commission	- Compliance recommended review of implementation of this measure. - Likely appropriate for PWG.
8	Vessel chartering - summary report.	Rec. 02-21.	Annual, by July 31.	No (CP036-ChartSum).	Not published.	To ensure chartered vessels are operated by ICCAT regulations and that the flag state and chartering state agree on catch reporting and accounting for catch limits.	Summary reports rarely sent, so no data base has been developed. Secretariat not always informed of termination.	With other vessel lists.	Revise to include complete chartering information on the list maintained under Rec. 09-08, including expiration dates and real time updates. Chartering states should include summaries of effort and catches under charter in the Annual Report.	Commission	- Compliance recommended review of implementation of this measure. - Likely appropriate for PWG.

ICCAT REPORT 2012-2013 (I)

9	Transshipment (carrier) vessels	Rec. 06-11.	At time of change.	No reporting form but data elements specified in recommendation and electronic submission encouraged (CP-02-VessCATS).	ICCAT web site.	To ensure that at-sea transshipments are made only to authorized vessels.	Unclear whether notice obligation is for flag state of fishing vessels or flag state of carrier vessel, as these are often different states.	Duplicate entries due to current text of Recommendation; Unclear when authorization expires for some vessels.	Revise to indicate both catching and carrier vessel flag state responsibility for notification; Include information on operator and date of expiration; Maintain archive list after expiration.	Commission and appropriate panels.	No action in 2011, but may be addressed in 2012 with proposal from IMM meeting.
10	Transshipment declarations – various.	Rec. 06-11.	Various.	Yes (CP19-TransDec).	Processed by consortium.	To document amounts transhipped; To compare amounts at different points (transfer and landing) and with SDPs.	Declarations from receiving carrier vessels due within 24 hours of transshipment and 48 hours before landing.	N/A	None		- Making information available could be useful in Compliance review - May be addressed in 2012 with proposal from IMM meeting.
11	Transshipment reports.	Rec. 06-11.	At sea: Annual (15 Sept); In Port: Annual (with Annual Report).	No (CP037-TransRep).	Attached to the Secretariat report to the COC.	To cross check with transshipment declarations; To list LSTLVs that are transshipping; To review transshipment activity through observer reports.	CPCs are responsible for reviewing transshipment declarations from LSTLVs and comparing them with reported catches. Report to Secretariat includes total quantities, vessels involved in transshipment activities and observer reports.	N/A	None		- Making information available could be useful in Compliance review - May be addressed in 2012 with proposal from IMM meeting.

12	Alternative scientific monitoring approach.	Rec. 10-10.	Annual; in 2011 due before fishing season; from 2012 on due before SCRS meeting).	No specific format.	SCRS Report.	To ensure adequate monitoring and reporting from fisheries.		With annual report requirements.	Combine with Annual Report.	PWG	No action in 2011; Review of implementation expected in 2012.
STATISTICAL DATA											
13	Fleet characteristic.	Art-IX in ICCAT Convention and Rec. 05-09 and Res. 66-01.	31-July-2011 except where otherwise specified in the Request for statistics.	ST01-T1FC.	SCRS Report.	Support stock assessment.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
14	Estimation of nominal catch Task I.			ST02-T1NC	SCRS Report.	Support stock assessment.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
15	Catch and effort (Task II).			ST03-T2CE.	SCRS Report.	Support stock assessment.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
16	Size samples (Task II).			ST04-T2SZ/ST06-T2FM.	SCRS Report.	Support stock assessment.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A

17	Catch estimation by size.			ST05-CAS.	SCRS Report.	Support stock assessment.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
18	Tagging declaration.			TG01-TG03.	SCRS Report	Support stock assessment.	Basic reporting requirement.	N/A	None	N/A	N/A

AD HOC INFORMATION

19	Vessels involved in IUU fishing.	Rec. 09-10; paragraph 2.	At time of occurrence (at least 120 days before annual meeting).	No (CP11-IUULst).	ICCAT web site.	Identify and address IUU activity within the Convention area.	Para 12 of Rec states that Commission shall at its annual meeting in 2011, review and, as appropriate, revise to extend to other IUU activities.	Vessel sightings measure (94-09).	Review measure per para. 12 of Rec.; Consider harmonizing with measures from other RMFOs.	PWG	Replaced by Rec 11-18. Next review in 2013 per para 12.
20	Reports on IUU allegations.	Rec. 06-14.	At time of occurrence	No	Sent to Secretariat and CPCs concerned.	To ensure CPCs take appropriate actions against detected violations.	Refers to previous IUU vessel list.	With vessel sighting sheets.	Update reference to IUU vessel Rec (09-10).	PWG	IUU vessel list reference should be Rec 11-18.
21	Vessel sightings.	Res. 94-09..	At time of occurrence.	Yes (outdated-CP18-VessSight).	Sent to Secretariat and CPCs concerned.	Similar to above. Form outdated as only refers to BFT, also covered by Rec. 08-05.		With Rec 09-10 IUU Vessel List.	Update and combine with form in Rec. 09-10.	PWG	IUU Vessel List reference should be Rec 11-18; consider updating and consolidating reporting forms.

22	Port inspection reports.	Rec. 97-10.	At time of occurrence.	No specific format.	Currently not processed.	To ensure CPCs take appropriate actions against detected violations.	Some elements may be implemented through other measures (Rec.10-04).	With IUU Vessel List Rec (09-10) and 10-04.	Consider consolidation of reporting requirements when considering adoption of PSM Rec.	PWG	- IUU Vessel List now Rec 11-18 - No action in 2011, but may be able to address in 2012 with proposal from IMM meeting.
23	Trade measures submission of import and landing data.	Rec. 06-13.	Annual; in a timely manner.	CP12-TM0613.	Reviewed by Compliance Committee.	To provide a basis for identification	Some CPCs have requested clarification on the nature and scope of information that should be reported.	Some overlap with basic reporting requirements and reporting under BCD and SDPs??	Clarify nature and scope of information that should be reported.	PWG	COC Chair advised CPCs to submit any information which may be viewed as relevant for investigating suspected non-compliance.
24	Data on non-compliance.	Rec. 08-09.	At least 120 days before annual meeting.	No	Reviewed by Compliance Committee.	To bring to the attention of the Commission possible non-compliant actions.	Recommendation establishes a process for information submitted to be shared and responded to.	With IUU vessel list measure (Rec. 09-10).	None	-	IUU Vessel List reference should be Rec 11-18.
24 bis	Vessels not reported as active under Rec. 08-05 and presumed to have fished.	Rec. 08-05 and Rec. 10-04.	Whenever available.	No specific format.	To date no submissions have been received.	To help ensure that there is no illegal E-BFT fishery.		Overlap with existing IUU list and non-compliance information.	Include in IUU list or other non-compliance reporting requirements and revoke.	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.

SPECIES SPECIFIC											
BCD/SDP (BFT/BET/SWO)											
25	Validation seals and signatures for SDPs.	Rec. 01-21 & Rec. 01-22.	At time of change.	Yes (CP15-SDP_Valid).	ICCAT web site.	To allow CPCs to verify authenticity of seals/signatures.	Some CPCs & NCPs do not provide timely info on validating authorities and questions have been raised as to implications for importers.	With BCD signatures, but does not currently present difficulty.	Clarify issues raised regarding lack of appropriate validating authority info and importation.	PWG	No action in 2011, but may be able to address in 2012 with proposal from IMM meeting.
26	Data from ICCAT statistical document programs.	Rec. 01-21 and Rec. 01-22.	01-Apr-2011 and 01-Oct-2011.	Yes (CP16-SDP-REP).	Data base maintained.	To assist in the tracking of products and compare with catch data.	Conversion factors for some products still unknown. Data often submitted with Ocean or country of origin missing.	Some overlap with trade data submitted under Rec. 06-13.	Consider clarifying reporting requirements to provide details on possible IUU activity.	PWG	No action in 2011, but may be able to address in 2012 with proposal from IMM meeting.
27	Validation seals and signatures for BCDs.	Rec. 09-11.	At time of change.	Yes (CP15-SDP_Valid).	ICCAT web site.	To allow CPCs to verify authenticity of seals / signatures.		With SDP signatures, but does not currently present difficulty.	Consider implementation issues during development of eBCD program.	PWG	eBCD will address validation seals using digital signatures.
28	BCD contact points.	Rec. 09-11.	At time of change.	No	ICCAT web site.	To allow CPCs to maintain bilateral contacts on issues relating to BCDs.		N/A	None		eBCD will address contact points.

29	BCD legislation.	Rec. 09-11.	At time of change.	No	ICCAT web site	To indicate that the Rec. has been transposed into domestic law.		N/A	None		N/A
30	BCD tagging summary, sample tag.	Rec. 09-11.	At time of change.	No	ICCAT web site.	To allow importers to familiarize themselves with tagging requirements of exporters.	Not all BCDs are sent by the catching state to the Secretariat. As tagged products are exempt, database totals will never match actual catch.	N/A	None		eBCD may address.
31	Bluefin catch documents.	Rec. 09-11.	Within 5 days of issue.	Yes (See Annex Rec. 09-11).	ICCAT web site.	To track BFT products from catch to the market; to allow importing state to verify that catch was authorized, within catch limit and reported to ICCAT.	Not all BCDs are sent by the catching state to the Secretariat. As tagged products are exempt, database totals will never match actual catch.		Consider implementation issues during development of eBCD program.	PWG	eBCD may address.
32	BCD Annual Report.	Rec. 09-11.	Annual, Oct 1.	Yes (CP30-BCD_Rep).	ICCAT web site.	To allow CPCs to compare and reconcile import and export statistics.	It may be difficult to analyze information in the BCD annual reports as currently submitted.	N/A	Consider revising the annual report format to facilitate analysis.	PWG	eBCD may address.

SWORDFISH											
33	List of Med-SWO vessels.	Rec. 09-04 /09-08.	Annual, Aug 31.	No reporting form but reference to requirements of Rec. 09-08 (CP01-VessLsts.xls).	ICCAT web site.	To ensure that only authorized vessels are fishing for Med-SWO.	Text indicates all vessels retaining swordfish are included (directed fishing and bycatch). No limit on vessel size and resubmission by 31 Aug each year are inconsistent with Rec. 09-08.	With other vessel lists.	Revise to include Med-SWO authorization in the list maintained under Rec. 09-08, including expiration dates and maintenance of list in real time.	Panel 4	- Replaced by Rec 11-13 - Addressed inconsistency with Authorized Vessel List.
34	List of vessels authorized for large pelagics in Med. in previous year.	Rec. 09-04 /09-08.	Annual, No later than June 30.	Rec. 09-04 lists data elements, refers to ICCAT data submission guidelines and also refers to requirements of Rec. 09-08. (CP35-SWOM_PvYr).	In progress.	To evaluate fishing capacity/effort for SWO and other large pelagics in the Mediterranean.	Reference to large pelagics could include more vessels than Med-SWO list. Form needs to be revised in line with Rec.	With other vessel lists	Revise to include large pelagics authorization in the list maintained under Rec. 09-08, including expiration dates, maintenance of list in real time, and post reporting of fishing effort.	Panel 4	- Replaced by Rec 11-13 - Addressed inconsistency with Authorized Vessel List.
35	Compliance with seasonal closure/Med-SWO.	Rec. 09-04.	Annual, Oct 15.	No	No	To ensure compliance with closed seasons.	15 October deadline inconsistent with other reports.	Prior year reports; annual report.	Include in Annual Report.	Panel 4	Replaced and addressed by Rec 11-13.

36	History of SWO fishery and development/management plan.	Rec. 10-02.	Once; 15 Sept 2011.	No	To be determined.	To develop a multi-year conservation and management measure for SWO.	To be used at 2011 meeting for development of swordfish measure.	N/A	No action.		N/A
ALBACORE											
37	Annual list of northern albacore vessels.	Rec. 98-08.	Annual; 1 June.	No (CP03-VessALBN).	Currently not processed.	Originally needed to support effort limitations in northern Albacore fisheries. Fishery now managed by catch limits.	This list is of no scientific use as currently structured.	With other vessel lists.	Consider eliminating requirement.	Panel 2	N-ALB Measures adopted in 2011 with no change to 98-08 vessel list.
TROPICAL SPECIES											
38	Internal procedures for compliance with closed area/season in the Gulf of Guinea.	Rec. 04-01.	With Annual Report.	No	May be included in Annual Reports, otherwise not published.	To ensure compliance with closed seasons.	Unclear whether this measure is applicable beyond 2005.		Revisit requirement when discussing new management measure for bigeye tuna in 2011.	Panel 1	Replaced by Rec 11-01.
BLUEFIN TUNA											
39	Bluefin tuna farming facilities.	Rec. 06-07.	At time of change.	No (CP07_FarmLst).	ICCAT web site	To ensure operating farming facilities are authorized by a CPC.		No	None		N/A

40	Bluefin tuna farming reports.	Rec. 06-07.	Annual, 31 Aug.	No	No	To verify with farming reports/BCDs/transfer declarations.	No format has yet been adopted. Format first developed by Secretariat is inadequate. Unless all activities are reported, no verification can be carried out.	No	Need to revise form and change deadline to coincide with report of carryover of caged fish. Total harvest previous year + mortality should = carry over.	Panel 2	No action in 2011; may be addressed in eBCD implementation.
41	Bluefin tuna caging declaration.	Rec. 06-07.	Within one week after the completion of the transfer operation.	Yes	Yes	To verify with farming reports/BCDs/transfer declarations.	Total of all caging declarations should equal total in annual farming report.	Some confusion with transfer declaration.	Consider the need for separate declarations in development of eBCD. Current format should be used to report all farming events, including caging, mortality, inter-farm transfer etc.	PWG / Panel 2.	No action in 2011; may be addressed in eBCD implementation.
42	Size sampling from farms.	Rec. 06-07.	Annual; July 31 (for sampling from previous year).	See statistical data.	Yes	To assist in the determination of growth rates and conversion factors.		With 10-04	Clarify whether this is a continuing requirement.	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
43	Carryover of caged fish.	Rec. 09-11.	Annual; within 15 days after start of PS season (6/1/2011).	No	Yes	To track the full chain of catch/transfer/caging/harvest/market.	Some CPCs have requested an allowance for the consolidation of fish from different cages.	N/A	Consider request for consolidation. Need to revise form and change deadline to coincide with report of carryover of caged fish. Total harvest previous year + mortality should = carry over	Panel 2	Rec 11-20 allows grouping by same vessel and by same JFO but only when BFT harvested in same year; Carry-over accounting may be addressed in eBCD implementation.

44	Annual fishing plan (including commercial and sport /recreational quota management).	Rec. 10-04.	07-Feb-2011 (before COC inter-sessional).	No	No, except individual quotas published on ICCAT web site.	To ensure CPCs stay within quotas and overall TAC.	To be reviewed and endorsed by COC.	N/A	None		EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
45	Report on implementation of annual fishing plan.	Rec. 10-04.	15-Oct-11.	No	No	To ensure full implementation of recovery plan.		Some overlap with report on implementation (see item 46).	Consider combining with report on implementation of Rec 10-04 (see item 46).	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
46	Report on implementation of Rec. 10-04.	Rec. 10-04.	15-Oct-11	No	No	To ensure full implementation of recovery plan.		Some overlap with item 45.	Consider combining with report of implementation of fishing plan.	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
47	Fishing, inspection and capacity reduction plans for 2012.	Rec. 10-04.	9-Oct-11.	No	Only the capacity reduction plans are published in the Commission report.	To ensure full implementation of recovery plan.	Unclear whether the plans for 2012 should be reviewed by COC or Panel 2.	N/A	Consider combining with report on implementation of Rec 10-04 (see item 46) and Clarify if COC or Panel 2 shall review and endorse for 2012.	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.

48	Bluefin tuna catching vessels.	Rec. 10-04.	One month before fishing season.	Yes (CP01-VessLsts.xls).	ICCAT web site.	To ensure vessels are authorized by a CPC	Some CPCs have raised questions on the period of validity of vessels on list.	N/A	Clarify whether list must be updated and revised annually. Specify clearly deadlines for lists as current Rec is confusing.	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
49	Bluefin tuna other vessels	Rec. 10-04.	One month before fishing season.	Yes (CP01-VessLsts.xls).	ICCAT web site.	To ensure vessels are authorized by a CPC.		N/A	None		Time of vessel list submission was clarified in Panel 2 report.
50	Bluefin tuna active vessels previous year.	Rec. 10-04.	15-Oct-11.	Yes (CP01-VessLsts.xls).	Included on vessel list on ICCAT Web site.	To ensure vessels are authorized by a CPC	This information can be compiled from the weekly catch reports; but some authorized vessels may be active but not catch bluefin.	Overlap with BFT authorized catching vessel list.	This requirement could be removed if weekly catch reports can be used to determine active vessels	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
51	List of baitboats and trollers.	Rec. 10-04.	30-Jan-11.	Yes (CP01-VessLsts.xls).	Included on vessel list on ICCAT Web site.	To ensure vessels are authorized by a CPC.		N/A	Stipulate clear deadlines for lists (establish a date certain).	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
52	List of vessels operating in the Adriatic.	Rec. 10-04.	30-Jan-11.	Yes (CP01-VessLsts.xls)	Included on vessel list on ICCAT Web site.	To ensure vessels are authorized by a CPC.		N/A	Stipulate clear deadlines for lists (establish a date certain).	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
53	List of artisanal vessels in the Med.	Rec. 10-04.	30-Jan-11.	Yes (CP01-VessLsts.xls).	Included on vessel list on ICCAT Web site.	To ensure vessels are authorized by a CPC.		N/A	Stipulate clear deadlines for lists (establish a date certain).	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.

54	Plans for participation in Joint Inspection Scheme, including lists of inspectors and inspection vessels.	Rec. 10-04.	1-Mar-11.	No	Lists of inspectors and vessels published on ICCAT web site.	To ensure CPCs participate in joint inspection scheme, and facilitate verification of inspectors by fishing vessel masters.		N/A	None		EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012
55	List of inspectors.	Rec. 10-04.	1-Mar-11.	CP33_Inspector	Lists of inspectors and vessels published on ICCAT web site.						EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012
56	Copies of inspection reports.	Rec. 10-04.	At time of occurrence.	Yes (CP28-InspectRP on request from Secretariat).	Copies of reports published on ICCAT web site.	To allow parties to follow up alleged infractions and take action as appropriate.	Some CPCs were concerned about the timeliness of the sharing of reports.	N/A	Stipulate timeframe for transmitting reports.	Panel 2	EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.
57	Bluefin tuna traps.	Rec. 10-04	1-Mar-11	No (CP21-TrapLst).	ICCAT web site.	To ensure traps are authorized by a CPC.		N/A	None		N/A
58	Bluefin tuna trap declarations.	Rec. 10-04.	Without delay.	No (CP22-TrapDec).	Data base maintained (included in catches).	To complement catch reports.		N/A	None		N/A
59	Bluefin tuna weekly catch reports	Rec. 10-04.	every week	Yes (CP26-BFT_WCRp)	Data base maintained, but data not distributed.	To ensure CPCs stay within quotas and overall TAC.	According to Rec 10-04, this applies to all gear types, but most reports are received only during PS season. CPCs should report if no catch for other gears.	N/A	None		EBFT management measure will be discussed in 2012.

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60	Bluefin tuna monthly catch reports.	Rec. 10-04.	End of the month for data from the prior month.	Yes (CP25-BFT_McRp).	Published monthly on ICCAT web site.	To ensure CPCs stay within quota and overall TAC.	Some discrepancies between weekly and monthly reports	N/A	None		N/A
61	Sport and Recreational fishing data.	Rec. 10-04.	31-Jul-11.	See statistical data.	Yes	To ensure all removals from stock are included in catch data.		N/A	None		N/A
62	Bluefin tuna transshipment ports.	Rec. 10-04.	1-Mar-11.	No (CP24-PortEBFT).	ICCAT web site.	To ensure that all transshipments are monitored/inspected .		N/A	None		N/A
63	Bluefin tuna landing ports.	Rec. 10-04.	1-Mar-11.	No (CP24-PortEBFT).	ICCAT web site	To ensure that all transshipments are monitored/inspected .		N/A	None		N/A
64	VMS messages.	Rec. 07-08 and 10-04.	Every 6 hours.	Yes (NAF form).	Data base maintained. Information given to CPCs participating in Joint Inspection scheme on request.	To monitor areas of activity of vessels involved in BFT fishery and to coordinate joint inspection program.		N/A	None		N/A

65	Joint Fishing Operations.	Rec. 10-04.	10 days before operation.	Yes (CP29-BFT_JFO).	ICCAT web site.	To alert Commission of such activities and to monitor catches.		N/A	Clearer report of JFO catches in weekly reports and BCDs.		Rec 11-20 allows grouping by same JFO; Catches must be partitioned on basis of JFO and this may improve weekly reporting and BCDs.
66	List of BFT observers.	Rec. 10-04.	1-Feb-11.	No (CP34-ObsvBFT.doc).	ICCAT web site.	To include national observers in pool for ROP.	This requirement was in fact removed from 10-04 (was in 08-05) so is no longer in force. CPCs may send lists voluntarily.	N/A	None		N/A
67	Data from National Observer programmes.	Rec. 10-04.	4-Oct-11.	No	As yet, nothing to process.	To supplement data from ROP and furnish additional information on compliance / scientific data.	No format has yet been adopted.	N/A	SCRS should approve a standard format (or formats as necessary) for adoption by the Commission.		No action in 2011; Review of implementation of Rec 10-10 expected in 2012. SCRS could advise on reporting formats.
68	Growth factors and methodology used.	Rec. 10-04	For SCRS meeting.	No	Yes, summarized in SCRS Report.	To determine the growth rates of BFT in cages for comparison with catch / trade data.	This is no longer a requirement under the current Recommendation.		None		N/A

Draft [Resolution] [Recommendation] by ICCAT to Establish a [Working Group] to Develop Amendments to the ICCAT Convention

(Submitted by EU, Rep. Guinea, Norway, UK-OT, USA and Chinese Taipei)

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;

RECOGNIZING the results of the Independent Performance Review of ICCAT;

RECALLING the discussions held during the meetings of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT pursuant to the *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 06-18];

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT developments in relevant international fisheries governance since the signature of the Convention;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the outcome of the 2012 meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT acknowledging that to address certain issues, amendments to the ICCAT Convention are necessary;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT) [RESOLVES] [RECOMMENDS] AS FOLLOWS:

A [Working Group] to Develop Amendments to the ICCAT Convention ([Working Group]) is established with the following Terms of Reference:

- a) Develop proposed amendments to the Convention with respect to the priorities identified in the Annex in order to further strengthen ICCAT to ensure it can fully meet current and future challenges.
- b) In developing proposed amendments, take into account the proposals which are submitted by ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) [regarding these priorities], including proposals considered during the Future of ICCAT Working Group process.
- c) The [Working Group] will carry out its work in accordance with the following work plan:

<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Meet intersessionally to discuss proposed amendments to the Convention, including draft text.	Meet intersessionally to continue discussion of proposed amendments to the Convention, and develop a consolidated draft of proposed amendments that will serve as a negotiating text for future meeting(s).	Meet intersessionally to finalize, if possible, proposed amendments to the Convention. Present the final proposed Convention amendment text for adoption.

- d) The [Working Group] should seek to advance issues electronically, where possible.
- e) All CPCs should participate in the [Working Group].
- f) A special [Working Group] Meeting Fund financed through voluntary contributions and, if necessary, the ICCAT Working Capital Fund is established to assist with the cost of participation of up to two representatives from each of those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States.

(not in priority order)

Precautionary Approach

Ecosystem considerations, including bycatch

Convention scope, in particular shark conservation and management

Capacity building and assistance

Decision-making processes and procedures:

- Entry into force provisions for recommendations
- Voting rules/quorum
- Objection procedures
- Dispute resolution

Monitoring, control, and surveillance

Non-party participation

Transparency

Allocation of fishing possibilities

Force majeure

Responsible international trade (as referred to in the FAO Code of Conduct)]

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 4.2**Explanatory Note on the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Shark Action Plan"**

(Submitted by Japan)

1. In response to the growing international concerns on the conservation and management of oceanic sharks (defined below, hereinafter referred to as “sharks”), ICCAT has adopted various kinds of binding conservation and management measures, including the prohibition of retention of several sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

*Oceanic sharks provided in Annex I of UNCLOS, porbeagle sharks and crocodile sharks.

2. However, two fundamental questions have arisen with regard to the above measures. First, the meaning of “sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries” is not necessarily clear. For example, it is clear that a bottom longline fishery targeting demersal fish species is not an ICCAT fishery. However, if fishermen use a pelagic longline targeting sharks, is this an ICCAT fishery? Some people may say that this is not an ICCAT fishery since ICCAT manages tuna and tuna-like species, while some people may say that this is an ICCAT fishery as long as the fishing gear is a pelagic longline, which is highly likely to catch tuna and tuna-like species. A more complicated question would be: What if a fishery targeting pelagic fish species other than tuna and tuna-like species incidentally takes sharks?
3. Second, non-ICCAT fisheries, without being bound by ICCAT measures, also catch the species subject to such measures. Any measures adopted by ICCAT would be ineffective as long as non-ICCAT fisheries continue to catch the shark species simply because ICCAT cannot extend its measures to such fisheries.
4. Japan, in accordance with ecosystem approaches contained in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and U.N. Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, supports conservation and management of sharks with a view to utilizing shark resources in a sustainable manner as with other fish resources. In this regard, Japan believes that kinds of fisheries to be managed by ICCAT should be interpreted broader as possible to include a pelagic longline fishery which catches sharks regardless of its intention. Also, ICCAT should have a mechanism to cooperate with other RFMOs to

enhance management of non-ICCAT fisheries which catches sharks, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article XI.

5. The concerns mentioned above seem to imply the importance of achieving the effective management of shark species. In this regard, Japan deems it necessary to create a clear common understanding among ICCAT members as to the concerns above, particularly, as to what kinds of fisheries to be covered by ICCAT.
6. From this viewpoint, Japan would like to propose an action plan as a more realistic step to enhance conservation and management of sharks, which consists of short-term and long-term actions since it is still likely to take more time among ICCAT members to share the common understanding on this issue.
7. The short-term actions are basically to enhance data and information collection on kinds of sharks taken, kinds of fisheries in question, and any relevant regulations, if any, being applied by each CPC on sharks. This will set up a good basis for further discussion on establishing effective measures on the conservation and management of sharks under the ICCAT. The long-term action then would be the study of how the current mechanism should be modified, so that sharks will be listed as species to be managed by ICCAT. This means that sharks will be managed as not only bycatch species but also target species.
8. Accordingly, Japan would like to present a draft recommendation on shark action plan which reflect the above ideas. We hope that this paper will deepen the discussion on this issue at the Working Group.

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Shark Action Plan

(Submitted by Japan)

RECALLING that the Commission has adopted many conservation and management measures on sharks in accordance with ecosystem approaches, with reference to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and U.N. Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks,

FURTHER RECALLING that there is no definition of ICCAT fisheries which has been often used in the ICCAT Recommendations on sharks,

RECOGNIZING that there are several regional fisheries management organizations which have the purview to manage sharks in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean,

RECOGNIZING that all fisheries catching, whether intentionally or not, sharks should be properly managed in order to achieve sustainable utilization of the shark species, taking into account of relevant international instruments such as UNCLOS,

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that in the Article XI (2) of the ICCAT Convention, there should be cooperation between the Commission and other international fisheries commission, and scientific organizations which might contribute to the work of the Commission,

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

I. Short-term action

Information and data collection

1. For the sake of collecting data of kinds of sharks taken and fisheries in question, each CPC shall submit all available data related to sharks (oceanic sharks provided in Annex I of UNCLOS, porbeagle sharks and crocodile sharks (hereinafter referred to as “sharks”)) caught in the ICCAT Convention area by both ICCAT and non-ICCAT fisheries, including but not limited to, fisheries targeting tuna and tuna-like species, fisheries targeting sharks, artisanal fishery, sport and recreational fisheries (hereinafter referred to as “the shark associated fisheries”) to the Secretariat by June 2013. For this submission, latest data shall be considered by CPCs. The data to be provided shall include at least the following information:

- a) Quantities by species and by fishing gear; and
- b) Number of fishing vessels by fishing gear

Data obtained as above would be considered by the Commission in order to identify the kinds of fisheries and sharks to be covered by future ICCAT conservation and management measures.

- 2. If CPCs, in particular coastal developing CPCs, have difficulty to collect the data in paragraph 1, they may submit estimated data based on observer data or port sampling data.
- 3. Each CPC shall also submit information on national regulations applied to the shark associated fisheries to the Secretariat by June 2013.
- 4. SCRS shall take into account of the data and information provided from the Secretariat in conducting stock assessments and/or ecological risk assessments of sharks.

Cooperation with other RFMOs

- 5. The ICCAT Secretariat shall contact relevant RFMOs which cover sharks in their conservation and management measures in order to enhance mutual cooperation, which includes, *inter alia*:
 - a) Holding of a joint scientific meeting on shark species of common interest with a view to conducting jointly stock assessments and/or ecological risk assessments;
 - b) Holding of a joint management meeting on shark species of common interest with a view to ensuring compatibility of conservation and management measures between the Commission and the RFMO.
- 6. The Commission may consider, where necessary, establishing an MOU between the Commission and the other relevant RFMOs to formalize paragraph 5 a) and b) above.

II. Long-term action

Possible Modification of the current framework under the Convention

- 7. Based on the scientific information collected through the short-term actions, the Commission will study the necessity to modify the current framework under the Convention to enhance conservation and management of sharks. Possible elements to be studied will include, *inter alia*, (1) introduction of ecosystem approaches; (2) identifying sharks and shark fisheries to be managed by the Commission; and (3) establishment of a mechanism to cooperate with other relevant RFMOs whose mandate also covers sharks to be managed by the Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2012

12-01

SWO

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH CATCH LIMITS

CONSIDERING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that the current estimated fishing mortality rate is likely below that which would produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY), and the current biomass is likely above that which would result from fishing at F_{MSY} in the long term;

CONSCIOUS that the SCRS recommends that annual catch should not exceed the estimated MSY (about 15,000 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* [Ref. 01-25], adopted by the Commission in 2001, for the period concerned;

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

1. For 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

(Unit: t)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
TAC ⁽¹⁾	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Brazil ⁽²⁾	3,666	3,785	3,940	3,940
European Union	5,282	5,082	4,824	4,824
South Africa	932	962	1,001	1,001
Namibia	1,168	1,168	1,168	1,168
Uruguay	1,165	1,204	1,252	1,252
United States ⁽³⁾	100	100	100	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125	125	125	125
China	263	263	263	263
Chinese Taipei ⁽³⁾	459	459	459	459
United Kingdom	25	25	25	25
Japan ⁽³⁾	901	901	901	901
Angola	100	100	100	100
Ghana	100	100	100	100
St. Tome & Principe	100	100	100	100
Senegal	389	401	417	417
Philippines	50	50	50	50
Korea	50	50	50	50
Belize	125	125	125	125

- (1) The total catch for the four-year management period of 2010-2013 shall not exceed 60,000 t (15,000 t x 4). If the yearly total catch of any of the four years exceeds 15,000 t; the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the four-year total will not exceed 60,000 t. If the total catch in 2013 exceeds 15,000 t and if the four-year total catch exceeds 60,000 t, the exceeded amount for four years shall be adjusted in the next management period. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorate reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).
- (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) Japan's, U.S.A's and Chinese Taipei's underage in 2009 may be carried over to 2010 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 2010-2013 but such 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>
2010	2012
2011	2013
2012	2014
2013	2015

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.
4. The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the North Atlantic management area against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
5. The 50 t quota transfers from South Africa, Japan and United States to Namibia (total: 150 t), the 25 t quota transfers from United States to Côte d'Ivoire and the 25 t quota transfer from United States to Belize shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.
6. None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic Swordfish.
7. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limit* [Rec. 09-03] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

12-02

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], the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program and the Conservation and Management Measures for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 04-05], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 06-06], the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 08-04], and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program [Rec. 10-03],

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 2012 scientific advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that under the low recruitment scenario the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock is above the biomass level that can support MSY and is consistent with the Convention objective. Under the high recruitment scenario (under which higher sustainable yields are possible in the future), the stock remains overfished and overfishing will continue under the current total allowable catch (TAC),

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the SCRS has estimated MSY to be 2,634 t under the low recruitment scenario and 6,472 t under the high recruitment scenario,

ACKNOWLEDGING that the SCRS continues to indicate that there is no strong evidence to favor either the low or high recruitment scenario over the other,

HIGHLIGHTING that the SCRS has noted that considerable uncertainties remain for the outlook of the western stock, including the effects of mixing, age at maturity, and recruitment, and that the short intermission between the 2010 and 2012 assessments did not allow sufficient time for key research projects conducted under the Atlantic-wide Research Program for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) to be completed and resulting information to be incorporated into the 2012 assessments,

RECOGNIZING, however, that the 2015 stock assessments will incorporate new data from the research conducted under the GBYP and related activities and is expected to utilize new methodologies and an assessment peer review process,

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the value of increasing biological sampling to provide additional support toward addressing key stock assessment uncertainties,

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the need to re-evaluate the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program no later than 2015 in light of the 2015 stock assessment results and resulting advice from SCRS,

UNDERSCORING that the SCRS continues to advise that protecting the strong 2003 year class would enhance its contribution to the spawning stock biomass, which has the potential to increase the productivity of the stock in the future,

UNDERSCORING FURTHER that SCRS has advised that increases in spawning stock biomass may help resolve the issue of low and high recruitment potential,

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that management actions taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean are likely to affect recovery in the western Atlantic, given that the productivity of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries is linked to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock,

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25],

RENEWING the commitment to the full implementation of existing mandatory reporting obligations including those in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13],

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will continue the 20-year rebuilding program that began in 1999 and continues through 2018.

Effort and capacity limits

2. In order to avoid increasing fishing mortality of bluefin tuna in the eastern or western Atlantic, CPCs will continue to take measures to prohibit any transfer of fishing effort from the western Atlantic to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and from the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean to the western Atlantic.

TACs, TAC allocations, and catch limits

3. The rebuilding program for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic will have a TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 1,750 t in 2013. The annual TAC for 2014 will be set in 2013.
4. The annual TAC, MSY target, and the 20-year rebuilding period shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon subsequent SCRS advice. No adjustment to the annual TAC or the 20-year rebuilding period shall be considered unless SCRS advice indicates that the TAC under consideration will allow the MSY target to be achieved within the rebuilding period with a 50 percent or greater probability.
5. If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of stock collapse, the Commission shall suspend all bluefin tuna fisheries in the western Atlantic for the following year.
6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:
 - a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Allocation</i>
USA (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	15 t

- b) After subtracting the amounts under paragraph 6(a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

CPC	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
	<2,413 t (A)	2,413 t (B)	>2,413-2,660 t (C)	>2,660 t (D)
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1303 t	49.00%
Canada	22.32%	539 t	539 t	20.24%
Japan	17.64%	426 t	426 t + all increase between 2,413 t and 2,660 t	24.74%
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
Mexico	5.56%	134 t	134 t	5.56%

- c) Consistent with paragraphs 1 and 6(b), the TAC for 2013 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

	<i>2013</i>
	1,750 t
United States	923.70 t
Canada	381.66 t
Japan	301.64 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	4 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	4 t
Mexico	95 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (Bermuda) be less than 4 t each in any single year unless the fishery is closed.

- d) Depending on availability, Mexico can transfer up to 86.5 t of its adjusted quota in 2013 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2013 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2013 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 19.
- g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 6(d), 6(e) and 6(f) above shall notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence and shall present the results of the research to the SCRS in time to inform the 2015 stock assessments.
7. A CPC's total quota shall include its allocations in paragraph 6, adjusted for underharvest or overharvest consistent with the remainder of this paragraph. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period for the remainder of this paragraph.
- a) Any underharvest of a CPC's total quota in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. However, in no event shall the underharvest that is carried forward exceed 10% of the CPC's initial quota allocation under paragraph 6, with the exception of those CPCs with initial allocations of 100 t or less, for which the underharvest that is carried forward shall in no event exceed 100% of the initial allocation under paragraph 6 (i.e., the total quota for such CPC shall not exceed twice its annual quota in any given year).
- b) If, in the applicable management period, and each subsequent management period, any CPC has an overharvest of its total quota, its initial quota for the next subsequent management period will be reduced by 100% of the excess of such total quota, and ICCAT may authorize other appropriate actions.
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 7(b), if a CPC has an overharvest of its total quota during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the CPC's total quota equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish

8. CPCs will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm.

9. Notwithstanding the above measures, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture western Atlantic bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to no more than 10% by weight of the total bluefin tuna quota for each CPC, and institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish. CPCs granting such a tolerance will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna having a fork length of less than 67 cm.
10. CPCs will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length less than 115 cm and report on steps taken in this regard in their Annual Report.

Area and time restrictions

11. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico).

Transshipment

12. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

Scientific research and data and reporting requirements

13. In 2015, and thereafter every three years, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for bluefin tuna for the western Atlantic stock and for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for those stocks for future years.
14. The SCRS shall prepare and present a Kobe II strategy matrix reflecting recovery scenarios of western Atlantic bluefin tuna consistent with *Resolution by ICCAT to Standardize the Presentation of Scientific Information in the SCRS Annual Report and in Working Group Detail Reports* [Res. 11-14].
15. In 2013, a working group of fisheries managers and scientists will be convened as described in **Annex 1**.
16. The SCRS shall annually review available fishery and stock indicator trends and evaluate whether they warrant advancing the scheduling of the next stock assessment. In support of this evaluation, CPCs shall make special efforts to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators annually and provide them in advance of the SCRS annual species group meetings.
17. In preparation for the 2015 stock assessment, the SCRS should thoroughly review the evidence that initially was used in support of each recruitment scenario as well as any additional information available as a means of informing the Commission on which recruitment scenario is more likely to reflect the current stock recruitment potential. If the SCRS is unable to support one scenario over the other, the SCRS then should provide the Commission with management advice that takes into consideration the risks (e.g., risk of not achieving the Convention objective, lost yield) that would be associated with opting to manage the stock under a scenario that does not accurately reflect the stock-recruit relationship.
18. If scientific evidence results in an SCRS recommendation to alter the definition of management units, or to take explicit account of mixing between management units, then the western Atlantic rebuilding program shall be re-evaluated.
19. CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to ICCAT's GBYP. In particular, CPCs should make special efforts to enhance biological sampling activities in order to provide significant new information for the new assessment. Priority research should be obtaining new information on natal origin, maturity, and age of the catch in all fisheries, following protocols developed by the SCRS. Complementary information will also be required for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock in order to evaluate the effects of mixing. In addition, it is also important to enhance, and where needed develop, an accurate abundance index for juvenile fish.
20. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
21. As part of the 2015 stock assessment, the SCRS shall review and report to the Commission on new available information on the potential existence of additional western Atlantic bluefin tuna spawning grounds.

22. 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.
23. The ICCAT Secretariat shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
24. All CPCs shall provide the best available data for the assessment of the stock by the SCRS, including information on the catches of the broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions.
25. This Recommendation replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 10-03].

**Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists
in Support of the WBFT Stock Assessment**

Structure

Establish a Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists, which reports to the Commission.

The Working Group shall be comprised of fishery managers and scientists from Contracting Parties. The Working Group shall be Co-Chaired by the SCRS Chair and an individual (to be selected) who has fishery management expertise. The meeting shall be open to ICCAT-accredited observers.

The Group will convene a Workshop in mid-2013, to guide the work of the SCRS leading up to the next assessment. The Workshop participants will discuss ways to improve the communication of management goals, stock assessment results including the associated uncertainties, and management advice between scientists and managers. The Workshop will provide an opportunity for managers to provide input to scientists on the development of management advice.

Scope of Meeting

1. Describe the history of the science advice and management of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock prior to and during the rebuilding period that commenced in 1998, including the management actions taken by ICCAT and the stock responses.
2. Review the current knowledge of population mixing between the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks, and stock assessment methods being considered that can accommodate such mixing between the stocks and the implications for the perception of stock status. Such approaches would facilitate the evaluation of the effects of the conservation and management measures in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean on the perceived status of the western Atlantic stock.
3. Review the basis for the current assumptions concerning spawning stock biomass and recruitment, including any evidence of changes in the ecosystem, such as environmental conditions, that could have had an impact on stock productivity.
4. Consider any other relevant issues relating to science and management of western Atlantic bluefin tuna.

12-03

BFT

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

**Part I
General provisions**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean starting in 2007 and continuing through 2022, with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} , with at least 60% probability.

Definitions

2. For purposes of this Plan:
 - a) "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used or intended for use for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels;
 - b) "Catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources;
 - c) "Processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing;
 - d) "Auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a cage or a tuna trap to a designated port and / or to a processing vessel.
 - e) "Towing vessel" means any vessel used for towing cages. "Support vessel" means any other fishing vessel referred to under 2a).
 - f) "Fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season;
 - g) "Joint fishing operation" means any operation between two or more catching vessels where the catch of one catching vessel is attributed to one or more other catching vessels in accordance with the allocation key;
 - h) "Transfer operations" means:
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel net to the transport cage;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of the cage with bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage.
 - i) "Trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting.
 - j) "Caging" means the transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming cages.
 - k) "Farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
 - l) "Farm" means installation used for the farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners.

- m) "Harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- n) "Transshipment" means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel.
- o) "Sport fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- p) "Recreational fishery" means a non-commercial fishery whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.

Length of vessels

3. All lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as length overall.

Part II Management measures

TAC and quotas

4. The total allowable catches (TACs) shall be set at 13,400 t annually, effective beginning in 2013 and thereafter, until such time the TAC is changed following the SCRS advice.
5. In 2014 the SCRS will conduct an update of the stock assessment and provide advice to the Commission.
6. Furthermore, the SCRS shall work towards the development of new assessment modeling approaches and inputs, in a view to minimize uncertainties, which shall be used in a stock assessment in 2015 and thereafter every three years.
7. The Plan shall be reviewed and, if appropriate, adjusted based upon SCRS advice.
8. If the SCRS stock assessment detects a serious threat of fishery collapse, the Commission shall suspend all the fisheries for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in the following year. CPCs shall immediately intensify research activities so that SCRS can conduct further analysis and present recommendations on conservation and management measures necessary to resume the fisheries.
9. The allocation scheme from 2013 is set in the table below:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>	<i>%</i>
Albania	33.58	0.2506266
Algeria	143.83	1.0733333
China	38.19	0.2850125
Croatia	390.59	2.9148371
Egypt	67.08	0.5006266
European Union	7548.06	56.328772
Iceland	30.97	0.2311278
Japan	1139.55	8.5041103
Korea	80.53	0.6010025
Libya	937.65	6.9973935
Morocco	1270.47	9.4811529
Norway	30.97	0.2311278
Syria	33.58	0.2506266
Tunisia	1057.00	7.8880702
Turkey	556.66	4.1541604
Chinese Taipei	41.29	0.3081704
TOTAL	13,400	100

10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 above, and taking into account the historical allocation for this stock, Algeria is granted an extra and temporary allocation of 100t/year for the years 2013 and 2014 prior to any future revisions. The re-establishment of the historical allocation of Algeria will be considered as a priority in future revisions of the TAC. All relevant provisions of this Recommendation apply to such allocation.

The quota transfer of 10t from Chinese Taipei to Egypt in 2013 shall be authorized.

The request of Libya to carryover unused 2011 quota will be considered in 2013.

11. With a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. If prior to 31 March the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted by a CPC and cannot endorse the plans, the Commission shall decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC by mail vote.

Non-submission of the plans referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

Associated conditions to TAC and quotas

12. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the fishing opportunities on bluefin tuna available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the lists referred to in paragraph 57.a).
13. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify the quotas allocated to each gear group referred to paragraphs 21 to 26, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measure to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch.
14. Each CPC may also allocate a specific quota for the purpose of recreational and sport fisheries as defined in paragraphs 2.o) and 2.p).
15. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan or the individual quotas allocated for catching vessels over 24 m and included in the lists referred to in paragraph 57.a), shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at least 48 hours before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification.
16. The flag CPC may require the catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.
17. No carry-over of any under-harvests shall be made under this Plan.
18. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned and the Commission.
19. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted from 2013.
20. No JFOs between different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than 5 authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Any CPC joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPC if the vessel is equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has an individual quota, and in accordance with the following requirements.

At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 6**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its catching vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- duration,
- identity of the operators involved,
- individual vessels' quotas,
- the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
- the information on the fattening or farming farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all this information to the ICCAT Secretariat at least ten days before the start of the operation.

The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Open fishing seasons

21. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longline catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
22. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June.
23. Bluefin tuna fishing by baitboats and trolling boats shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 October.
24. Bluefin tuna fishing by pelagic trawlers shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 16 June to 14 October.
25. Bluefin tuna recreational and sport fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 16 June to 14 October.
26. Fishing for bluefin tuna by other gears not mentioned in paragraphs 21 to 25 shall be permitted throughout the entire year in accordance with the conservation and management measures included in this recommendation.

Spawning grounds

27. The SCRS shall continue working on the identification, as precisely as possible, of spawning grounds, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. It shall advise the Commission on the creation of sanctuaries.

Use of aircraft

28. CPCs shall take necessary measures to prohibit the use of airplanes or helicopters for searching for bluefin tuna in the Convention area.

Minimum size

29. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115cms.
30. By derogation of paragraph 29, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75cms fork length shall apply to the following situations in accordance with the procedures set out in **Annex 1**.
 - a) Bluefin tuna caught by baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.
 - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners.

31. For catching vessels and traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized. This percentage is calculated on the total incidental catches in number of fish retained on board this vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above mentioned weight or length categories. Incidental catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC. The procedures referred to in paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71 and 96 shall apply to the incidental catch.

By-catch

32. Catching vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain at any time following each fishing operation, bluefin tuna exceeding more than 5% of the total catch by weight or number of pieces. Number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

All by-catches must be deducted from the quota of the flag State CPC.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however such bluefin tuna dies it must be landed where it shall be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71 and 96 shall apply to by-catch.

Recreational fisheries

33. Recreational fisheries on bluefin tuna shall be subject to the authorization for each vessel issued by the flag State CPC.
34. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish be landed.

35. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational fishing shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
36. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight and length overall of each bluefin tuna from recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 14.
37. 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. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole, gilled and gutted.

Sport fisheries

38. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to regulate sport fishing, notably by fishing authorizations.
39. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in sport fishing competitions shall be prohibited except for charitable purposes.
40. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data from sport fishing and transmit them to the SCRS. Catches of sport fishing shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 14.
41. 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. Any bluefin tuna however landed should be done so whole, gilled and gutted.

Part III Capacity management measures

Adjustment of fishing capacity

42. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota.
43. To that purpose each CPC shall establish an annual fishing management plan for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred to in paragraphs 42 to 51, as well as detailed information regarding the ways used by CPCs to eliminate overcapacity in addition to scrapping.
44. CPCs shall limit the number, and the corresponding gross registered tonnage, of their fishing vessels to the number and tonnage of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transhipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period 1 January 2007 to 1 July 2008. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels and by vessel type for other fishing vessels.
45. Paragraph 44 shall not be interpreted to affect the measures contained in **Annex 1** paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
46. CPCs shall limit the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery to the number authorized by each CPC by 1 July 2008.
47. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs, in particular developing States that demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota. Such CPCs shall indicate in their management plans the programming of the introduction of additional fishing capacity into the fishery.
48. Without prejudice to paragraph 47, each CPC shall manage its fishing capacity referred to in paragraphs 44, 45 and 46 so as to ensure there is no discrepancy between its fishing capacity and its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota, in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting.
49. To calculate its fishing capacity reduction, each CPC shall take into account, *inter alia*, the estimated yearly catch rates per vessel and gear.
50. The SCRS shall consider the estimated yearly catch rates and update the Commission of any changes annually prior to the Commission meeting.
51. This adjustment may not apply to certain CPCs that demonstrate that their fishing capacity is commensurate with their allocated quotas.

Adjustment of farming capacity

52. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan in case of modification of the plan approved in 2009 for discussion and approval by the Commission. Such plan shall include the information referred in paragraphs 53 to 55.
53. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT as of 1 July 2008.
54. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
55. Within the maximum input quantity of wild caught bluefin tuna referred to in paragraph 54, each CPC shall allocate maximum annual inputs to its farms.
56. The plans referred to in paragraphs 42 to 55 shall be submitted according to the procedures laid down in paragraph 11 of this recommendation.

Part IV Control measures

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

57. a) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
- b) The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels (i.e. catching vessels excluded) authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

During a calendar year, a fishing vessel shall be registered in only one of the ICCAT records referred to paragraphs a) and b). Without prejudice to paragraph 32, for the purposes of this recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraphs a) and b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

58. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest one month before the beginning of the fishing seasons referred to in paragraphs 21 to 25, when applicable, and otherwise by 1 March, the list of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.a).

The list of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 57.b) shall be submitted one month before the start of their period of authorization. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Any subsequent changes shall not be accepted unless a notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:

- a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel(s) referred to in paragraph 57;
- b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will forward cases to the Compliance Committee not sufficiently justified or incomplete as per the conditions in this paragraph. The Contracting Party concerned shall be notified when such cases are forwarded to the Compliance Committee within 5 days of their original change request.

59. Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 11-12] (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

60. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, transfer or land bluefin tuna.
61. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, by 1 March each year, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 60. Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation Rec. 11-12 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Information on fishing activities

62. By 1 April each year, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year. This information should include:

- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
- b) the period of authorization(s) for each catching vessel;
- c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorization(s);
- d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorization(s); and
- e) the total catch outside their period of authorization (by-catch) including nil returns.

For all vessels which were not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
- b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.

63. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 62 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag State for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Transshipment

64. Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be prohibited.
65. Fishing vessels shall only tranship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which transshipping of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted transshipping times and places.

The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all transshipping times and at all transshipping places.

On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**.

66. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 48 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival,
 - b) estimated quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board, and information on the geographic area where it was taken;
 - c) the name of the transshipping fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
 - d) the name of the receiving fishing vessel, its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
 - e) the tonnage and the geographic area of the catch of bluefin tuna to be transhipped.

Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag State of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned.

The master of the transshipping fishing 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 fishing vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna or in the ICCAT record of other fishing vessels authorized to operate in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea,
- d) the geographical area of the catch of bluefin tuna.

The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.

The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag State authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.

Recording requirements

67. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
68. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
69. Fishing vessels shall only land bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 March each year.

For a port to be determined as designated port, the port State shall specify permitted landing times and places. The port State shall ensure full inspection coverage during all landing times and at all landing places. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

70. Prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessels or their representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
 - a) estimated time of arrival,
 - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board,
 - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken;

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 11 of this recommendation. This shall also apply for harvest operations.

All caging operations and transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the farming and designated port CPC authorities.

The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag State authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

After each trip and within 48 hours of landing, the masters of catching vessels shall submit a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag State. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated.

71. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 48 hours after the date of transshipment in port.

Communication of catches

72. a) Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna, by electronic or other means to their competent authorities, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of bluefin tuna taken in the plan area, including nil returns.

For purse seiners such daily report shall be on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis including those where the catch was zero.

Such reports shall be transmitted on a daily basis for purse seiners and vessels over 24 meters and for other catching vessels by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

- b) Each CPC shall ensure that its traps fishing actively for bluefin tuna communicate a daily catch report (weight and number of fish), within 48 hours by electronic or other means to their competent authorities including zero catches during the whole period they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna.
- c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) and (b), each CPC shall transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels and traps to the ICCAT Secretariat. Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

Reporting of catches

73. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches by gear type of bluefin tuna including by-catch and from sport and recreational fisheries and nil returns to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
74. 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.
75. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when they have closed the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 21 to 26 as well as when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

76. CPCs shall verify, including by using inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, the submission of logbooks and relevant information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment, transfers or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Transfer operations

77. Before any transfer operation, as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag State or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:
- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
 - estimated time of transfer,
 - estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
 - information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,

- name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
- port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. Numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letters CPC code followed by three numbers.

78. The flag State shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the CPC flag State authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap.

If the flag State of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or a trap or had not been authorized to be caged and not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, or
- d) the tug vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 57.b) or is not equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System,

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized the catching CPC shall issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in the paragraph below.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag State of the catching vessel farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification. In case that the transfer is not authorized the captain of the catching vessel, the owner of the farm or trap as appropriate has to release the fish into the sea according to the following procedures.

The release of bluefin tuna into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT regional observer who shall draft and submit the report together with the video recording to the ICCAT Secretariat.

79. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag State the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.
- a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC-20**/xxx/ITD).
 - b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
 - c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2**.
80. The authorization for transfer by the flag State does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.
81. For transfers of live bluefin tuna as defined in paragraph 2.h), the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with **Annex 9**:

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

82. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (**Annex 7**) and paragraphs 91 and 92, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 78 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 79.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, or when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag State of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated.

83. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 81 and 82. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable.

Operators shall complete and transmit to its CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**.

Caging operations

84. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week a caging report, signed by a Regional 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.

85. Before any caging operation into a farm, the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm State of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:
- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
 - b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
 - c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish is not authorized to fish for bluefin tuna,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm State to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 78.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation of the catching vessel's or trap flag State which must be given within 48 hours of the request.

Fish shall be caged before the 15 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including *force majeure*, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted.

86. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take the necessary measures to prohibit placing in cages for farming or fattening bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.

87. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in **Annex 9**.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimate by the regional observer and the farm operator an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with flag state of the catching vessel and or trap where appropriate. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and or weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of 10% of that declared by the farm operator, then the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the number and or weight in excess. The catching and farm flags undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 88 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision, to refine the number and weight of the fish being caged.

The CPCs farm authorities shall ensure that the release order is carried by the farm operator within 48 hours following the arrival of a regional observer. The release shall be carried out in accordance to the procedures described in paragraph 78. Pending the results of this investigation, harvesting shall not take place and the farming section of the BCD shall not be validated.

88. CPCs shall implement pilot studies on how to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging including through the use of stereoscopic systems and report the results to the SCRS.

SCRS shall continue to explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging and report to the Commission at the 2013 Annual meeting.

A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision shall cover 100% of all cagings in order to refine the number and weight of the fish in each caging operation.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to complete the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD. When the quantities of bluefin tuna are found to differ from the quantities reported caught and transferred, the catching CPC shall be informed and an investigation launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the flag CPCs authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 78.

The results of this programme shall be submitted annually to SCRS by all farming CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the 2013 Annual meeting.

VMS

89. Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, CPCs shall implement a vessels monitoring system for their fishing vessels over 24 m, 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].

Without prejudice to paragraph 1.d) of Recommendation 06-07, with effect from 1 January 2010 this measure shall be applied for their fishing vessels over 15 m.

No 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.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the convention area in accordance with the ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection referred to in paragraphs 99 and 100 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08] to all fishing vessels.

The transmission of VMS data by fishing vessels over 15m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 15 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 15 days after their period of authorisation unless the vessel is removed by the flag State authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs. Such reports shall be weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

CPC Observer Programme

90. Each CPC shall ensure observer coverage on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15m),
- 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15m),
- 20% of its active baitboats (over 15m),
- 100% of towing vessels,
- 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessel and trap compliance with the present recommendation,
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
 - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
 - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
 - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the *ICCAT Manual* for different gears.
 - date of catch,
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting Task II data, when required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPCs observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2009 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

For the scientific aspects of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC observer programmes.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

91. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure an observer coverage of 100%:

- on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
- during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms.

Such purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

92. The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
- sign the ICCAT transfer declarations, caging report and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations,
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

Enforcement

93. CPCs shall take enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 21 to 26, 29 to 31 and 67 to 72 (closed seasons, minimum size and recording requirements).

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- seizure of illegal fishing gear and catches,
- sequestration of the vessel,
- suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish,
- reduction or withdrawal of the fishing quota, if applicable.

94. 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 84 to 87 and 95 (caging operations and observers) and with Recommendation 06-07.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law:

- fines,
- suspension or withdrawal of the record of FFBs,
- prohibition to put into cages or market quantities of bluefin tuna.

Access to and requirements for video records

95. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred in paragraphs 81 and 87 are made available to the ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers.
Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video record.

Market measures

96. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:
- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 08/12 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 09-11] on a Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
 - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species caught by fishing vessels whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the flag State fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 13 are exhausted;
 - to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, exports from farms that do not comply with Recommendation Rec. 06-07.

Conversion factors

97. The conversion factors adopted by SCRS shall apply to calculate the equivalent round weight of the processed bluefin tuna.

Growth factors

98. The SCRS shall review information from BCDs and other submitted data and further study growth rates so as to provide updated growth tables to the Commission by the 2013 Annual meeting.

Part V
ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

99. In the framework of the multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna, each CPC agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its Fourth Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid*, as modified in **Annex 8**.
100. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 99 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* [Res. 00-20].
101. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the CPC shall, during that time have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another CPC to jointly operate an inspection vessel.

* Note from the Secretariat: See Appendix II to Annex 7 in the *Report for Biennial Period, 1974-75, Part II (1975)*.

Part VI
Final provisions

102. Availability of data to the SCRS

The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present Recommendation.

All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

103. Evaluation

All the CPCs shall submit each year to the Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, all the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain shall submit each year, no later than 15 October, a detailed report on their implementation of this Recommendation.

104. Cooperation

All the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain are encouraged to enter into bilateral arrangements in order to improve the compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. These arrangements could notably cover exchanges of inspectors, joint inspections and data sharing.

105. Repeals

This Recommendation repeals paragraph 10 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* [Rec. 06-07] and paragraph 6 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 07-08].

This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 10-04] and the *Recommendation Amending Recommendation 08-05 to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 09-06].

Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels Referred to in Paragraph 30

1. CPCs shall limit:

- The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
- The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Mediterranean to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
- The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 58 of this Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC shall allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats, with up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6,4 kgs or 70 cms fork length caught by baitboat vessels of an overall length of less than 17 m by derogation to paragraph 30 of this Recommendation.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean under the conditions of this Annex shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written on the outside of any package containing tuna.

Logbook Requirements

A – CATCHING VESSELS

Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number international radio call sign and IMO number (if available).
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type by FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day.
 - c) Record of catches including:
 - i) FAO code
 - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
 - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seiners this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns.
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting.
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment:

1. Dates and port of landing /transshipment
2. Products
 - a) species and presentation by FAO code
 - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number.

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude / longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
 - a) Species identification by FAO code
 - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages,
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number

5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their log book:
- a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
 - amount of catches taken on board
 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
 - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO;
 - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
 - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in (a).

B – TOWING VESSELS

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessel shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

C – AUXILIARY VESSELS

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

D – PROCESSING VESSELS

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transhipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transhipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transhipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

Document No. ICCAT Transhipment Declaration

<p>Carrier vessel Name of vessel and radio call sign: Flag: Flag State authorization No. National Register No. ICCAT Register No. IMO No.</p>	<p>Fishing Vessel Name of the vessel and radio call sign: Flag: Flag State authorization No. National register No. ICCAT Register No. External identification: Fishing logbook sheet No.</p>	<p>Final destination: Port: Country: State:</p>
--	--	--

Departure	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Return	Day	Month	Hour	Year	From: _ _ _	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.	Day	Month	Hour	Year	To: _ _ _		

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |_|_| kilograms.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
	Lat.	Long.									
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CP No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transhipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transhipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Document No.	ICCAT Transfer Declaration		
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING			
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation no. ICCAT Register no. External identification: Fishing logbook no. JFO no.	Trap name: ICCAT Register no.	Tug vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register no: External identification:	Name of destination farm: ICCAT Register no: Cage Number:
2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Number of individuals:	Species:		
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):			
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:		Observer Names, ICCAT No. and signature:
3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS			
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	
Date: __/__/____	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Farm State transfer authorisation no:	External identification:	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:	

Catch Report Form

<i>ICCAT Weekly Catch Report</i>										
<i>Flag</i>	<i>ICCAT Number</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Report start date</i>	<i>Report end date</i>	<i>Report duration (d)</i>	<i>Catch date</i>	<i>Caught</i>			<i>Attributed weight in case JFO (kg)</i>
							<i>Weight (kg)</i>	<i>Number of pieces</i>	<i>Average weight (kg)</i>	

Joint Fishing Operation

<i>Flag State</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Duration of the Operation</i>	<i>Identity of the Operators</i>	<i>Vessels individual quota</i>	<i>Allocation key per vessel</i>	<i>Fattening and farming farm destination</i>	
							<i>CPC</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>

Date

Validation of the flag State

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 91 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 March each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm observed.

Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
 - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non compliance with ICCAT recommendation he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag state authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated.
 - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
 - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
 - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
 - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
 - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;

- x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
 - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
 - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
 - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per that requirements in paragraphs 81 and 82;
 - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
 - c) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
 - d) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
 - e) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel or farm to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel and farm personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

Obligations of the flag States of purse seine vessels and farm and trap States

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
 - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme.
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) electronic means of communication;
 - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
 - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
 - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State or flag State of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports

pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Observer fees and organization

12. a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.
- c) The current programme/contract shall be evaluated prior to its re-tender in 2013.
- d) Based on this evaluation and a review of costs of other observer programmes, maximum unit costs shall be established for the programme, including but not limited to, daily rates for vessels, farms and traps and mobilization and training fees.
- e) The Commission shall assist the ICCAT Secretariat on the construction of the terms of reference and training manual prior to the launching of the new tender. New tenders shall be evaluated in accordance with the unit costs referred to in point d).

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the ICCAT Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
 - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC,
 - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c) fishing in a closed area;
 - d) fishing during a closed season;
 - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
 - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
 - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
 - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
 - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
 - n) fishing with assistance of spotter planes;
 - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
 - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration.
 - q) transshipment at sea
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag State of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag State of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag State CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag State CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Further Amending Recommendation 09-10 Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out*

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 11-18], taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

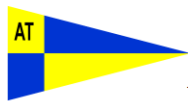

II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission;
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this Annex shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the ICCAT Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website;
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag State, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 21 of this Annex;
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 16 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master* of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary;
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this Annex safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this Annex. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the ICCAT Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.
12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag State of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag State of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity;
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag State of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector;
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them;

* Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Recommendation [94-09] and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements;
16. a) Contracting Governments shall inform the ICCAT Commission by 1 January each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
- b) the arrangements set out in this recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
17. a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
- b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
18. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report;
19. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag State;
20. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
21. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm

<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">ICCAT</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Inspector Identity Card</p> </div> </div> <p>Contracting Party:</p> <p>Inspector Name:</p> <p>Card n°:</p> <p>Issue Date: Valid five years</p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; width: 80px; height: 60px; margin-top: 10px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: gray;">Photograph</p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">ICCAT</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: 10px; margin-top: 10px;">The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%; border-top: 1px dotted black; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 10px; margin: 0;">Issuing Authority</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; border-top: 1px dotted black; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 10px; margin: 0;">Inspector</p> </div> </div>
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Minimum standards for video recording procedures

Transfer operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer without delay after the end of the transfer operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty.

Caging operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer without delay after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorisation.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorisation number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. The new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

12-04

BIL

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PLAN
TO REBUILD BLUE MARLIN AND WHITE MARLIN STOCKS**

RECALLING the 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 00-13] from ICCAT to rebuild Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin,

FURTHER RECALLING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 11-07] called for Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) to establish at the 2012 Commission meeting a multi-year plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin populations on the basis of advice of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), including the establishment of total mortality limits by CPC;

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

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13] states that for stocks that are subject to overfishing, the Commission shall immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a time as possible.

CONSIDERING that the 2011 SCRS stock assessment indicates that the blue marlin stock is below B_{MSY} (the stock is overfished) and that fishing mortality is above F_{MSY} (overfishing is occurring) and that unless the recent catch levels are substantially reduced to 2000 t or less and that the Commission adopts measures to manage fishing mortality by non-industrial fleets, the stock will likely continue to decline,

TAKING NOTE OF the results of the 2012 white marlin assessment, which indicated that the stock remains overfished and that overfishing is probably not occurring, while noting significant uncertainty associated with species composition in the historical time series of catch (white marlin vs. spearfish) and the actual magnitude of the catch due to the underreporting of discards, and acknowledging that SCRS concluded that, at a minimum, the Commission should ensure that white marlin catches do not exceed current levels of approximately 400 t;

NOTING that, due to the misidentification problems between white marlin and spearfishes (genus *Tetrapturus*), the SCRS also recommended that management measures should be applied to these species together as a mixed stock complex until more accurate species identification and differentiation of species catches are available,

FURTHER RECALLING the obligations of CPCs to require the collection of discard data in their existing domestic observer and logbook programs under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries* [Rec. 11-10], and the minimum standards for scientific observer programs established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 10-10],

COGNIZANT that marlins are caught in industrial, artisanal and recreational fisheries, and that fair and equitable conservation actions are needed to support rebuilding,

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

1. An annual limit of 2,000 t for blue marlin and 400 t for white marlin/spearfish is established for these stocks, for 2013, 2014 and 2015. This landings limit shall be implemented as follows:

<i>Blue Marlin</i>	<i>Landings Limit (t)</i>
Brazil	190
China, P.R.	45
Chinese Taipei	150
Côte d'Ivoire	150
European Union	480
Ghana	250
Japan	390
Korea Rep.	35
Mexico	70
S. Tome & Príncipe	45
Senegal	60
Trinidad and Tobago	20
Venezuela	100
TOTAL	1,985

<i>White Marlin/Spearfish</i>	<i>Landings Limit (t)</i>
Barbados	10
Brazil	50
Canada	10
China, P.R.	10
Chinese Taipei	50
European Union	50
Côte d'Ivoire	10
Japan	35
Korea Rep.	20
Mexico	25
S. Tome & Principe	20
Trinidad and Tobago	15
Venezuela	50
TOTAL	355

The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally-caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish combined on an annual basis. All other CPCs shall limit their landings to a maximum of 10 t of Atlantic blue marlin and 2 t of white marlin/spearfish combined.

- To the extent possible, as the CPC approaches its landings limits, such CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all blue marlin and white marlin that are alive by the time of boarding are released in a manner that maximizes their survival. For CPCs that prohibit dead discards, the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce shall not count against the limits established in paragraph 1, on the condition that such prohibition be duly informed to the ICCAT Secretariat.
- Any unused portion or excess of the annual landing limit established in Paragraph 1 may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective landing limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2013	2015
2014	2016
2015	2017

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 10% of its landing limit, for those CPCs whose landing limit is larger than 45 t, or 20% of its landing limit, for those CPCs whose landing limit is lower or equal to 45 t.

4. All CPCs with recreational fisheries shall maintain 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish tournament landings.
5. All CPCs with recreational fisheries shall adopt domestic regulations that establish minimum sizes in their recreational fisheries that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm LJFL for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/spearfish, or comparable limits by weight.
6. CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish caught in recreational fisheries.
7. In their Annual Reports, beginning in 2013, CPCs shall inform the Commission of steps taken to implement this Recommendation through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures.
8. All CPCs shall report to the SCRS by July 31, 2013, on their methods for estimating live and dead discards of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish, as these estimates are critical to support the stock assessment process. The SCRS shall review these reports and provide advice to the Commission on any improvements needed.
9. The Secretariat, in conjunction with the SCRS, shall research and review existing regional or individual CPC data collection programs, including capacity building programs, for artisanal fisheries. The Secretariat and the SCRS will present their findings at the 2013 Commission meeting, including a plan to work with relevant regional and sub-regional international organizations and CPCs to expand such programs or implement them in new areas to improve data on billfish catches in these fisheries.
10. At its next assessments of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish stocks, the SCRS shall evaluate progress toward the goals of the rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish.

This Recommendation consolidates and replaces the following Recommendations:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 06-09];
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 10-05];
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 11-07].

12-05

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON COMPLIANCE WITH
EXISTING MEASURES ON SHARK CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

RECALLING that ICCAT has put in place recommendations that prohibit the retention of shark species identified as at risk due to the impact of fisheries within the ICCAT Convention area: bigeye thresher (09-07), oceanic whitetip (10-07), hammerhead (10-08), silky sharks (11-08).

NOTING that these shark recommendations have now been in place for up to three years, and that contrary to other species explicitly covered by the Convention, there are no extensive records of compliance by Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) on shark recommendations.

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10] that highlights the need for action and co-operation for the proper conservation and management of sharks in the ICCAT convention area and that establishes the obligation to annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures.

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations* [Rec. 11-15] that establishes the obligation of CPCs to include information in their Annual Reports on actions taken to implement their reporting obligations for all ICCAT fisheries, including shark species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries;

RECOGNIZING the need to follow the precautionary approach at all times when dealing with shark management and conservation, given sharks inherent vulnerability to overexploitation;

NOTING that the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which met in July 2012, stated that: *The Committee recognized that further actions by States and RFMOs need to be taken for shark conservation and management;*

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

All CPCs submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, in advance of the 2013 annual meeting, details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures [Recs. 04-10, 07-06, 09-07, 10-08, 10-07, 11-08 and 11-15].

12-06

GEN

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A PROGRAMME FOR TRANSSHIPMENT

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 transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED to ensure the monitoring of the transhipment activities by large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs) in the Convention area, including the control of their landings;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to ensure collection of catch data from such LSPLVs to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

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

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULES

1. Except under the program to monitor transhipment at sea established in Section 2 below, all transhipment operations:
 - a) within the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species, and
 - b) outside the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area,
 must take place in port.
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 fishing vessels flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Annex 3**, when transshipping tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species in port.
3. This Recommendation does not apply to harpoon vessels engaged in the transhipment of fresh swordfish¹ at sea.
4. This Recommendation does not apply to transshipments outside the Convention area where such transhipment is subject to a comparable monitoring program established by another regional fisheries management organization.
5. This Recommendation is without prejudice to additional requirements applicable to transhipment at sea or in port in other ICCAT recommendations.

SECTION 2. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSSHIPMENT AT SEA

6. At sea transhipment by LSPLVs for tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized in accordance with the procedures set forth in Sections 3, 4 and 5, and **Annexes 1 and 2** below.
7. For the purposes of this Recommendation, LSPLVs shall be defined as those greater than 24 meters length overall.

¹ For the purpose of this Recommendation, "fresh swordfish" means swordfish that are alive, whole or gutted / dressed but not further processed or frozen.

SECTION 3. RECORD OF VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA

8. Transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized with regard to carrier vessels authorized in accordance with this Recommendation.
9. An ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area from LSPLVs shall be established. 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 and any other species caught in association with these species in transshipment operations.
10. In order for its carrier vessels to be included on the ICCAT Record List of Carrier Vessels, a flag CPC or flag non-Contracting Party (NCP) shall submit each calendar year, electronically, and in the format specified by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, a list of the carrier vessels that are authorized to receive transshipments from LSPLVs in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:
 - Name of vessel, register number
 - ICCAT Record Number (if any)
 - IMO number (if any)
 - Previous name (if any)
 - Previous flag (if any)
 - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
 - International radio call sign
 - Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
 - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
 - Time period authorized for transshipping

Each flag CPC that authorizes its LSPLVs to tranship at sea shall submit each calendar year electronically and in the format specified by the Executive Secretary, the list of its LSPLVs that are authorized to tranship at sea.

This list shall include the following information:

- Name of vessel, register number
- ICCAT Record Number
- Time period authorized for transshipping at sea
- Flag(s), name(s) and register number(s) of the carrier vessel(s) authorized for use by the LSPLVs

Upon receipt of the lists of LSPLVs authorized to tranship at sea, the Executive Secretary shall provide to the flag CPCs of the carrier vessels the list of LSPLVs authorized to operate with its carrier vessels.

11. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record, at any time such changes occur.
12. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record and take measures to ensure publicity of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
13. Carrier vessels authorized for at-sea transshipment and LSPLVs which tranship at sea shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with all applicable ICCAT recommendations, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-14], or any successor recommendation, including any future revisions thereto.

SECTION 4. AT-SEA TRANSSHIPMENT

14. Transshipments by LSPLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC are subject to prior authorization from that CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of coastal State prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer when requested. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSPLVs flying their flag comply with the provisions of this Section, as follows:

Flag CPC authorization

15. LSPLVs are not authorized to tranship at sea unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag State. An original or copy of the documentation of prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer when requested.

Notification obligations***Fishing vessel:***

16. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 14 and 15 above, the master and/or owner of the LSPLV must notify the following information to its flag CPC authorities, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, at least 24 hours in advance of the intended transhipment:
- the name of the LSPLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
 - the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area, and the product to be transhipped, by species, where known, and, if possible, by stock,
 - the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species and, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped,
 - the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, to be transhipped,
 - the date and location of transhipment.
 - the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas

The LSPLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC not later than 15 days after the transhipment, the ICCAT transhipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 1**.

Receiving carrier vessel:

17. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT transhipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat and the flag CPC of the LSPLV, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transhipment in the ICCAT area, within 24 hours of the completion of the transhipment.
18. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before landing, transmit an ICCAT transhipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transhipment in the ICCAT Convention area, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing is to take place.

ICCAT Regional Observer Program

19. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transhipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer program specified in **Annex 2**. The ICCAT observer shall observe the adherence to this Recommendation, and, notably, that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transhipment declaration and, as feasible, as recorded in the fishing vessel logbook.
20. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing transhipping in the ICCAT Convention area without an ICCAT regional observer on board, except in cases of *force majeure* duly notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

SECTION 5. GENERAL PROVISIONS

21. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Catch and Statistical Document Programs:
 - a) In validating the Catch or Statistical Documents, flag CPCs of LSPLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSPLV.
 - b) The flag CPC of LSPLVs shall validate the Catch or Statistical Documents for the transhipped 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 Catch or Statistical Document Programs caught by LSPLVs in the Convention area, when imported into the area or territory of a CPC, be accompanied by catch or statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transshipment declaration.
22. The flag CPCs of LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year and the flag CPCs of carrier vessels accepting transshipments shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:
 - The quantities of tuna and tuna-like catches by species (and, if possible, by stock) transhipped during the previous year.
 - The quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, transhipped during the previous year.
 - The list of the LSPLVs which have transhipped 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 LSPLVs.

These reports shall be made available to the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration. The Secretariat shall post these reports to a password protected website.
23. All tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with those species landed in or imported into the area or territory of CPCs, either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the ICCAT transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.
24. The Flag CPC of the LSPLV engaged in at-sea transshipments, and the coastal CPC, where applicable, shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Recommendation to determine consistency between the reported catches, transshipments, and landings of each vessel, including in cooperation with the landing State as necessary. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.
25. At its request, and subject to ICCAT confidentiality requirements, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) shall have access to the data collected under this Recommendation.
26. 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, *inter alia*, review compliance with this Recommendation.
27. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-scale Longline Fishing Vessels* [Rec. 06-11].

Transshipment Declaration

<p>Carrier vessel Vessel Name and radio call sign: Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity: Flag State authorization number: Domestic Registration Number: ICCAT Record Number: IMO Number, if any:</p>	<p>Fishing vessel Vessel Name and radio call sign: Flag CPC: Flag CPC authorization number: Domestic Registration Number: ICCAT Record Number, if applicable: IMO Number, if any: External identification:</p>
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	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	Agent's name:	Fishing vessel Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
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 (by stock,* if applicable) ²	Port	Area ³	Type of Product ¹ RD/GG/DR/FL/ST/OT	Net Weight (Kg)					

ICCAT Observer signature and date (if transshipment at sea):

¹ Type of Product should be indicated as Round (RD), Gilled and Gutted (GG), Dressed (DR), Fillet (FL), Steak (ST), Other (OT) (describe the type of product).
² A list of species by stock, with their geographic delineations, is included on the back of this form. Please provide as much detail as possible.
³ Atlantic, Mediterranean, Pacific, Indian.

*If stock level information is not available, please provide explanation.

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 tranship 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 LSPLVs flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT observer program.
3. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure observers are properly equipped to perform their duties.

Designation of the observers

4. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - demonstrated ability to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear with a strong preference given to those with experience as observers on pelagic longline vessels;
 - 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

5. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) to the extent possible, not be nationals or citizens of the flag State of the receiving carrier vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 6 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not be a crew member of the LSPLV or the carrier vessel or an employee of the LSPLV or carrier vessel company.
6. The observer shall monitor the LSPLV's and carrier vessel's adherence to the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. The observers' tasks shall be, in particular, to:
 - 6.1 Visit the LSPLV intending to tranship to a carrier vessel, taking into account the safety concerns reflected in paragraph 10 of this Annex, and before the transshipment takes place, to:
 - a) Check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorization or license to fish for tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with those species in the Convention area;
 - b) Inspect the fishing vessel's prior authorizations to tranship at sea from the flag CPC and, if appropriate, the coastal State;
 - c) Check and record the total quantity of catch on board by species and, if possible, by stock, and the quantities to be transhipped to the carrier vessel;
 - d) Check that the VMS is functioning and examine the logbook and verify entries, if possible;
 - e) Verify whether any of the catch on board resulted from transfers from other vessels, and check the documentation on such transfers;
 - f) In the case of indication that there are any violations involving the fishing vessel, immediately report the violation(s) to the master of the carrier vessel (taking due regard of any safety considerations) and to the observer program implementing company, who shall promptly forward it to the flag CPC authorities of the fishing vessel; and
 - g) Record the results of these duties on the fishing vessel in the observer's report.
 - 6.2 Observe the activities of carrier vessel and:
 - a) record and report upon the transshipment activities carried out;
 - b) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transshipping;
 - c) observe and estimate quantities of tuna and tuna-like species transhipped by species, if known, and, if possible, by stock;

- d) the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known;
- e) verify and record the name of the LSPLV concerned and its ICCAT record number;
- f) verify the data contained in the transshipment declaration, including through comparison with the LSPLV logbook, where possible;
- g) certify the data contained in the transshipment declaration;
- h) countersign the transshipment declaration; and
- i) observe and estimate quantities of product by species when offloaded in the port where the observer is disembarked to verify consistency with quantities received during at sea transshipment operations.

6.3 In addition, the observer shall:

- a) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transshipping activities;
 - b) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with the observer's duties and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
 - c) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
 - d) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
7. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSPLV and of the LSPLV owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
8. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State and, where relevant, the coastal State, which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
9. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 10 of this program.

Responsibilities of the Flag States of carrier vessels

10. The conditions associated with implementation of the regional observer program *vis à vis* the flag States of the carrier vessels and their captains include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel, pertinent documentation, 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 6:
 - i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) electronic means of communication; and
 - iv) scale used for weighing transhipped product;
 - 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;
 - e) Observers shall be allowed to determine the most advantageous location and method for viewing transshipment operations and estimating species/stocks and quantities transhipped. In this regard, the master of the carrier vessel, giving due regard to safety and practical concerns, shall accommodate the needs of the observer in this regard, including, upon request, temporarily placing product on the carrier vessel deck for inspection by the observer and providing adequate time for the observer to carry out his/her duties. Observations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes interference and avoids compromising the quality of the products transhipped.

- f) In light of the provisions of paragraph 11, the master of the carrier vessel shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and fishing vessels should weather and other conditions permit such an exchange; and
- g) 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 LSPLV, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports (covering the information and activities of both the fishing and carrier vessels) to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Responsibilities of LSPLVs during transhipments

- 11. Observers shall be allowed to visit the fishing vessel, if weather and other conditions permit, and shall be granted access to personnel, all pertinent documentation, and areas of the vessel necessary to carry out their duties set forth in paragraph 6 in this Annex. The master of the fishing vessel shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and fishing vessels. Should conditions present an unacceptable risk to the welfare of the observer such that a visit to the LSPLV is not feasible prior to the start of transhipment operations, such operations may still be carried out.

Observer fees

- 12. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSPLVs wishing to engage in transhipment 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.
- 13. No LSPLV may participate in the at-sea transhipment program unless the fees, as required under paragraph 12, are paid.

Information Sharing

- 14. To facilitate information sharing and, to the extent possible, harmonization of at sea transhipment programs across relevant regional fisheries management organizations, all training materials, including observer manuals, and data collection forms developed and used to support implementation of ICCAT's at sea transhipment regional observer program shall be posted on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

Identification Guides

- 15. The SCRS shall work with the ICCAT Secretariat and others as appropriate to develop new or improve existing identification guides for frozen tuna and tuna-like species. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure that these identification guides are made broadly available to CPCs and other interested parties, including to ICCAT regional observers prior to deployment and to other regional fisheries management organizations running similar at sea transhipment observer programs.

In-Port Transshipment

1. In the exercise of their authority over ports located in areas under their jurisdiction, CPCs may adopt more stringent measures, in accordance with domestic and international law.
2. Pursuant to Section 1 of this Recommendation, transshipment in port by any CPC of tuna and tuna-like species and any other species caught in association with these species from or in the Convention area may only be undertaken in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 12-07] and the following procedures:

Notification obligations

3. Fishing vessel

- 3.1 At least 48 hours in advance of transshipment operations, the captain of the fishing vessel must notify to the Port State authorities the name of the carrier vessel and date/time of transshipment.
- 3.2 The captain of a fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the following:
 - the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped;
 - the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, to be transhipped;
 - the date and place of the transshipment;
 - the name, registration number and flag of the receiving carrier vessel; and
 - the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas.
- 3.3 The captain of the fishing vessel concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, where applicable, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 1** not later than 15 days after the transshipment.

4. Receiving vessel

- 4.1 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 transhipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the competent authorities within 24 hours.
- 4.2 The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, at least 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.

Port and Landing State Cooperation

5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above paragraphs shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Annex, including in cooperation with the flag CPC of the fishing vessel as necessary, to determine consistency between the reported catches, transshipments, and landings 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.

Reporting

6. Each flag CPC of the fishing vessel shall include in its Annual Report each year to ICCAT the details on the transshipments by its vessels.

12-07

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR AN
ICCAT SCHEME FOR MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INSPECTION IN PORT**

RECOGNIZING that many Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) currently have port inspection schemes in place;

RECALLING *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* [Rec. 97-10];

ALSO RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT further 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* [Rec. 11-18] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from non-Contracting Parties Identified as Having Committed a Serious Infringement* [Rec. 98-11];

FURTHER RECALLING the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; and

DESIRING to take a step that will strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote implementation of and compliance with conservation and management measures;

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

Scope

1. Nothing in this Recommendation shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of CPCs under international law. In particular, nothing in this Recommendation shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Recommendation.

This Recommendation shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed pursuant to this Recommendation and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

2. With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Recommendation for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed or transhipped at port, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
3. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Recommendation to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its port. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the chartering CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
4. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other ICCAT Recommendations, and except as otherwise provided in this Recommendation, this Recommendation shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 meters in length overall.
5. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 12 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 3, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to measures that are at least as effective in combating IUU fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 4.

6. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Points of Contact

7. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 22(b) of this Recommendation. It shall transmit the name and contact information for its points of contact to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before such changes take effect. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
8. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

Designated ports

9. Each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall:
- a) designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation;
 - b) ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Recommendation;
 - c) provide to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
10. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

Prior notification

11. Each port CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall require foreign fishing vessels seeking to use its ports for the purpose of landing and/or transshipment to provide, at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port, the following information:
- a) Vessel identification (External identification; Name; Flag State; ICCAT Record No., if any; IMO No., if any; and IRCS);
 - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the ICCAT register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (landing and/or transshipment);
 - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to tranship related fishery products;
 - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
 - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a 'nil' report shall be transmitted;
 - f) The estimated quantities for each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transhipped, with associated catch areas.

The port CPC may also request other information as it may require to determine whether the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, or related activities.

12. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter notification period than specified in paragraph 11, taking into account, *inter alia*, the type of fishery product, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall publish the information promptly on the ICCAT website.
13. After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 11, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port, the following provisions on port inspection shall apply.

Port inspections

14. Inspections shall be carried out by a competent authority of the port CPC.
15. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5 % of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
16. In determining which foreign fishing vessel to inspect, the port CPC shall, in accordance with its domestic law, take into account, *inter alia*:
 - a) Whether a vessel has failed to provide complete information as required in paragraph 11;
 - b) requests from other CPCs or relevant regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question;
 - c) whether clear grounds exist for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing, including information derived from RFMOs.

Inspection procedure

17. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors may examine all relevant areas, decks and rooms of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any relevant documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, which they deem necessary to ensure compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures. They may also question the Master, crew members, or any other person on the vessel being inspected. They may take copies of any documents considered relevant.
18. Inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 11 above and held on board. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided, to the extent practicable.
19. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port CPC. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report and to contact the flag State. The inspector and the Master shall sign the report and a copy of the report shall be provided to the Master. The Master's signature shall serve only as acknowledgement of the receipt of a copy of the report.
20. The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.

21. Flag CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authorities of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of apparent infringements

22. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT conservation and management measures, the inspector shall:
 - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the flag State point of contact and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State;
 - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such infringement. If the infringement is to be referred to the flag State for further action, the port CPC shall promptly provide the evidence collected to the flag State.
23. If the infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port CPC, the port CPC may take action in accordance with its domestic laws. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the flag State, the relevant coastal State, as applicable, and the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website.
24. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 23 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report and evidence, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the infringement and notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within 6 months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot notify the ICCAT Secretariat this status report within 6 months of such receipt, the flag CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 6 month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website. CPCs shall include in their Annual Report [Ref. 12-13] information regarding the status of such investigations.
25. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Rec. 11-18, the port CPC shall promptly report the case to the flag State, and the relevant coastal CPC, as applicable, and notify as soon as possible the ICCAT Secretariat, along with its supporting evidence, for the purpose of inclusion of the vessel in the draft IUU list.

Requirements of developing CPCs

26. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Recommendation. CPCs shall, either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, *inter alia*:
 - a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and establishing an appropriate funding mechanism to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional or international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this recommendation is not unnecessarily transferred to them;
 - b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Recommendation; and
 - c) Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation.

General provisions

27. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information regarding such programs, including a copy of such agreements or arrangements, should be included in Annual Reports of CPCs [Ref. 12-13].
28. Without prejudice to domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may, in the case of appropriate bilateral agreements or arrangements with the port CPC or at the invitation of that CPC, send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe or take part in the inspection of its vessel.
29. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall cooperate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Recommendation.
30. The ICCAT Secretariat shall develop model formats for prior notification reports and inspection reports required under this Recommendation, taking into account forms adopted in other relevant instruments, such as the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and other RFMOs, for consideration at the 2013 Integrated Monitoring Measures meeting and adoption as annexes to this Recommendation at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Commission.
31. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2014 Annual Meeting and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness.
32. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* [Rec. 97-10] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

12-08

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT SUPPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF AN
ELECTRONIC BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (eBCD) PROGRAMME**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the commitment to develop an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) programme;

RECOGNIZING the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information;

NOTING the ability of electronic catch documentation systems to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, expedite the validation/verification process of bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs), prevent erroneous information entry, reduce pragmatic workloads and create automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to implement the eBCD programme to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme;

FOLLOWING the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group from 2011 to 2012 and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study; and

CONSIDERING the commitments previously made in *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-11 on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)* [Rec. 11-21] to seek “full implementation of the eBCD system before the 2013 purse seine season,” and recognizing that “a level of flexibility will be maintained based on the results of the pilot phase,” and given the progress in the on-going development of the eBCD system;

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

1. The eBCD system shall be fully completed and technically operational for all Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) by 16 May 2013.
2. During a transitional phase from 16 May 2013 to the end of February 2014, both eBCDs and existing paper BCDs shall be accepted. However, all paper-based BCDs validated after 16 May 2013 shall be submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 19 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme* [Rec. 11-20] and entered into the eBCD system by the Secretariat.
3. EBCDs will fully replace the paper-based BCDs by 1 March 2014.
4. The ICCAT Secretariat will submit to the Technical Working Group a Programme Manual and user group training plan for their review and endorsement by 1 March 2013. Any necessary revisions will be made by 1 October 2013, with the final version submitted to the Commission for consideration and adoption at the 2013 Annual Meeting.
5. CPCs are encouraged to communicate with the Secretariat on technical aspects of system implementation. CPCs shall report to the Permanent Working Group a summary of their experiences and suggestions before the 2013 Annual Meeting.
6. The Permanent Working Group will submit the eBCD programme to the Commission for formal consideration and adoption at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

12-09

TOR

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A PROCESS TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES

RECOGNIZING the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

CONCERNED by the impact that illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing has in the ICCAT Convention area;

REITERATING the responsibilities of flag States to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting ICCAT conservation and management measures;

NOTING the need for improved and strict control on all the components involved in the tuna and tuna-like species fisheries;

UNDERLINING the complementary role that importing States also have in the control of the catches of tuna and tuna-like species to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

RECALLING ICCAT's statistical document program for bigeye tuna and swordfish and their objectives;

RECOGNIZING that properly tracing tuna and tuna-like species from the point of capture to their final import has significant operational and technical aspects that would need to be addressed for any effective catch certification scheme;

COMMITTED to taking steps that conform with international law, notably as regards the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to ensure that tuna and tuna-like species entering markets of Contracting and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) of ICCAT and non-members of ICCAT is caught in the Convention area in a manner that does not diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

CONSIDERING the discussions on traceability system in the 7th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (hereinafter referred to as the 7th IMM WG),

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

1. The next meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2013 shall address technical and practical issues associated with the development of a Catch Certificate Scheme for tuna and tuna-like species, taking into consideration Appendix 3 of the Report on the 7th IMM WG and taking into account the following factors:
 - i) The conservation status of ICCAT species/stocks;
 - ii) Monitoring and control measures currently in place, including catch and trade tracking programs, and their effectiveness and utility;
 - iii) Which species, stocks, ocean areas, and/or fisheries would most benefit from additional monitoring and control measures, and which approaches or tools, including catch certification schemes, could best be used to enhance the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - iv) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc);
 - v) The ways in which products from ICCAT fisheries are processed, transported, and traded;
 - vi) The overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the CPCs and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (NCPs) involved;
 - vii) Operational issues, capacity requirements, and costs associated with various monitoring and control approaches, including data collection, submission, handling, analysis, reconciliation and dissemination associated with catch certification schemes and options for addressing the costs; and
 - viii) Any other relevant issues or information.

2. The Commission shall also hold a Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures meeting in 2014 to review the draft recommendation on catch certification in Appendix 3 of the Report of the 7th IMM WG and consider the development of catch certification schemes in light of the results of the discussions on paragraph 1 above.
3. In considering matters mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2, CPCs shall take into account the progress of developments of the Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) programme and each CPC's experience of existing catch documentation schemes.
4. The Commission at its 2014 Annual Meeting shall consider any draft recommendations on catch certification schemes for tuna species for their adoption with a view to implementing such scheme in 2015.

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP AMENDMENTS TO THE ICCAT CONVENTION

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;

RECOGNIZING the results of the Independent Performance Review of ICCAT;

RECALLING the discussions held during the meetings of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT pursuant to the *Resolution by ICCAT to Strengthen ICCAT* [Res. 06-18];

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT developments in relevant international fisheries governance since the signature of the Convention;

FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the outcome of the 2012 meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT acknowledging that to address certain issues, amendments to the ICCAT Convention are necessary;

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

A Working Group is established with the following Terms of Reference:

- a) Develop proposed amendments to the Convention with respect to the items identified in the **Annex 1** and produce draft recommendations or amendments to the Convention, if the draft recommendations cannot address the issue, with respect to the items identified in the **Annex 2**, in order to further strengthen ICCAT to ensure it can fully meet current and future challenges.
- b) In developing proposed amendments and producing draft recommendations, take into account the input of ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs), including proposals considered during the Future of ICCAT Working Group process.
- c) The Working Group will carry out its work in accordance with the following work plan:

<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Meet intersessionally to discuss proposed amendments to the Convention, including draft text, and to produce draft recommendations for their possible adoption at the 2013 Commission meeting.	Meet intersessionally to continue discussion of proposed amendments to the Convention, and develop a consolidated draft of proposed amendments that will serve as a negotiating text for future meeting(s).	Meet intersessionally to finalize, if possible, proposed amendments to the Convention. Present the final proposed Convention amendment text for adoption.

- d) The Working Group should seek to advance issues electronically, where possible.
- e) All CPCs should participate in the Working Group.
- f) Pursuant to Article 13 of the Convention, only Contracting Parties may propose amendments to the Convention and have the decision-making power on the adoption of the amendments to the Convention.
- g) A special Working Group Meeting Fund financed through voluntary contributions and, if necessary, the ICCAT Working Capital Fund is established to assist with the cost of participation of up to two representatives from each of those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States.
- h) In carrying out this exercise, principles related to monitoring, control, and surveillance measures (MSC), *force majeure*, and responsible international trade should be duly taken into account.

Annex 1

(not in priority order)

Convention scope, in particular shark conservation and management

Decision-making processes and procedures:

- Entry into force provisions for recommendations
- Voting rules/quorum
- Objection procedures
- Dispute resolution

Non-party participation

Annex 2

Precautionary Approach

Ecosystem considerations

Capacity building and assistance

Allocation of fishing possibilities

Transparency

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2012

12-11

MISC

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT REGARDING THE PRESENTATION
OF OBJECTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF PROMOTING EFFECTIVE
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES ADOPTED BY ICCAT**

RECALLING that pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, Contracting Parties may present objections to recommendations adopted by the Commission;

CONCERNED that the presentation of objections by ICCAT Contracting Parties has increased;

CONSIDERING that the presentation of an objection does not exempt a Contracting Party from the obligation to cooperate with Contracting Parties in pursuing the objectives of the ICCAT Convention;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that in conformity with the aims of the Commission and in view of the rights accorded by Article VIII of the Convention and taking account of the fundamental obligation of all Contracting Parties not to undermine the ICCAT objectives, it is essential that the terms relating to the presentation of objections be clearly defined;

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

1. Contracting Parties wishing to present objections should do so no less than 45 days before the end of the extended objection period, so not as to delay further the entry into effect of a recommendation.
2. Each Contracting Party that presents an objection pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention should provide to the Commission, at the time of presenting its objection, the reasons for its objection, based on, *inter alia*, the following grounds:
 - The recommendation is inconsistent, with UNCLOS, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the ICCAT Convention or another ICCAT recommendation still in effect;
 - The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in fact or law against the objecting Contracting Party;
 - The recommendation is inconsistent with a domestic measure that pursues compatible conservation and management objectives and that is at least as effective as the recommendation.
3. Each Contracting Party that presents an objection pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention should, at the same time, to the extent applicable, specify to the Commission the alternative management and conservation measures consistent with the objectives of the Convention it proposes to adopt and implement.
4. At each Commission meeting thereafter while its objection is maintained, the Contracting Party concerned should communicate to the Commission the alternative conservation and management measures it has adopted to respect the objectives of ICCAT and their effectiveness.
5. The Executive Secretary should provide all Contracting Parties with the details of all information and clarifications that have been received in conformity to paragraphs 2 and 3.
6. Each year the Commission should consider the effectiveness of the measures identified in paragraph 3.

12-12

MISC

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON THE SARGASSO SEA

RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Pelagic Sargassum* [Res. 05-11] which called upon the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to examine available and accessible information and data on the status of pelagic *Sargassum* and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species;

RECOGNISING that relevant new information is available concerning *Sargassum* and the Sargasso Sea;

NOTING also that the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks calls for the protection of biodiversity in the marine environment and refers to the need to take ecosystem considerations into account;

NOTING further that the International Commission for the Conservation of Tunas (ICCAT) has already incorporated ecosystem considerations into fisheries management;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

1. The SCRS will examine the available data and information concerning the Sargasso Sea and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species.
2. The SCRS will provide an update on the progress of this work in 2014 and report back to the Commission with its findings in 2015.

OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2012

7.1 MODIFICATION OF RULE 9 OF THE ICCAT RULES OF PROCEDURE IN RESPECT OF INTER-SESSIONAL VOTING

Intersessional votes at ICCAT have become more common. Recent examples have shown that a high proportion of Parties not responding in an intersessional vote may have a determining outcome on a decision. Under the current Rules of Procedure, an omission to vote is recorded as an abstention and, as such, has the same effect as a vote against a proposal. While modifying the quorum, the majority or how abstentions are counted in a vote might require an amendment to ICCAT's Convention, modifications could be made to Rule 9 (Voting) of ICCAT's Rules of Procedure to improve the intersessional voting process.

A) Objectives and outcomes of the proposal

The proposal to modify Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure seeks to encourage greater participation in intersessional votes by members of the Commission by providing additional steps throughout the process to remind members of the need to respond to an intersessional vote and to provide members with extra time, in exceptional circumstances, in order to submit their vote.

Under paragraph 14 of Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, members have 40 days to respond to an intersessional vote, either with an affirmative vote, a negative vote, an indication of their abstention or a request for additional time for voting, in which case a further 30 days shall be allowed from the expiration of the initial 40-day period. In the event of an extension, the Executive Secretary has to inform all members of the final date by which responses must be received. Aside from this information, the Executive Secretary is not required to communicate with the members during the 40 or 70-day voting period.

To encourage members to respect the need to respond to an intersessional vote, it is proposed that Rule 9 be modified to require additional communications by the Executive Secretary to the members at various stages of the process:

- In paragraph 13 of Rule 9, if no request for an intersessional vote on the chairman's determination has been received after 10 days, the Executive Secretary informs the members and reminds them of the number of days left to respond to the initial proposal.
- 10 days before the end of the initial voting period, if no request for an extension of time has been received, the Executive Secretary informs the members of the approaching expiration of the 40-day period, reminds them of the need to respond and could identify the members whose responses have not yet been received.
- In paragraph 14 of Rule 9, the Executive Secretary when informing the members of the final date by which responses must be received after an extension could identify the members whose responses have not yet been received.

In order to contribute to achieving quorum for intersessional votes, a new paragraph 14*bis* is proposed which gives the Chair the ability, in exceptional circumstances, to extend the voting period for an additional 30 day period.

B) Possible drafting suggestions

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. If no such request is received, the Executive Secretary shall inform all members and indicate the number of days remaining to respond to the proposal.
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 no request for an extension of time has been received within 30 days of the initial transmittal of a proposal or request, the Executive Secretary shall inform all members of the approaching expiration of the 40 day period, indicate which responses have yet to be received and remind the members of the need to respond.

15. 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. In exceptional circumstances, if a quorum has not been established by the expiration of the initial or extended voting period, the Chairman may, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, extend the voting period up to an additional 30 days. No additional extensions of time beyond one 30 day extension initiated by a member and one 30 day extension initiated by the Chairman shall be permitted. In the event of such an extension, the Executive Secretary shall indicate which responses have yet to be received and inform all members of the final date by which responses must be received.

C) Additional measures to encourage participation of members in intersessional votes

In addition to modifying the Rules of Procedures, further means could be envisaged to encourage members to respond in an intersessional vote. Compliance of members with Rules of Procedures could be assessed during the annual meeting of the Commission. The Secretariat could also make use of the different means envisaged in the current Rules of Procedures to secure the greatest amount of responses from Contracting Parties (e.g. secure web-site, an e-mail with a voting button sent as a reminder, etc.).

7.2 REVISED GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS [Ref. 12-13]

1. Introduction

The purpose of Annual Reports is to provide a mechanism for the submission to ICCAT of relevant information on the tuna-related activities of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities during the preceding year.

2. Submission process

Annual Reports should be submitted in two parts, Part I relating to information on fisheries, research and statistics and Part II relating to information on management implementation and other related activities. Part I should be submitted to the SCRS one week before the start of the SCRS Plenary Session (i.e., by 9:00 am on the first day of the Species Groups meetings. The complete report, comprising Part I and Part II, should be submitted on 16 October of each year.

Annual Reports must be provided to the Secretariat in Word file. The layout should follow these “Revised ICCAT Guidelines for Preparation of Annual Reports (also available on www.iccat.int).

3. Report sections

Annual Reports should contain specific, separate sections on fisheries, research, management and inspection activities and may optionally include appendices containing additional information pertinent to these sections. Information presented in Annual Reports should be divided into the relevant sections to facilitate the extraction and copying of particular information required by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

The overall structure of the main report sections should be as follows:

Summary

A summary (not to exceed 20 lines or half a page) must be included with the report. This summary should be submitted in one (or more) of the three official languages of the Commission (English, French or Spanish). The ICCAT Secretariat will translate these summaries to the other two languages.

Part I (Information on Fisheries, Research and Statistics)

Please note that national fisheries information and information on research and statistics should be concise. Detailed information of a more scientific nature, or for discussion by individual species working groups, should be presented to the SCRS as a scientific paper. Fisheries statistics should be reported separately by the Statistical Correspondent in accordance with the ICCAT Request for Atlantic tuna and shark statistics.

Section 1: Annual fisheries information

This report section should provide complementary information relating to the data submitted to ICCAT on total catches, effort, CPUE and size-frequency data and briefly describe trends in tuna fisheries during the preceding year. Attention should be given to changes in fishing patterns or new developments in fisheries, as well as socio-economic factors which influence or explain such changes and developments.

Section 2: Research and statistics

This report section should provide a description of the statistical data collection systems implemented to monitor tuna fisheries, with an indication of the degree of coverage of catch, effort and size data for fishing operations in local and distant waters. Attention should be given to problems, changes and improvements in such statistical systems and, where possible, the coverage of retained catches of target and by-catch species, and of discarded catches.

This section should also present summarized information on tuna-related research activities and results of particular interest to ICCAT, such as research related to stock delineation, stock assessment, migration and environmental factors.

A brief description and summarized results or observer programs may also be included in this section.

A list of the information submitted to Secretariat in accordance with Commission requirements and which is to be reviewed by the SCRS should also be included in Part I for submission to SCRS.

Part II (Management implementation)

Section 3: Compliance with reporting requirements under ICCAT conservation and management measures

This section should comprise the list of reporting requirements and the response as appropriate. A template will be circulated early in the year by the Secretariat and should be followed and inserted into the report. Responses should indicate:

Where information is required in a specific format by a deadline, the date on which this was sent should be entered.

Where the requirement is not applicable, this should be noted, with a brief note as to why it is not applicable.

Where information is required by a Recommendation to be included in the Annual Report, the text should be written under the heading of that requirement.

Section 4: Implementation of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

Text on measures taken to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures not included in Section 3 above, and any other information of interest to the Commission. This section should not exceed four pages in length.

Section 5: Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures

This section should outline any difficulties encountered in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures and/ or explanations of why reporting requirements or deadlines could not be met, and any steps being taken to overcome these difficulties. In addition, if standard forms have not been used, a brief indication of the difficulties encountered in the use of these forms should be included.

Appendices (if any)

Appendices may be included as a supplement to the information contained in the main body of the Annual Reports to be submitted to ICCAT. The purpose of such appendices should be to provide detailed supplementary information to the main sections of the Annual Reports. As such, information contained in the appendices should be considered to have been formally transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, as will be the contents of the body of the Annual Reports. However, such appendices will not be included in the subsequent publication of Annual Reports, but will be made available on request.

4. Formats

General text must be in Times New Roman 10 (see margins below). Section headings are standardized (see above and model page); further sub-headings should be short, reflect a logical sequence, and follow the rules of multiple subdivision (*i.e.*, there can be no subdivision without at least 2 two subheadings). The entire text should be intelligible to readers and therefore acronyms and abbreviations should be written out and all lesser-known technical terms should be defined the first time they are mentioned. Dates should be written as follows: 10 November 2003. Measures should be expressed as metric units, *e.g.*, metric tons (t).

Tables should be placed after the text, followed by the figure(s); they should be in MSWord files. Tables should be cited in numerical order in the text. Tables should be numbered (Arabic) and the table heading should be included above the table; avoid using grids. Headings in tables should be short but sufficient to allow the table to be intelligible on its own. All unusual symbols should be explained in the Table legend. Other incidental comments may be footnoted.

Figures should be in MSWord files and placed after tables. Figures should be cited in numerical order in the text. Figures should be numbered (Arabic) and the figure caption should be included beneath the figure; avoid using grids. Clearly identify numerical scales, units and legends for the X- and Y-axes for each figure. If graphics are prepared in colour, please be sure that the information plotted or depicted can also be easily read in black and white (*e.g.*, use ■, ♦, •, etc. or colours that are easily distinguishable).

Appendices should be placed after figures, and following the standardized headings (see above and model page).

Summary of Formatting Instructions

Software:	Please prepare in MSWord.
Paper size:	A4
Margins:	(Top, Bottom, Left, Right): 2.5 cm; headers 1.5 cm, footers 2.0 cm.
Line spacing:	Single (or 1.0); Double space between paragraphs; Triple space before new major headings. For contributors using an East Asian version of MSWord, please ensure that the printed copy is indeed single-spaced.
Page numbering:	None (for electronic copies)
Header:	ANN-xxx/year [insert year and document number as provided by the Secretariat]; page 1 header only (different first page), Arial 10, right justified. No other running headers.
Font type:	Times New Roman.
Font size:	TR 10. Footnotes should be in TNR 8.
Case:	Only the document title on the title page should be in CAPS.
Tabs:	Every 0.6 cm; no paragraph indents
Files:	Please submit 1 file with the formatted text (and tables, figures and appendices, should there be any).

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
(STACFAD)**

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Wednesday, 14 November 2012, by the Committee Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, which has been circulated in advance of 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 2012 Administrative Report**

The 2012 Administrative Report was presented by the Chair.

As in previous years, the Chair stressed the importance of taking into account the financial resources and staff when taking decisions that imply an increase in the Secretariat's work load.

The Administrative Report was adopted.

4.2 2012 Financial Report

At the request of the Chair, the Head of Finance and Administration presented the Financial Report prepared by the Secretariat which had been distributed prior to the meeting. He noted that the Working Capital Fund was maintained at the same percentage as last year, i.e., over 120% of the total budget. As regards extra-budgetary expenditures, the funds for participation at meetings [Rec. 11-26] list the Contracting Parties that had benefited from these. The extra-budgetary income includes voluntary contributions from Chinese Taipei, income received, in terms of overhead, from the various programs that were managed by the Secretariat, voluntary contributions received from the European Union for the 2011 and 2012 Commission meetings, and financial income. He also noted that the information provided was up to October 20, 2012 and that, since then, income had been received from Ghana towards the cancellation of its total debt, and that advances on future contributions had also been received.

The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation and congratulated Ghana for the efforts made to pay its debt to the Commission.

The Delegate from the European Union thanked the Secretariat for the presentation of the Financial Report and indicated that while the Commission's current financial situation is healthy, the Working Capital Fund was too high and added that the Commission should start to use this Fund. The Delegate suggested alternative uses such as capacity building, research programs and even the purchase of property for the Commission's headquarters.

The Executive Secretary explained that the state of the Working Capital Fund improved considerably after the approval of the Madrid Protocol and that in large measure the current favorable financial situation was largely due to the payment of numerous past due amounts in recent years. He also pointed out that the amount allocated to Chapter 6 of the Budget, Operating Expenses, included covering the conditions of the new Secretariat headquarters and since the move to new offices had not taken place, these funds had a direct impact on the increase in the Working Capital Fund. He advised caution in the requests for the use of this Fund, so as to avoid

the unfavorable financial situation of previous years. The Executive Secretary added that if the Commission wished to purchase property for the headquarters, this could be looked into.

The Delegate from the European Union stated that the Working Capital Fund was well above the 15% recommended by the auditors and there was no reason to continue with this fund at such a high level. He indicated that some research activities could be financed and that the possibility of reducing the contributions should be studied. He proposed that the expenses of the eBCD Fund be financed by the Working Capital Fund and added that the European Union would be contributing €90,000 towards the eBCD Fund.

The Delegate from South Africa proposed using the Working Capital Fund to finance research programs such as the tagging programs.

The Delegate from France (on behalf of St. Pierre & Miquelon) supported South Africa's proposal and also the proposal to reduce contributions.

The Delegate from Brazil urged caution in the use of the Working Capital Fund.

The Delegate from the United States supported the proposal to invest and utilize the Fund for science purposes, such as the tagging program.

The Delegate from Libya pointed out that, taking into account the current healthy state of our finances, priorities should be established. He proposed more scientific research, capacity building for the developing countries and the organization of more seminars and meetings. He also informed the Committee that Libya had sent its budgetary contribution and would also contribute to the GBYP.

The Delegate from Japan indicated that with the current good financial state, the current balance could be used to carry out research activities on tunas and tuna-like species, which would benefit all the Contracting Parties. He added that the assistance for participation at meeting should be continued.

The Delegate from Morocco also called for caution in the use of the Fund and suggested, as an alternative, using it to reduce the debt of developing countries.

The STACFAD Chair, who pointed out that this healthy financial state is the result of sound management, summarized that it was clear that the Working Capital Fund could not continue to increase, that it should be used to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and that we should proceed with caution.

The Financial Report was adopted.

4.3 Review of progress in the payment of arrears and voting rights

The Chair presented the document on "Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties & Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions" (STF-204), which provides information broken down by years.

The Chair asked the Contracting Parties mentioned in the above document to contact the Secretariat to regularize their debt.

5. Procedures for selection of the auditor for the next five-year period

The Executive Secretary explained that in 2013 the tendering of a new firm to audit the Commission's accounts for the next five fiscal periods must be carried out, since the current auditing firm would conduct its last audit for the 2012 fiscal period.

6. Procedures for the election of the Executive Secretary

The Chair explained that this Agenda item had been discussed by the Heads of Delegations, who agreed to extend the mandate of the current Executive Secretary for an additional two years.

7. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed

No matters were discussed under this Agenda item.

8. Assistance to developing CPCs

The STACFAD Chair indicated that the Financial Report contained information on the assistance provided to developing CPCs. The Executive Secretary explained that there were currently various funds for assistance, such as Special Data Fund (financed by the United States), the ICCAT-Japan Project for the Improvement of Data and Management of Tuna Fisheries (JDMIP) (financed by Japan) and the European Union Fund for Capacity Building (financed by the European Union).

The Delegate from the United States expressed concern that scientific meetings, including stock assessment sessions, sometimes do not have the participation of scientists from all concerned ICCAT members and suggested that a mechanism be developed to alert the various governments of the importance of such participation well in advance of those meetings.

Various delegations that benefited from these funds appreciated the current mechanisms. They expressed that besides the importance of the participation of the scientists at meetings, there was still a lot of work to do to improve and strengthen the capacity of the developing countries through research programs.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that with the current financing programs, various seminars and training courses for staff had been organized, as well as the funding of stays at research centers, and asked the CPCs who might request such assistance to make their needs known.

The Assistant Executive Secretary expressed that the channels for requests of research needs should be made in accordance with the SCRS protocols.

9. Review of the budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2013

The Chair presented the budget proposal and the Contracting Party contributions for 2013. She pointed out that the overall budget had not undergone any changes since its approval at the 2011 meeting, but that some changes among chapters had been made to adjust them to the needs.

The "Revised Budget for 2013" was adopted.

The Delegate from Chinese Taipei informed the Committee that a voluntary contribution for 2013 would be sent in the amount of €100,000, €8,000 for the Billfish Research Program, and another for the GBYP amounting to €3,000.

10. Consideration of programs/activities which may require additional funding

The SCRS Chair summarized the following programs and activities for which the Scientific Committee requested additional funding:

- Development of the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan (€25,000);
- External support for stock assessments (SWO, ALB & Sea Turtles) (€100,000);
- Finalization of database documentation (€50,000);
- External expertise to quantify the quality of information (€20,000);
- Recovery of Côte d'Ivoire's detailed historical statistics (€10,000);
- Support for the national observer program database and reporting forms (€30,000);
- Participation of external experts in the Bluefin Tuna Meeting on Biology and Data (€30,000);
- Enhanced Research Program for Billfish (€49,800); and
- Research Programme for Small Tunas (€12,000).

The Delegate of the United States thanked the SCRS Chair for the explanations and asked that these activities be included in the biennial budget. He announced that the United States would contribute US\$62,500 towards the

tagging program of tropical tunas. He also recalled that this program could be financed by the Working Capital Fund.

The Delegate from Japan requested information on the budgetary implications of these activities and asked that they be prioritized.

The Delegate from Morocco supported the research program on small tunas in order to carry out the stock assessment on small tunas, aimed at improving data and creating a database on these species.

Algeria, Cape Verde, Trinidad & Tobago, and Tunisia supported the research program on small tunas.

The Executive Secretary expressed that there were budget items that could be financed by the ICCAT Budget and that others could be financed through existing programs.

The Delegate from Japan stated that the Working Capital Fund could be used, but that the amount of the funds needed would have to be known.

The Executive Secretary explained that the ICCAT Year Research Program for Small Tuna Species (SMTYP) would be a two-year program and that €56,000 would have to be allocated in both 2013 and 2014, which could be charged to the Working Capital Fund. He indicated that regarding the rest of the activities he would contact the SCRS Chair to identify the priorities and try to finance these from the funds of the existing programs.

11. Identification of procedure for granting and implementing the Meeting Participation Fund

The Executive Secretary presented the document on a “Mechanism for Financing the Meeting Participation Fund”, which shows the contributions received to this Fund (€50,000 from the Working Capital Fund, €10,000 from Morocco, and €27,083.66 from Norway), as well as the costs of the CPCs that had benefited from participation at meetings. He explained that the document also included an estimate that had been made of possible requests from all the developing CPCs. He proposed that for 2013 such costs be charged to the Working Capital Fund and at the 2013 meeting this matter be reviewed for consideration of its inclusion in future regular budgets.

The Delegate from the European Union proposed that for purposes of knowing the real needs from the fund that such financing be charged to the Working Capital Fund in 2013 and that the amount destined for this purpose be reviewed annually.

The Delegate from the United States proposed allocating €150,000 from the Working Capital Fund for 2013 and that this amount be adjusted every year in order to have a margin that will ensure the participation of all the CPCs that request assistance.

This proposal was accepted by the rest of the delegations.

12. Other matters

The Chair explained that at the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT (Madrid, Spain, May 28-31, 2012) there were various requests from the Commission Chair for discussion in STACFAD. The first was a proposal from Canada to amend Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure on inter-sessional voting (included in Appendix 7 of the aforementioned Working Group’s report), another was the proposal by Canada on the objection procedure (Appendix 9 of the Working Group’s Report) (see ANNEX 4.2), and the third dealt with the concern that various CPCs expressed about the lack of a clear and effective ICCAT communication policy whereby ICCAT could rapidly and effectively transmit the results of its work. The STACFAD Chair asked Canada to introduce the first two proposals and the Secretariat the third.

– Amendment of Article 9 of the ICCAT Rules of Procedure on inter-sessional voting.

The Delegate from Canada introduced the proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure concerning inter-sessional voting to change the method to calculate the quorum during the voting by correspondence, as well as the effect of the abstentions. The Delegate explained that inter-sessional voting was becoming more common in ICCAT and that the fact that a CPC did not respond to a vote had an influence on the decision, since not voting was considered an abstention and therefore had the same effect as a “no” vote. He stated that this proposal intended

to improve the process since the change of the quorum, from the majority or how to count the abstentions in a vote, required an amendment of the ICCAT Convention.

– *Proposal concerning the objection procedure.*

The Delegate from Canada stated that a draft ICCAT resolution had been developed on the presentation of objections to foster the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT.

The Delegate indicated that the objective was to preserve the right of the Contracting Parties to present objections to Commission decisions; to extend, whenever possible, the right of a Contracting Party to present an objection; to reduce, inasmuch as possible, the impact of the objections on the entry into force of the Commission's recommendations; to require that the objections be justified and be based on specific reasons; and to require that the Contracting Party presenting an objection also propose adopting and implementing, when possible, alternative conservation and management measures that are coherent with the objectives of the Convention.

Following the discussion, as the delegations did not reach agreement on any proposal, the Chair suggested making two separate documents for each of these proposals, in order to move forward in the discussions. The documents presented were the "Proposal for Consideration at the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT: Modification of Rule 9 in ICCAT Rules of Procedure in Respect of Inter-sessional Voting" (STF-209B), and the "Draft Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by ICCAT".

The *Modification of Rule 9 of the ICCAT Rules of Procedure in Respect of Inter-sessional Voting* was adopted by STACFAD and forwarded to the Commission for final approval (see **ANNEX 7.1**).

The *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures Adopted by ICCAT* was adopted by STACFAD and forwarded to the Commission for final approval (see **ANNEX 6 [Res. 12-11]**).

– *ICCAT communication policy*

The STACFAD Chair then noted that there was still another matter to discuss, i.e., the Commission's communication policy (Item 5.c of the Working Group Report) (see **ANNEX 4.2**).

Hence, the Executive Secretary introduced the "Note on the Development of a Commission Communication Policy"), which contained two possible points of view so that the Commission could initiate the discussion and take a decision in this regard. One was to consider this as a tool to promote the Commission's activities, and the other as a means to disseminate the specific results of the Commission's meetings. The Executive Secretary also informed that he had contacted the International Institute for Sustainable Development-Reporting Services (IISD-RS) and that the aforementioned document included the offer received.

The delegations agreed on the need to improve communication of the Commission's work, but not in a burdensome manner. Several alternatives were discussed such as opening the ICCAT web page during the meetings to reflect the work carried out, press releases, circulars or periodic bulletins, occasional hiring of external experts, etc.

The Chair indicated that there was agreement on the need for a communication policy, but not on the tools to implement. Therefore, it was agreed that the Secretariat and the CPCs that have expertise to offer should discuss this inter-sessionally in a virtual working group with a view to developing options, including estimates of the costs involved, for consideration in 2013.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The 2012 meeting of STACFAD was adjourned by the Chair, Ms. Lapointe.

The Report of STACFAD was adopted by correspondence.

Table 1. 2013 Commission Budget (Euros).

<i>Chapters</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2013 Revised</i>	<i>Revised Increase</i>
1. Salaries	1,212,819.50	1,237,075.89	1,263,382.86	2.13%
2. Travel	31,640.40	32,273.21	30,000.00	-7.04%
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	150,000.00	153,000.00	153,000.00	0.00%
4. Publicationes	55,339.10	56,445.88	40,000.00	-29.14%
5. Office Equipment	10,000.00	10,200.00	10,200.00	0.00%
6. Operating Expenses	200,000.00	204,000.00	204,000.00	0.00%
7. Miscellaneous	7,000.00	7,140.00	7,140.00	0.00%
8. Coordination of Research				
a) Salaries	965,836.93	985,153.67	1,014,191.78	2.95%
b) Travel to improve statistics	31,640.40	32,273.21	30,000.00	-7.04%
c) Statistics-Biology	22,440.00	22,888.80	15,000.00	-34.47%
d) Computer-related items	40,800.00	41,616.00	35,000.00	-15.90%
e) Database maintenance	30,600.00	31,212.00	22,000.00	-29.51%
f) Phone line-Internet domain	30,000.00	30,600.00	20,000.00	-34.64%
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	100,000.00	102,000.00	102,000.00	0.00%
h) Miscellaneous	6,000.00	6,120.00	6,000.00	-1.96%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,227,317.33</i>	<i>1,251,863.68</i>	<i>1,244,191.78</i>	<i>-0.61%</i>
9. Contingencies	10,000.00	10,200.00	10,200.00	0.00%
10. Separation from Service Fund	31,640.40	32,273.21	32,273.21	0.00%
11. Research Programs				
a) ICCAT Billfish Research Program	30,600.00	31,212.00	31,212.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>30,600.00</i>	<i>31,212.00</i>	<i>31,212.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
TOTAL BUDGET	2,966,356.73	3,025,683.87	3,025,599.85	0.00%

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2013.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2008	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	4,174	2,642	0	0	0	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	C	4,959	3,139	3,694	1,549	5,242	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	1,942	1,229	4,733	0	4,733	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	14,422	9,128	214	0	214	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	D	4,569	2,892	1,590	0	1,590	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	8,311	5,260	37,484	15,742	53,226	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	45,166	28,586	2,633	0	2,633	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cap-Vert	C	3,439	2,177	5,716	1,751	7,467	X	-	-	-	1	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep. of	C	3,292	2,084	8,155	0	8,155	X	X	-	X	3	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,137	720	6,758	0	6,758	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia	C	15,677	9,922	760	750	1,510	-	X	-	-	1	Croatia
Egypt	D	2,031	1,285	0	0	0	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	A	44,761	28,330	56	0	56	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	9,888	6,258	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	709	449	66,944	10,300	77,244	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	2,848	1,803	10,015	0	10,015	X	X	-	X	3	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	27,130	17,171	2,189	0	2,189	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	505	320	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras	D	1,957	1,239	0	0	0	X	X	-	-	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	52,490	33,222	29	0	29	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	38,578	24,416	35,414	0	35,414	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	19,296	12,213	4,022	0	4,022	X	X	-	X	3	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	C	14,430	9,133	1,253	0	1,253	X	X	-	-	2	Libya
Maroc	C	2,740	1,734	13,311	992	14,303	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	D	1,017	644	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Mauritania
Mexico	B	9,964	6,306	10,194	819	11,014	X	X	X	X	4	Mexico
Namibia	C	4,143	2,622	5,548	0	5,548	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,228	777	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	1,450	918	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	94,791	59,994	11	0	11	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	6,793	4,299	24,284	0	24,284	X	X	-	-	2	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	1,866	1,181	2,387	0	2,387	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	11,858	7,505	1,022	0	1,022	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	5,515	3,491	3,612	0	3,612	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,108	701	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,088	689	10,920	5,161	16,080	X	-	-	X	2	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	418	265	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	5,566	3,523	5,358	0	5,358	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	2,572	1,628	409	0	409	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	18,153	11,489	3,849	0	3,849	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	3,876	2,453	4,219	2,459	6,679	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,031	6,349	10,692	3,675	14,367	X	X	X	X	4	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	37,877	23,973	189,138	253,148	442,286	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	43,381	27,456	455	0	455	-	-	-	X	1	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	44,955	28,453	18,234	10,829	29,063	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	9,610	6,082	1,537	0	1,537	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	2,388	1,511	1,910	0	1,910	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	11,376	7,200	6,408	1,313	7,721	X	-	-	X	2	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the **Annex**

Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2013 (Euros).

Contracting Party		Catch + Canning ^a	Panels ^a	% Catch + Canning ^b	% Member + Panels ^c	Membership fee ^d	Panel Membership ^e	Variable fees for Member ^f	Variables fees Catch-Canning ^g	Total fees ^h	Contracting Party
	Albania	D	0	1	0.00%	5.26%	772.00	772.00	1,475.86	0.00	3,019.86 Albania
	Algérie	C	5,242	2	2.94%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	10,929.07	22,393.07 Algérie
	Angola	D	4,733	2	32.32%	7.89%	772.00	1,544.00	2,213.79	18,128.56	22,658.35 Angola
	Barbados	C	214	0	0.12%	1.64%	772.00	0.00	3,049.33	446.84	4,268.17 Barbados
	Belize	D	1,590	4	10.86%	13.16%	772.00	3,088.00	3,689.65	6,092.01	13,641.66 Belize
	Brazil	B	53,226	4	48.12%	23.81%	772.00	3,088.00	34,732.38	140,389.72	178,982.10 Brazil
	Canada	A	2,633	3	0.52%	13.33%	772.00	2,316.00	81,334.22	6,298.47	90,720.69 Canada
	Cap-Vert	C	7,467	1	4.18%	3.28%	772.00	772.00	6,098.67	15,566.30	23,208.97 Cap-Vert
	China, People's Rep. of	C	8,155	3	4.57%	6.56%	772.00	2,316.00	12,197.33	17,001.32	32,286.65 China, People's Rep. of
	Côte d'Ivoire	C	6,758	2	3.79%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	14,088.89	25,552.89 Côte d'Ivoire
	Croatia	C	1,510	1	0.85%	3.28%	772.00	772.00	6,098.67	3,148.70	10,791.37 Croatia
	Egypt	D	0	2	0.00%	7.89%	772.00	1,544.00	2,213.79	0.00	4,529.79 Egypt
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	56	3	0.01%	13.33%	772.00	2,316.00	81,334.22	134.77	84,556.99 France (St. P. & M.)
	Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	0.00	11,464.00 Gabon
	Ghana	C	77,244	1	43.29%	3.28%	772.00	772.00	6,098.67	161,036.18	168,678.85 Ghana
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	10,015	3	5.61%	6.56%	772.00	2,316.00	12,197.33	20,879.00	36,164.33 Guatemala, Rep. de
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	2,189	2	1.23%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	4,563.57	16,027.57 Guinea Ecuatorial
	Guinea, Rep. of	D	0	0	0.00%	2.63%	772.00	0.00	737.93	0.00	1,509.93 Guinea, Rep. of
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	7.89%	772.00	1,544.00	2,213.79	0.00	4,529.79 Honduras
	Iceland	A	29	1	0.01%	6.67%	772.00	772.00	40,667.11	68.58	42,279.69 Iceland
	Japan	A	35,414	4	6.94%	16.67%	772.00	3,088.00	101,667.77	84,725.56	190,253.33 Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	4,022	3	2.25%	6.56%	772.00	2,316.00	12,197.33	8,385.65	23,670.98 Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	C	1,253	2	0.70%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	2,611.53	14,075.52 Libya
	Maroc	C	14,303	3	8.02%	6.56%	772.00	2,316.00	12,197.33	29,817.81	45,103.14 Maroc
	Mauritania	D	0	1	0.00%	5.26%	772.00	772.00	1,475.86	0.00	3,019.86 Mauritania
	Mexico	B	11,014	4	9.96%	23.81%	772.00	3,088.00	34,732.38	29,050.00	67,642.38 Mexico
	Namibia	C	5,548	3	3.11%	6.56%	772.00	2,316.00	12,197.33	11,566.32	26,851.65 Namibia
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.63%	772.00	0.00	737.93	0.00	1,509.93 Nicaragua, Rep. de
	Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	7.89%	772.00	1,544.00	2,213.79	0.00	4,529.79 Nigeria
	Norway	A	11	2	0.00%	10.00%	772.00	1,544.00	61,000.66	26.32	63,342.98 Norway
	Panama	B	24,284	2	21.95%	14.29%	772.00	1,544.00	20,839.43	64,051.37	87,206.80 Panama
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,387	2	16.30%	7.89%	772.00	1,544.00	2,213.79	9,143.77	13,673.56 Philippines, Rep. of
	Russia	C	1,022	1	0.57%	3.28%	772.00	772.00	6,098.67	2,129.94	9,772.63 Russia
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	3,612	3	24.67%	10.53%	772.00	2,316.00	2,951.72	13,836.32	19,876.03 Saint Vincent and Grenadines
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	0	2	0.00%	7.89%	772.00	1,544.00	2,213.79	0.00	4,529.79 São Tomé e Príncipe
	Senegal	C	16,080	2	9.01%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	33,523.84	44,987.84 Senegal
	Sierra Leone	D	0	1	0.00%	5.26%	772.00	772.00	1,475.86	0.00	3,019.86 Sierra Leone
	South Africa	C	5,358	3	3.00%	6.56%	772.00	2,316.00	12,197.33	11,170.91	26,456.24 South Africa
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	409	1	2.79%	5.26%	772.00	772.00	1,475.86	1,566.74	4,586.60 Syrian Arab Republic
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	3,849	2	2.16%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	8,024.98	19,488.98 Trinidad & Tobago
	Tunisie	C	6,679	2	3.74%	4.92%	772.00	1,544.00	9,148.00	13,923.50	25,387.50 Tunisie
	Turkey	B	14,367	4	12.99%	23.81%	772.00	3,088.00	34,732.38	37,895.74	76,488.12 Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	442,286	4	86.73%	16.67%	772.00	3,088.00	101,667.77	1,058,139.78	1,163,667.55 Union Européenne
	United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	455	1	0.09%	6.67%	772.00	772.00	40,667.11	1,088.56	43,299.67 United Kingdom (O.T.)
	United States	A	29,063	4	5.70%	16.67%	772.00	3,088.00	101,667.77	69,531.23	175,059.00 United States
	Uruguay	C	1,537	3	0.86%	6.56%	772.00	2,316.00	12,197.33	3,204.30	18,489.63 Uruguay
	Vanuatu	D	1,910	0	13.04%	2.63%	772.00	0.00	737.93	7,315.27	8,825.20 Vanuatu
	Venezuela	B	7,721	2	6.98%	14.29%	772.00	1,544.00	20,839.43	20,365.16	43,520.58 Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the **Annex**

Table 4. Contributions by group 2013. 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	22	509,947.07	---	61.25%	6,176.00	16,984.00	1,830,019.91	1,853,179.91
B	5	16	110,611.33	3.00%	15.00%	3,860.00	12,352.00	437,627.98	453,839.98
C	20	41	178,445.67	1.00%	20.00%	15,440.00	31,652.00	558,027.97	605,119.97
D	15	23	14,640.50	0.25%	3.75%	11,580.00	17,756.00	84,123.99	113,459.99
TOTAL	48	102	813,644.57		100.00%	37,056.00	78,744.00	2,909,799.85	3,025,599.85

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the **Annex**.

Table 5. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

<i>Parties</i>	2007			2008			2009			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Albania			0			0			0	Albania
Algérie	3,595 t	1,695 coo	5,290	4,432	1,256	5,688	3,054	1,695	4,749	Algérie
Angola	5,796 t		5,796				3,669 t		3,669	Angola
Barbados	250 t		250	258 t		258	135 t		135	Barbados
Belize	1,676 t		1,676	1,431		1,431	1,664		1,664	Belize
Brazil	42,445 t	15,742 coo	58,187	34,504 t	15,742 coo	50,246	35,502 t	15,742 coo	51,244	Brazil
Canada	3,365 t		3,365	2,411		2,411	2,122		2,122	Canada
Cap-Vert	12,229 t	2,217 coo	14,446	2,024	819	2,843	2,894	2,217	5,111	Cap-Vert
China, People's Rep. of	10,845 t		10,845	7,262 co		7,262	6,358 t		6,358	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	2,869 t		2,869	16,300 t		16,300	1,105 t		1,105	Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia	825 t	750 coo	1,575	834 co	750 co	1,584	622 t	750 coo	1,372	Croatia
Egypt			0			0			0	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	93 t		93	56 co		56	20 t		20	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon			0			0			0	Gabon
Ghana	68,919 t	10,300 coo	79,219	64,808 t	10,300 coo	75,108	67,105 t	10,300 coo	77,405	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	9,941 t		9,941	12,472 co		12,472	7,632 t		7,632	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial			0			0	2,189 t		2,189	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of			0			0			0	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	36 t	0	36	50	0	50	0	0	0	Iceland
Japan	37,674 t		37,674	37,094 t		37,094	31,474 t		31,474	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	3,678 t		3,678	4,870 t		4,870	3,519 t		3,519	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	1,358 t		1,358	1,318 t		1,318	1,082 t		1,082	Libya
Maroc	12,585 t	1,122 co	13,707	13,391 co	927 co	14,318	13,956 t	927 coo	14,883	Maroc
Mauritania			0			0			0	Mauritania
Mexico	9,790 t	852 co	10,642	10,847 co	803 co	11,650	9,946 t	803 coo	10,749	Mexico
Namibia	7,030 t		7,030	4,016	0	4,016	5,598	0	5,598	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria			0			0			0	Nigeria
Norway			0	12		12	10		10	Norway
Panama	34,259 t		34,259	19,362 co		19,362	19,230 t		19,230	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	2,685 t		2,685	2,261		2,261	2,215		2,215	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,632 t		1,632	570		570	863		863	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	4,491 t		4,491	3,224 t		3,224	3,121 t		3,121	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe			0			0			0	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	15,754 t	4,498 co	20,252	4,193 co	5,492 co	9,685	12,812 t	5,492 coo	18,304	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	5,538 t	0	5,538	4,635 co		4,635	5,902 t		5,902	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	435 t	0	435	383 co		383				Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	4,142 t	0 co	4,142	3,791	0	3,791	3,615	0	3,615	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	3,646 t	2,392 co	6,038	7,080 co	2,493 co	9,573	1,932 t	2,493 coo	4,425	Tunisie
Turkey	10,432 t	4,356 coo	14,788	9,829	2,314	12,143	11,815	4,356	16,171	Turkey
Union Européenne	211,715 t	251,394 co	463,109	170,278	251,687	421,965	185,421	256,364	441,785	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	531 t		531	424 t		424	410 t		410	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	29,475 t	12,314 co	41,789	14,359 t	10,087 co	24,446	10,867 t	10,087 coo	20,954	United States
Uruguay	988 t		988	1,036 t		1,036	2,587 t		2,587	Uruguay
Vanuatu	2,266 t		2,266	2,078 t		2,078	1,385 t		1,385	Vanuatu
Venezuela	7,095 t	1,313 coo	8,408	5,050 t	1,313 coo	6,363	7,079 t	1,313 coo	8,392	Venezuela
TOTAL	570,083	308,945	879,028	466,943	303,983	770,926	468,910	312,539	781,449	TOTAL

co = Transfer of the data received (Circular 150-AF/2009)

coo = Transfer of the latest data received

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication

(Data updated until 8 June 2011)

ANNEX: Legends**Table 2**

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t
b	GNP: Gross National Product per capita in US\$. Source: UNCTAD / GNP with values adjusted to 1991 using a multiplier of 1.58 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2007-2008-2009 Catches (t)
d	Average 2007-2008-2009 Canning (t)
e	Panel membership: Panel 1 = Tropical tunas; Panel 2 = Temperate tunas-North; Panel 3 = Temperate tunas-South; and Panel 4 = Other species

Table 3

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of catch and canning within the group in which the member is a part
c	Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the group in which the member is a part
d	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership
e	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership in which the member belongs
f	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage as a member of the Commission and Panels
g	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage according to catch and canning
h	Total contribution

Table 4

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Number of Panels within each Group
c	Total catch and canning, in t, of each Group
d	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group according to the Madrid Protocol
e	Percentage of the budget financed for each Group
f	Commission membership fees within each Group
g	Panel membership within each Group
h	Other fees: 1/3 for Commission and Panel membership and 2/3 for catch and canning
i	Total contribution

Appendix 1 to ANNEX8**STACFAD Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of the Rapporteur
4. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 4.1 2012 Administrative Report
 - 4.2 2012 Financial Report
 - 4.3 Review of progress in the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Procedures for selection of the auditor for the next five-year period
6. Procedures for the election of the Executive Secretary
7. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed
8. Assistance to developing CPCs
9. Review of the budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2013
10. Consideration of programs/activities which may require additional funding
11. Identification of procedure for granting and implementing the Meeting Participation Fund
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Helguilé Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) chaired the meeting of Panel 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without change (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

3. Election of Rapporteur

Ms. Christiane Laurent-Montpetit (European Union) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. Review of Panel membership

Mr. Driss Meski, Executive Secretary, presented the list of the members of Panel 1.

Panel 1 is currently comprised of the following 35 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, China, European Union, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The Panel reviewed the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas* [Rec. 11-01] (paragraph 27 and Annex 3) to ensure observer coverage of 100% of all vessels. The Secretariat prepared a draft call for tenders, and transmitted an expression of interest. To date a pre-selection committee has to be established and the call for tenders finalised. Interested Contracting Parties were requested to inform the Secretariat of the name of a person for this Committee. The objective was to select the Committee members.

Honduras expressed its desire to become a member of Panel 1.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr. Josu Santiago, indicated that the Tropical Tuna Species Group held an intersessional meeting. He noted that tropical tuna catches in the Atlantic represented 8% of world-wide catches. There has been a general decline of tropical tuna catches since the peak in 1994. However, this trend changed since 2007. These fisheries are multi-gear and multi-specific. 77% of catches are carried out by surface gears. The use of FADs poses concerns for the exploitation of the resources.

Recent changes have been produced in the European Union purse seine fishery: following the end of the agreement with Senegal (fishing area on free schools), the fleet shifted toward the western and central Atlantic and, since 2011, to an area off Angola. As a result of this, the proportion of catches taken under FADs has continued to increase, reaching more than 90% of the catches.

As regards purse seine fishing effort, an estimate of the fishing effort targeting tropical tunas and the effort calculated on FADs are difficult to calculate. The number of tuna purse seiners has dropped steadily from the mid-1990s to 2006, later experiencing a strong increase following the shift of vessels from the Indian Ocean and the start of fishing activities of a new fleet operating from Ghana (port of Tema). The activity seems to have stabilized in 2010.

Some catch statistics are uncertain, *i.e.*, significant catches of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack, as well as other species are landed in West Africa and sold as *faux poisson*. Monitoring should be improved as important catches might not be reported (*faux poisson*). This also concerns the bigeye catches taken by purse seiners (estimated from Japan's import statistics), as these estimations are uncertain. The estimates of unreported catches of some purse seiners are very important. They have increased since 2006 and could exceed 20,000 t per year for the three major species.

As regards the "*faux poisson*" landed at the Abidjan market, the average is 6,641 t from 1998 to 2007. The Committee includes these estimates in the reported historical catches of EU-purse seiners since 1981, as well as in the catch-at-size matrices. However, new estimates indicate record levels amounting to around 11,000 t per year between 2005 and 2010 for the overall purse seine fleets operating in the East Atlantic.

The catches of one purse seiner component of the fleet transhipped at sea before 2011 were excluded from the processing of the fishing statistics. The unreported catches of a part of the fleet provide detailed information. However, an important part of some purse seiners was evaluated by comparing the landings in West African ports and the data from the canneries reported to ICCAT. Estimates of these unreported catches have increased and the Committee has expressed the need for the countries and the industries concerned to improve the collection of the data. The preliminary results of the recent mission of experts in Ghana, under the auspices of ICCAT, suggest the existence of bias in the sampling protocol aimed at correcting the multi-species composition of the catches recorded in logbooks. This process is still on-going. The estimates have not been incorporated in the assessments and are not included in the estimates of reported catches. However, their magnitude is likely to influence the assessment of the state of the stock.

There are also some uncertainties in the biological parameters: natural mortality, growth, stock structure and movements. A tagging program should be encouraged to resolve these uncertainties by providing comparative biological results, movement patterns and a possible stock structure, as well as an analysis of interactions between fleets, data on the effects of FADs on tuna resources, an assessment of the management measures (*i.e.*: the effect of the closures). Tagging programmes that are carried out correctly provide useful information to respond to the most important question: the size of the population.

Dr. Santiago noted that Dr. Alain Fonteneau (European Union) gave a presentation at midday on November 14 describing results from the IOTC tagging program in the Indian Ocean and the need for a similar program in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Atlantic provides 6% of the worldwide production of skipjack tuna (last assessment carried out in 2008). These catches are carried out mainly by purse seiners and baitboats. Catches in 2011 were very high both in the East and West Atlantic: 173,338 t, *i.e.* an average 34% increase compared to the 2006-2010 average. It is unlikely that the eastern stock is overexploited and in the West Atlantic the catches are higher than the current replacement yield.

There is no specific recommendation in force for skipjack tuna. Although average catches in recent years are below the MSY, the Committee is concerned about the high level of catches in 2011 on both sides of the Atlantic and the recent potential underreporting in the East Atlantic. Recommendation 11-01, which will enter into force in 2013, should have an impact on skipjack catches. The SCRS estimates that catches should not exceed the MSY. The Commission should be aware that the increase of skipjack catches and fishing effort could have involuntary consequences on other species caught in association with skipjack in some fisheries.

For bigeye tuna (last assessment conducted in 2010), 18% of the worldwide production is taken from the Atlantic. Catches carried out by purse seiners, baitboats and longliners reached 77,000 t in 2011 (the average catches for 2006-2010 amounted to 75,000 t). The historical peak of 1994 reached 133,000 t followed by declines in catch related to the reduction in fishing fleet size (longliners), as well as the decrease in fishing effort (longliners and baitboats). The number of active purse seiners declined by more than half from 1994 to 2006, yet experienced an increase since 2007 (piracy in the Indian Ocean and the presence of other fleets).

The average weight of bigeye tuna caught in free schools is significantly higher than bigeye tuna caught under FADs, and these differences are more marked throughout the last four years.

There is considerable uncertainty as regards the stock status and the projections for bigeye tuna. 52% of model outcomes considering uncertainties indicated that bigeye tuna stock status in 2009 was consistent with the Convention objectives. The 2011 catches of bigeye tuna (77,513 t) are less than the corresponding TAC.

It should be noted that projections indicate that future catches represent the total removals from the bigeye tuna stock, and not only the TAC of 85,000 t established by ICCAT. Catches made by other fleets not affected by the catch limits need to be added to the 85,000 t for comparison with future constant catch scenarios. Furthermore, all future changes in selectivity such as an increase in the relative mortality of small fish, will change and add to the uncertainty of these projections.

The SCRS is concerned that the recommendation in force includes a fishing possibility scheme which allows exceeding the 85,000 t TAC. However, this situation has not yet occurred.

The TAC was reduced in 2009 from 90,000 t to 85,000 t, and concern over the catch of small bigeye has led to the establishment of spatial closures in the gulf of Guinea. Proof of the effectiveness of these closures to reduce the fishing is not yet available to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna.

The SCRS recommends a TAC of 85,000 t or less to achieve a high probability of maintaining stock levels consistent with the Convention objectives. Lastly, the Commission should be aware of the risk of exceeding the TAC (100,000 t).

With regard to yellowfin tuna, the last assessment conducted in 2011, 10% of the world production is from the Atlantic. Historically, catches reached a peak of 194,000 t in 1990, followed by a decreasing trend, subsequent significant fluctuations with a general decreasing trend and finally a slight increase in recent years. There has been a generally declining trend in average weight for all gears combined, until recent years, largely due to shifts in purse seine effort from free schools to FAD associated schools. Average sizes of fish caught by EU purse seiners have declined to half of those recorded in 1990, which could partly be due to the changes in selectivity associated with FAD fishing since the 1990s. This change in selectivity affects the MSY.

The yellowfin tuna stock was assessed in 2011. The Kobe matrix shows important uncertainties as regards the assessment of yellowfin tuna stock status and productivity. 26% of results are consistent with the Convention's objectives. Maintaining the TAC at 110,000 t should lead to a biomass above the B_{MSY} in 2016, with a 60% probability. The reported catches for 2011 are below the TAC (100,277 t). The estimates for biomass trends from ASPIC indicate a slow trend and continue to recover. The VPA estimates of SSB trend show a recent decline and corresponding increase in the fishing mortality of mature fish.

In both cases, a continuous increase of catches would slow down the biomass recovery and would speed up the reduction in SSB. Longer temporary closures and wider areas than those included in the current regulation would have better effects (a closure between January 1 to February 28 foreseen in Rec. 11-01), if this moratorium is fully respected.

The SCRS indicates that a level of yellowfin catches equal to or higher than 140,000 t would reduce the results to less than 50% of the Convention's objectives, and as a result the SCRS continues to recommend efficient measures to reduce the mortality of juvenile yellowfin tuna under FADs, as well as other causes of mortality. Lastly, if the estimates of unreported catches for purse seiners were taken into account, the estimates of stock status and the projections would be even more pessimistic: it is thus imperative to implement control measures for the fleets concerned.

The Chair then invited Dr. Santiago to present his recommendations on statistics. These concern the following:

- 1) Assist Côte d'Ivoire in the development of a Task I and Task II database since 1985. This improvement in reporting will also be beneficial for Panel 4.
- 2) An inter-sessional meeting focused on reviewing the objectives of the tropical Atlantic tagging programme.
- 3) A skipjack assessment in 2014, in line with the recent catch increase, the expansion of purse seine towards new areas and the need to update information on biology and statistics.

The responses to the Commission's requests are as follows:

Request 18.4 (Develop a Port Sampling Plan aimed at collecting fishery data) for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas that are caught in the geographical area of the area/time closure (paragraph 20, Rec. [11-01] paragraph 31 and 18.5 (Review the content of FAD Management Plans elaborated by CPCs, Rec. [11-01])

A port sampling plan has been developed in Abidjan and in Tema. It is essential to strengthen the sampling teams at these two ports and incorporate cargo vessels. Moreover, the FAD Management Plans were reviewed by the SCRS. Six CPCs reported data. A FAD logbook and a real time fishing logbook, indicating the catches at each FAD visit, are required. Subsequently, this information should be linked. The SCRS is aware of the sensitive nature of this information, to which rules of data confidentiality are applied.

The Chair expressed his gratitude to Dr. Santiago for the presentation and opened the discussion.

The Russian Federation requested to return to the presentation on yellowfin fishing effort, and requested an explanation for the declines of fishing effort in 1994. The SCRS Chair explained that this decline was partly due to a significant decline of purse seine fishing effort: 50% participation of purse seiners between 1994 and 2006. Furthermore, there is a reduction in the MSY in line with the increase (in number) of small fish catches.

The European Union raised the following questions:

- What is the explanation for the increase of skipjack catches in 2011? Can unreported catches be assessed?
- What is the development for yellowfin catches from 1995 to 2005?
- What are the consequences of 90% of catches on drifting FADs?
- What information is required to improve the assessment of fishing effort under drifting FADs?

Dr. Santiago's responses were the following:

- The causes for the increase of skipjack catches in 2011 have not been thoroughly examined although it is suggested that it was due to a change in catchability.
- There is concern about unreported catches and, for a long period of time, the SCRS has been seeking more reliable information, however, it encounters technical difficulties. Collaboration is on-going with Ghana and will provide more precise information in this regard.
- There is a clear association between the average size and the MSY. In 2005 it became stable due to fleet selectivity.
- FAD impact represents an additional element for stock mortality. This information is shown in the assessment;
- The quantification of "*faux poisson*" responds to the monitoring of a part of the fleet: size, Task I and Task II data, specific type of commercialisation. Other important fleets, however, are not monitored, although this should be carried out for the entire fleet.

The United States thanked the SCRS for its work to develop a port sampling plan, encouraged the concerned CPCs to continue efforts to improve port sampling using the plan developed by SCRS, and noted its expectation that improved data would result.

Chinese Taipei returned to the Kobe matrix for skipjack: there will be an increase in catches in the future, and therefore purse seiners will catch more juveniles of the three tropical tuna species, which could be a problem for bigeye and yellowfin, in particular.

The PEW observer emphasized the negative impact of the increase in FADs for bigeye and yellowfin and reiterated that the management of these stocks must be in accordance with Recommendation 10-01 in force.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities [Ref. 01-25]

The Chairman recalled that *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas* [Rec. 11-01] foresees the implementation of an observer programme and that the terms of reference of the call for tenders of this programme was distributed as "ROP-TROP Implementation.

Paragraph 19 of Rec. 11-01 foresees the collection of information on FADs and the SCRS would like the Commission to review this information. However, no new proposal was presented. There could be an amendment in 2013 or a new resolution.

The United States noted the request from the SCRS to improve FAD monitoring and information and identified this as a priority for consideration next year. The United States also referred to a request from the Secretariat for clarification on the required format of logbook submissions under Recommendation 11-01, noting their understanding that data from logbooks should be submitted electronically in accordance with domestic confidentiality requirements where applicable.

7. Research

Dr. Santiago pointed out the following research programmes:

- collection of historical data;
- tagging programme - an important initiative for the improvement of management.
- skipjack assessment in 2014, in line with the increase in the fleet. This assessment dates back to several years ago; as soon as relevant information (catch data) becomes available, an update can be carried out in 2013-2014.

The Chair took note of these three research programmes and recalled that Dr. Alain Fonteneau had made a presentation on the tagging programme and provided advice to Contracting Parties concerned. The discussion was opened on the research programme.

The United States expressed support for the large-scale tagging programme for tropical tunas and noted that they have contributed \$62,500 in support of it. Detailed information from this programme will reduce uncertainty in assessments and help the Commission better manage tropical tuna stocks. The United States also suggested that STACFAD should consider ways in which the Commission can support this important work.

The Russian Federation supported this line of research.

8. Other matters

Ghana returned to the issue of the regional observer programmes (paragraph 27 of Rec. 11-01] which should be implemented by the Secretariat in 2013; Ghana wished to know if it was ready and, if not, if it is possible to call upon national observers.

The Secretariat explained that the implementation of the observer programme is estimated for 2013 and therefore a call for tenders has been issued. It is up to the Commission to decide if this first closure would be covered by the national observer programmes. There was a general sentiment that this approach would be appropriate.

Senegal expressed interest regarding the tagging programme and recalled that a discussion had taken place in 2011 for a small tuna tagging programme. Senegal also expressed that although it is necessary for coastal countries to fully understand the biology of large tunas, small tunas are also important and Senegal would like ICCAT to take this into account, considering the importance of small tunas for West African countries.

Brazil expressed concerns as regards missing data on FAD catches, reiterating the importance of the type of information which should be included in the FAD Management Plans.

The European Union indicated its support for the U.S. proposal aimed at improving data collection on tunas caught under FADs.

On behalf of the SCRS, Dr. Santiago expressed gratitude to the Panel for trying to provide amendments to paragraph 19 of Rec. 11-01 on FADs.

Cape Verde indicated that it had listened very carefully and had attended the presentation of the tagging programme on Atlantic tunas. The regional observers programme will be very important for a better understanding of tropical tunas and expressed its wish to collaborate in this research initiative.

Lastly, Mexico indicated its participation in the ICCAT Latin American subgroup (GRULAC) to strengthen research concerning the number of FADs targeting tropical tunas in the Atlantic, in particular yellowfin tuna, and improve knowledge on the impact of these devices on fishing associated to this type of activity, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea, which could affect the West Atlantic.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chair of Panel 1 expressed his gratitude to CPCs and the meeting was adjourned.

The Report of Panel 1 was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Andrew Carroll (European Union).

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted and is attached at **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Pierre Mallet (Canada) was designated Rapporteur of Panel 2.

4. Review of Panel 2 membership

Panel 2 comprises 23 members of which 2 were absent: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (absent), Syria (absent), Tunisia, Turkey, and United States of America. Two new members, Honduras and Guatemala, joined the panel at this meeting.

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

Dr. Josu Santiago, Chair of the SCRS, presented the Executive Summaries on the North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of albacore tuna and the eastern and western Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of bluefin tuna.

These summaries can be found in Sections 8.4 (Albacore) and 8.5 (East-West Bluefin Tuna) of the 2012 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

5.1 *Albacore (North Atlantic and Mediterranean)*

North Atlantic albacore was last assessed in 2009. According to that assessment, the stock continues to show signs of overfishing with recent catches being below established TACs. Both longline and surface effort has progressively decreased. Using the reference points calculated by the current base case assessment model done in 2009, projections indicate that constant catches above 28,000 t will not result in stock rebuilding to Convention standards by 2020. The Committee noted that, since 2007, the reported catches were below the recommended TACs.

The Mediterranean albacore stock was assessed for the first time in 2011, using available data up to 2010. The SCRS concluded that much of the data (1965-2010 series) were highly variable and incomplete. This led to the application of data-poor modelling techniques.

The results of the 2011 assessment point to a relatively stable pattern for Mediterranean albacore biomass in the recent past. Recent fishing mortality levels appear to have been reduced from those of the early 2000s, which were likely in excess of F_{MSY} , and might now be at about or lower than the F_{MSY} level.

Due to the fact that the management advice for the Mediterranean stock was based on catch curve analysis and due to the limited quantitative information available to the SCRS, projections for this stock were not conducted. As a result, future stock status in response to management actions could not be simulated. The outlook for this stock is thus unknown.

The SCRS emphasised the importance of data collection and reporting to improve the quality of the assessment.

5.2 *Bluefin tuna*

The Chair of the SCRS noted that following the work plan approved in 2011, the stock assessment conducted in 2012 constituted an update of the previous assessment carried out in 2010.

5.2.1 East Atlantic and Mediterranean

The 2011 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna catch was 9,779 t, the lowest catch since 1950. Since 2008, a rebuilding plan and enforcement controls have been in place which resulted in a marked decrease in the catch of mostly young fish in the Mediterranean. The quality and quantity of data and its collection continues to need improvement.

The SCRS has strong concerns about the catch and catch-at-size quality/quantity of the data, the under-reporting of fishing CPCs prior to 2007, the impacts of IUU fishing, and the loss of information at the time of caging. However, both the data quantity and quality is improving with the introduction of individual quotas, better enforcement of the controls and acquisition of new sources of information (BCDs, ship board observers, VMS signals, cage site observers and the use of stereoscopic cameras during caging operations).

All CPUE indices displayed positive trends in recent years, including fisheries-independent information from the aerial surveys performed on juvenile fish in the north-western Mediterranean Sea. Recent regulatory measures significantly affected the CPUE values through a change of operational patterns. Fisheries-independent surveys (e.g., aerial and larval surveys) and a large-scale tagging program are needed to provide more reliable stock status indicators.

The Committee updated the 2010 stock assessment. In addition to improvements in the data quantity and quality, the assessment methods applied must be modified in the future to better accommodate the substantial uncertainties in the historical total catch, catch at age, and effort data. Testing of the methodologies envisioned to improve robustness will require at least three years to complete.

The estimates of current stock status relative to benchmarks are highly sensitive to the selectivity pattern and to the hypotheses about the recruitment levels. The perception of the stock status has improved in comparison to previous assessments (F declined in recent years). All runs investigated showed a clear increase of the spawning stock biomass (SSB), but both the speed and the magnitude of this upward trend remain highly uncertain as these strongly depend on model specifications.

A higher abundance or higher concentration of small bluefin tuna was observed during aerial surveys conducted in the north-western Mediterranean. This observation may reflect a response by the stock to an increase in the minimum size regulation which also partly affected the selectivity patterns for several fleets operating in the Mediterranean Sea and East Atlantic over the last five years. Improved yields-per-recruit were also observed in comparison to the early 2000s as well as a greater recruitment to the SSB as a result of the regulation allowing a higher survival of juvenile fish.

Sources of uncertainties have not yet been fully quantified and these include population structure, migratory rates, key modeling parameters for bluefin tuna productivity and the fact that it is difficult to take the IUU catch into account in the Kobe matrices. Despite these unquantified uncertainties, the 2012 updated stock assessment confirmed the 2010 findings that the recovery plan would enable eastern bluefin tuna to return to B_{MSY} with a probability of at least 60% by 2022. Current estimates indicate that rebuilding could even be achieved before 2022, and that a slightly higher TAC would achieve the Commission's objectives. However, given that the speed and magnitude of the rebuilding of the SSB remains highly uncertain, verification of this outcome needs to be confirmed by future data and analyses.

5.2.2 West Atlantic

This stock was last assessed in 2010 with slight increases being noted in the stock. The 2012 stock assessment was an update of the previous analysis.

Virtual population analyses (VPA) were conducted with the same parameter specifications used in the 2010 base-case assessment using the most recent years of available data. Conclusions do not reflect the full degree of uncertainty in the assessments and projections resulting from stock mixing, recruitment, maturity at age and catch at age. Many of these deficiencies are being addressed by current research programs.

The Committee has no strong evidence to favour either recruitment scenario over the other. They are viewed as reasonable (but not extreme) lower and upper bounds on rebuilding potential. The low recruitment scenario suggests the stock is above the MSY level with greater than 60% probability and catches of 2500 t or lower will maintain it above the MSY level and if the high recruitment scenario is true, the stock is not expected to reach the MSY level by 2019 even with no catch.

There has not yet been enough time to detect with confidence the population response to the measures implemented under the latest western bluefin rebuilding plan [Rec. 10-03]. Nevertheless, the available fishery indicators as well as the current assessment suggest the SSB of western Atlantic bluefin tuna continue to increase.

Despite the uncertainty regarding the long-term productivity of the stock under either recruitment scenario, current catches (1,750 t) should allow the biomass to continue to increase. Larger catches in excess of 2,000 t will prevent the possibility of the 2003 year-class elevating the productivity potential of the stock in the future. Maintaining the catch at current levels is expected to allow the spawning biomass to increase, which may help resolve the issue of low and high recruitment potential. For example, should the high recruitment hypothesis be correct, allowing substantial increases in spawning biomass should lead to higher recruitment.

5.2.3 Other matters

The SCRS Chair elaborated on the creation and history of the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP). The ICCAT-GBYP started in March 2010 and its main research activities focused on improving basic data collection, better understanding of key biological and ecological processes, improving assessment models and provision of scientific advice, with special attention to the development of fishery independent indicators.

The Chair then presented more details on specific GBYP projects. Phase 1 of the GBYP was the revision of the tagging design and tagging manual. In Phase 2, 3600 tunas were tagged, and during Phase 3 (in progress) 4600 tunas were tagged providing direct estimates of fishing mortality, natural mortality, mixing and abundance. For Phase 4 (2013) of the GBYP, there is a critical need to establish multi-year funding to avoid annual uncertainty in cash flow. The current system of annual funding limits what can be achieved in the field and introduces potential inefficiencies in the use of funds. It was stressed that the establishment of a Scientific Quota would be extremely important for stability and the efficiency of the Programme and that all concerned CPCs need to provide the financial support that will allow the GBYP to support the ICCAT Secretariat initiatives concerning GBYP activities in their territorial waters and/or airspace.

Under the GBYP, the SCRS has been able to conduct aerial surveys of spawning aggregations of bluefin tuna in order to provide indices of spawning stock abundance. These surveys must be conducted for several years to have a minimum number of years to get reliable indices. The SCRS recommended the extension of the surveyed area in 2012 and indicated that without a sufficient number of years of adequate financial support and the guarantee of flight permits, these surveys would not provide reliable results.

Data recovery under the GBYP resulted in the acquisition of data on 23,000,000 tunas (740,000 t) from 118,000 fishing operations. This constitutes a considerable improvement in the data available for scientific use. The trap database also now includes records from the XVI century.

Projects involving biological and genetic sampling and consequent analyses were awarded to a Consortium of 14 Institutes from 11 countries. The Consortium is collecting very valuable samples and some preliminary analysis show very promising results. The priority for the next phase will be the analysis of the collected samples together with the necessary continuation of sampling.

The Chair then addressed the SCRS responses to the following Commission's requests:

- To advise the Commission on the creation of sanctuaries for bluefin tuna [Rec. 10-04, paragraph 26] (see Item 18.1 of the 2012 SCRS Report).

In 2010, the SCRS gave advice to the Commission on the location and timing of bluefin spawning in the Mediterranean. New information was available in 2012. The current knowledge indicates that bluefin tuna spawning locations are probably wider than assumed in the past and could cover more than half of the Mediterranean Sea surface (mostly in the southern part). Furthermore, the locations and timing of bluefin tuna spawning is likely to vary substantially from year-to-year. Consequently, the implementation of sanctuary areas aimed at protecting bluefin spawning should be large enough to be effective at the population level and would necessitate an integrative approach to evaluate the optimal design in terms of size, location(s) and time/season.

- To advise the Commission on the identification of spawning areas for western Atlantic bluefin tuna [Rec. 10-03, paragraph 20] (see 18.1 of the 2012 SCRS Report).

The majority of spawning activity has been reported only in the Gulf of Mexico and the Mediterranean Sea. However, larvae collected east of the Yucatan Peninsula, and off the east coast of the U.S. originated from outside the Gulf of Mexico, possibly from the Caribbean Sea. Also, bluefin tuna tagged in New England and Canada did not enter the Gulf of Mexico, suggesting spawning elsewhere, near the Gulf Stream margin, possibly the Bahamas, and Caribbean Sea. Confirmation of the reproductive activity of bluefin tuna in the Atlantic is important for obtaining an accurate assessment of spawning stock biomass for western Atlantic bluefin tuna. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the CPCs support the continuation of these studies in order to properly identify and characterize spawning grounds of western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and improve the standardized abundance indices for the next western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment or intersessional meeting.

- To evaluate the bluefin tuna national observer programmes conducted by CPCs and to provide advice on future improvements [Rec. 10-04, paragraph 90] (see Item 18.2 of the 2012 SCRS Report).

No new specific information has been provided. However, the data collection form for national observer programmes included some information regarding bluefin tuna observer programmes and a few flag States provided comments. The Committee recommended that the CPCs respond to [Rec. 10-04] and provide information on their national observer programmes.

- To explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging [Rec. 10-04, paragraph 87] (see Item 18.10 of the 2012 SCRS Report).

This Recommendation requests the CPCs to initiate pilot studies on how to better estimate both the number and weight of bluefin tuna at the point of capture and caging, including through the use of stereoscopic systems and report the results to the SCRS. The following SCRS documents regarding the use of stereoscopic camera systems were presented to the 2012 SCRS meeting:

- SCRS/2012/052: Stereoscopic camera to measure the length of fish in the cage and during the transfer to another cage through a gate. The authors affirmed the validity of utilization of the stereoscopic camera for counting and measuring bluefin tuna and made several suggestions for improving the procedure and equipment.
- SCRS/2012/136: Stereoscopic camera was applied at the point of first transfer into the farm cage. The authors suggested that further work is required to improve the accuracy of measurement and better define the mathematical models needed.
- SCRS/2012/133: A video-camera and acoustical system were used in tandem during the transfer of bluefin tuna from one cage to another. The authors described the various different equipment options available for the application of this technique and practical considerations for improving the accuracy of the system.

The SCRS was encouraged by the progress made in the practical application of stereoscopic cameras and alternative techniques. The SCRS noted that a number of factors may affect the accuracy of the stereoscopic camera measurements. Nevertheless, the Committee stressed that measurements made by stereoscopic cameras are potentially more precise than the current catch at size reported for the purse seine fleet. The Committee recommended moving beyond the pilot study phase and setting up a technical working group to establish procedures for implementing stereoscopic camera systems by 2013.

- To provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield-per-recruit and spawner-per-recruit considerations [Rec. 10-03, paragraph 19] (see Item 18.11 of the 2012 SCRS Report).

The Committee recognized that Y/R and SSB/R could be improved by changing the selectivity pattern (decreasing the selectivity of ages 1-6 by 40% resulted in only modest improvements), but these would imply allocation changes with implications beyond strict Y/R and SSB/R considerations. The Committee was concerned that such changes in selectivity would affect the availability and utility of indices of stock sizes currently used in the assessment.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]

6.1 East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

Recommendation 10-04 required the Commission to review and, if considered to be acceptable, endorse the fishing plans for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna submitted by CPCs. These plans are presented

in the “Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans for 2013”. The Recommendation further stipulated that such system shall be reviewed at the 2012 annual meeting of the Commission. Given that the recovery plan was being reviewed it was agreed that the plans would be approved at an intersessional meeting of either the Compliance Committee or Panel 2 in 2013.

The European Union tabled a revised version of the recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. This proposal set the TAC for 2013 at 13,400 t with an additional 100 t being given to Algeria. Algeria objected to this on the basis that it wanted its historical allocation key restored. Turkey and Egypt also objected on the basis that they considered they should have more quota. Chinese Taipei gave Egypt an additional 10 t. Libya requested that it be allowed to fish for its 2011 quota retrospectively as it had not been possible to do so at the time due to the civil war. It was agreed that this issue and that of Algeria would be looked at again in 2013. Following discussion on these issues, along with requests for amendments to technical details of the proposal requested by Iceland, Norway, Japan, China and Korea, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* was adopted and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-03]**).

Japan tabled a proposal regarding the recovery plan, including the TAC, to be rolled over and for the SCRS to answer a range of questions concerning the impact on the stock if fishing mortality was at different levels. Although this was not adopted the proposed amended recovery plan tabled by the EU contained an Annex which asked similar questions and called for the SCRS to provide updated advice on the stock in 2013. The “Commission’s Request to SCRS” submitted jointly by the EU and Japan is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

Canada tabled a proposal for the western stock which would see the TAC increased to 2,000 t. The United States tabled a counter proposal which provided a rollover of 1,750 t. Both proposals had revised conditions under which the TAC could be fished. These two proposals were combined and *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* was adopted and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-02]**). It was also agreed that an intersessional meeting would be held to discuss issues such as stock dynamics and uncertainty, which Japan offered to host.

7. Other matters

Two draft recommendations were submitted to establish a scheme for the funding of the Atlantic wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), one by the SCRS and one by Japan. It was agreed that this issue would be considered next year.

In the SCRS proposal, in order to secure multi-year funding for the GBYP research activities, a multi-annual scientific quota would be set at 300 t per year, for the period 2013-2016. This quota would be sold according to the “Management of the Scientific Quota”, and the funds generated will be used to fund the GBYP research activities. The funds available through the scientific quota would provide a basic funding level to the GBYP, without preventing any additional voluntary contribution by the CPCs.

In the proposal by Japan, each CPC would pay 10 cents (Euro)/1 kg of bluefin tuna allocation for the period 2013-2016 for funding of the GBYP.

Many CPCs commented on these proposals. They all supported the GBYP initiative; however, before they could commit on funding, they needed more time to evaluate and consult on the funding scheme. This proposal will be tabled again next year.

The statement submitted to Panel 2 by Turkey is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**, as well as various statements from observers from APCCR, the Pew Environment Group, the Tuna Producers Association, WWF and a joint statement by the Observers from WWF, OCEANA and APCCR to Panel 2, attached as **Appendices 5 to 9 to ANNEX 9**, respectively.

8. Adoption of the Report

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, Dr. Johann Augustyn (South Africa).

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by the Panel members and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 3.

4. Review of Panel 3 membership

Panel 3 currently comprises eleven members as follows: Belize, Brazil, European Union, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America and Uruguay, all of which were present.

Honduras communicated its intention to join Panel 3. It was agreed that Honduras would effectively participate as a member at the 23rd Regular Meeting of the Commission (in November 2013).

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

Relevant information is contained in the 2012 SCRS Report. No stock assessments of Panel 3 species were carried out in 2012. The SCRS Chair, Dr. Josu Santiago, reviewed the current state of the stocks covered by this Panel, based on the last meeting of the SCRS held in October 2012.

5.1 South Atlantic albacore

The SCRS Chair reminded the Panel that a stock assessment of South Atlantic albacore had been conducted in 2011 and no new assessment was conducted in 2012. Dr. Santiago reported that most scenarios of the last assessment indicate that the South Atlantic albacore stock is both overfished and experiencing overfishing. Projections showed that harvesting at the current TAC level (24,000 t) would further reduce the stock, although catches have been below the TAC in most of the recent years, while current catches are slightly over the TAC. The participation of scientists in the SCRS meetings regarding this stock was limited, with only a few scientists from the countries mostly concerned with the fishery being present. The need for better participation was further stressed by SCRS and this will certainly improve both the statistics and the biological knowledge on this species.

The Delegate from the United States pointed out the great need to improve the participation of scientists and proposed that a formal request for better participation should be circulated to Panel 3 members by the Secretariat.

The Panel Chair underscored the need to improve the participation of scientists at the assessment meetings.

5.2 Southern bluefin tuna

This stock is currently managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]

The *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 11-05] remains in force for 2013. Information on cumulative monthly catches has been made available to the Compliance Committee in the "Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee".

The Delegate of South Africa made some observations about the reporting issues and the deadlines, requesting also a more pragmatic albacore data report for the main fisheries operating in the south East Atlantic, noting several inconsistencies in the data reported to SCRS. The Delegate from South Africa requested a new stock assessment for South Atlantic albacore in 2013.

The Delegate of Japan referred to the motivation for the current reporting and planned further actions for improving the situation in 2013. The Delegate from Chinese Taipei also confirmed that more attention will be devoted to data reporting of vessels operating in the South Atlantic, particularly regarding the catch limits. The Delegate of Namibia also acknowledged the comments made by the Delegate of South Africa, sharing the same concerns.

7. Research

The need to improve the participation of countries with important albacore fisheries at future stock assessment meetings was again stressed. The need for complete and accurate Task I and Task II data from the main fisheries catching albacore was recognised, in order for the SCRS to be able to give adequate management advice. It was also stressed that all CPCs should make an effort to revise the available information and submit it to ICCAT, following the ICCAT standards, before the next assessment.

The Delegate of Chinese Taipei also referred to the next stock assessment and reiterated the need to improve the participation of scientists.

8. Other matters

No other matters were discussed by the Panel.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The 2012 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

The Report of Panel 3 was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**) was adopted without changes.

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Ms. Alexis Nicole Rife (United States) was appointed as the Rapporteur for Panel 4.

4. Review of Panel Membership

Panel 4 is comprised of the following 29 members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic.), Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), Uruguay and Venezuela.

Egypt and Guatemala requested to be members of Panel 4. The Chair welcomed them both.

5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr. Josu Santiago, presented the report of the SCRS on Panel 4 species: swordfish, marlins, sailfish, small tunas, and sharks.

5.1 *Swordfish*

The last assessment for North and South Atlantic swordfish was conducted in 2009 and for Mediterranean swordfish in 2010.

5.1.1 *North Atlantic Swordfish*

In 2011, the estimated catch including dead discards was 12,816 t, below the TAC. The SCRS found that the stock is at or above B_{MSY} and fishing mortality has been below F_{MSY} since 2005. The estimated relative biomass trend has shown a consistent increase since 2000. The Chair noted that the total of all allowable catches exceeds the recommendation of the SCRS, although catches have been below the TAC in recent years.

5.1.2 *South Atlantic swordfish*

Recent catches for South Atlantic swordfish, at 12,763 t for 2011, are below the current TAC. While there is a 78% chance that the stock is not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, the SCRS noted the considerable uncertainty in the models. The SCRS explained that catches on the order of 15,000 t are expected to maintain stocks at the current level.

5.1.3 *Mediterranean swordfish*

The Chair of SCRS noted that there has been better reporting and collection of data in this fishery recently. The reported catch in 2011 was 11,334 t.

The majority of catches has been of small swordfish (less than three years old) and the SCRS expressed concern that this would further reduce the biomass. The stock is overfished and the current fishing mortality slightly exceeds F_{MSY} . Overall results suggest that fishing mortality needs to be reduced to move the stock toward the

Convention objective of biomass levels that support MSY, and away from levels that could result in a rapid stock decline. Various model simulations indicated that only a seasonal closure of around six months or small quotas would allow the SSB to increase within two or three generations. The SCRS also recommended a capacity reduction of 20%. Finally, the SCRS noted that Recommendation 11-03 contained an error in the length-weight conversion factor and proposed new wording to correct this mistake.

5.2 *Marlins*

5.2.1 *Blue marlin*

Blue marlin was assessed in 2011. Catch in 2011 was 1,918 t, a reduction from 2010 (although the Chair noted that this is due in part to a lack of reporting). Only a few CPCs reported live discards and the Chair emphasized the need for this information. Furthermore, the Chair emphasized the need for data from non-industrial fleets such as artisanal and recreational vessels. The stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing. The SCRS recommended immediately reducing fishing mortality by adopting a TAC of 2,000 t or less. A TAC of 2,000 t was adopted in 2011 [Rec. 11-07].

5.2.2 *White marlin*

White marlin was assessed in 2012. In 2011, 346 t were reported, a reduction from 2010. The SCRS Chair noted that few CPCs report live discards and that there were many uncertainties in the data. The SCRS considered various scenarios and found that there had been a relatively stable trend in catch per unit effort since 1991. The 2012 assessment showed that the stock was overfished, but that overfishing was, most likely, no longer occurring. However, the outlook for this stock remains uncertain because of the possibility that reported catches underestimate fishing mortality and the lack of certainty in the productivity of the stock. At current catch levels, the stock will likely increase in size, but rebuilding in the next ten years is very unlikely. The SCRS recommended that measures be taken to ensure monitoring of discards and live releases in order to estimate true mortality and that catches do not exceed current levels. The SCRS also suggested that the use of circle hooks may be useful to reduce fishing mortality.

5.2.3 *Sailfish*

Sailfish stocks were last assessed in 2009. Because they were historically reported with spearfish, there is a great deal of uncertainty in the assessment results. The models suggest that overfishing is occurring and probably more severe in the eastern stock. The SCRS recommended that the catch on the eastern stock be reduced and kept stable in the west and that all CPCs report catches and dead discards. The SCRS also suggested that the use of circle hooks may be useful in increasing survival.

Japan asked for further clarification on the use of circle hooks to increase survivability. The SCRS Chair explained that offset circular hooks have been found to be effective in some fisheries.

5.3 *Small tunas*

The SCRS Chair stressed the importance of small tunas from a socioeconomic perspective, as they are an important catch for many artisanal fisheries. However, there is little information available and an assessment is currently impossible. In the absence of a stock assessment, the SCRS had no management recommendations, but appealed for cooperation with regional organizations and countries to improve ICCAT knowledge of these species.

5.4 *Sharks*

In 2012, the SCRS conducted an ecological risk assessment (ERA) for 16 species of sharks (20 stocks), as had been done in 2008 and 2010. This assessment took various elements of productivity and vulnerability into account. There were several small changes in the results of the ERA, with porbeagle sharks exhibiting the largest change, now ranking fourth on the list (previously seventh and tenth, respectively).

Japan stated that ICCAT introduced prohibition of retention of hammerhead sharks in 2010 based on the ERA. However, now that the ERA indicates that hammerhead sharks are considered much more robust than in the previous ERA, Japan is wondering whether the SCRS is still in a position to support the continuation of such a

measure for hammerhead sharks. The Chair of the SCRS said that the SCRS is not in a position to answer this question.

5.4.1 Blue shark

The results of the last assessment in 2008 showed that the biomass was above MSY and fishing mortality was below F_{MSY} for both the North and South Atlantic stocks.

5.4.2 Shortfin mako

An assessment of North and South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks was conducted in 2012; the SCRS Chair noted (with gratitude) that reporting had increased. The assessment suggested that the stocks are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

The United States asked why the SCRS remained concerned about the status of this species if it seems that shortfin mako sharks stocks are in good condition, and the Chair of the SCRS explained that it was related to uncertainties and inconsistencies in historical data. Taking into consideration the continued high vulnerability ranking in the ERA, results from the modeling approaches used in the assessment, the associated uncertainty, and the relatively low productivity of shortfin mako sharks, the SCRS recommended as a precautionary approach that the fishing mortality of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased until more reliable stock assessment results are available.

Japan asked when the SCRS would conduct the next stock assessment on shortfin mako, and the SCRS Chair responded that the assessment should be conducted every four years.

5.4.3 Porbeagle

The southern stock has very limited data, but is probably below B_{MSY} and fishing mortality is near F_{MSY} . Both the northeast and northwest stocks are below B_{MSY} and fishing mortality is very close to or exceeds F_{MSY} . The SCRS recommended a precautionary approach and called for additional data. The SCRS Chair also recommended collaboration with other RFMOs in the area to improve the status of stocks. Fishing should not exceed current levels and new fisheries should be prevented.

6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25]

6.1 Documents introduced by the Secretariat

The Secretariat introduced the “Development of Fishing/Management Plans for North Atlantic Swordfish” as required by paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-02. The Secretariat noted that they developed a form to assist CPCs with reporting but that only four CPCs followed the form (Brazil, China, EU-Spain, and Chinese Taipei). Seven other CPCs submitted plans but did not follow the form (Belize, Canada, France-St. Pierre and Miquelon, Japan, Korea, Senegal, and the United States). Morocco submitted their plan after the deadline.

The Secretariat also introduced “Information in Relation to Reports on Shark and Other By-catch Species”. This year, the Secretariat received information on by-catch of 45 species. This document includes summaries of plans submitted by CPCs for improving data collection for species-specific shark data; Brazil, China, Egypt, Iceland, Korea, Morocco submitted such plans. The document also includes information on seabird interactions and mitigation efforts.

There were no comments or questions on either document.

6.2 Sharks

6.2.1 Shark Action Plan

Japan introduced their proposal “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Shark Action Plan”, which includes an explanatory note. Japan commented that ICCAT has adopted many recommendations on sharks, often including the phrase “sharks caught in association with ICCAT species”. Japan is concerned since some vessels target

sharks, and it is unclear if ICCAT recommendations would apply to these vessels. Therefore, there exists a need to clarify what ICCAT should do in regards to sharks. For this purpose, the recommendation would require CPCs to collect information on all sharks caught in the Convention area and submit it to the Secretariat. The proposal would also direct ICCAT to collaborate with relevant RFMOs working within the Atlantic and/or Mediterranean to enhance mutual cooperation.

Many CPCs expressed their gratitude to Japan for highlighting this important issue and making an effort to clarify the appropriate scope of ICCAT's research and management actions concerning sharks and agreed that the issue was important and that there is a need to improve data collection. Some Parties raised concerns, however, regarding how this process would fit into the ongoing efforts of the Future of ICCAT Working Group and SCRS. Several CPCs suggested that these questions would be best addressed through the Convention Amendment process. Norway expressed concern that the proposal was outside of the scope of the present Convention. Other CPCs expressed support for improving data collection but noted that this would be an ambitious undertaking, and that they would be unable to meet a June 2013 deadline.

The proposal did not reach consensus in Panel 4 and was referred to Plenary for additional discussion.

6.2.2 Oceanic whitetip sharks

Japan tabled their proposal, "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 10-07 on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area". Japan explained that this proposal simply included wording from ICCAT Rec. 11-08 on silky sharks, specifically that CPCs shall require purse seine vessels to release oceanic whitetip sharks unharmed and that purse seine vessels shall take additional measures to increase the survival rate of oceanic whitetip sharks caught as by-catch.

The EU asked why the language was not exactly the same as the silky shark recommendation and Japan agreed to change it. China requested that "selling or offering for sale" be deleted as this was difficult for their customs officials, but the United States was concerned that this would create an enforcement loophole and would weaken the measure. Norway reiterated their concern that the measure would apply to all fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area, including fisheries outside the scope of ICCAT's competence, and noted that the operative text would conflict with their domestic discard ban.

Following informal discussions, Japan presented an updated version that incorporated the comments of other CPCs, and added additional paragraphs that are included in Rec. 11-08. The revised version included the removal of the words "selling or offering for sale". Brazil and the United States stated that with the removal of that language, they could not support the recommendation and it was not adopted.

6.2.3 Shark conservation

The United States, with co-sponsors Belize and Brazil, tabled the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT" as was proposed in 2009, 2010, and 2011. The United States explained that while ICCAT Rec. 04-10 was a good step in eliminating the wasteful practice of shark finning, the best practice is to require that sharks be landed with all fins naturally attached as this enhances enforcement and facilitates the collection of species-specific data that are needed for stock assessment purposes.

Some CPCs expressed concern that implementation of this recommendation would be burdensome for their industry. Consensus could not be reached, and the proposal was not adopted in Panel 4.

6.2.4 Porbeagle sharks

Both the EU and Canada tabled proposals on porbeagle sharks. The EU explained their proposal, "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries", referring back to the 2009 ICCAT-ICES assessment and noting that even a small amount of fishing mortality risks prolonging the recovery process. The EU proposal would ban retention of porbeagle sharks in both the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic stocks. Canada's proposal, "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries", dealt with only the northwestern Atlantic porbeagle stock. It would require that all CPCs prohibit porbeagle taken on the high seas and that coastal CPCs can harvest porbeagle in waters under their jurisdiction, providing that they have a rebuilding plan. Both the EU and Canada noted that they had discussed their proposals intersessionally in attempts to find a compromise, but had been unable to do so.

The Chair encouraged Canada and the EU to work toward the development of a common text. One CPC suggested that the stocks be treated separately and that Canada consider an accelerated recovery plan for the stock in the Northwest. Several CPCs expressed concern regarding the proposal that different management measures be applied in the EEZ versus high seas as proposed by Canada. One CPC suggested that a retention ban would be difficult to implement for porbeagle without a fins-attached requirement, given that porbeagle sharks can be difficult to distinguish from shortfin mako.

The EU proposal was referred to Plenary for further discussion. During the Plenary session, the EU reported that despite efforts made by both the EU and Canada, and taking into account concerns by other CPCs, agreement could not be reached. The EU expressed their concern and left their original proposal (with one minor modification) on the table. Canada also expressed their disappointment that ICCAT was not in a position to adopt a recommendation on porbeagle sharks and that they intend to revisit their proposal in 2013. The United States suggested that the SCRS should do a thorough review of relevant scientific information on porbeagle sharks and provide comprehensive advice to the Commission.

6.2.5 Shortfin mako

The EU tabled their proposal, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”. The EU noted that shortfin mako sharks were recognized as the second most vulnerable species by the recent SCRS ecological risk assessment and that given uncertainty in the recent stock assessment, fishing mortality should not be increased. EU’s proposal would limit each CPC’s annual landings to an average from 2004-2011.

Japan, China and Korea said that they saw no need to introduce catch limits given that the recent stock assessment determined that shortfin mako sharks were not overfished or experiencing overfishing. The United States expressed support for the EU’s proposal, noting that it was consistent with the principles of decision-making (Recommendation 11-13) and that the Commission should not wait to adopt catch limits until the stock was depleted. Others indicated that they had concerns about the reference years used to calculate catch limits, particularly given some CPCs’ efforts to improve data collection for shortfin mako following the adoption of Rec. 10-06.

Following informal discussions, the EU informed the Panel that they were withdrawing the proposal due to an inability to reach consensus on several elements of the proposal. The EU expressed their disappointment that consensus could not be reached, due primarily to the fact that a number of CPCs opposed the proposal because they felt that a recommendation is not needed since shortfin mako is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The EU noted that they believe that ICCAT has a clear responsibility to maintain shortfin mako shark stocks at sustainable levels.

6.2.6 Shark reporting

The EU tabled a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management”, a proposal designed to improve reporting on the implementation and compliance with existing ICCAT Recommendations for sharks and gather general information on sharks, as reported to FAO. The Secretariat commented that previous efforts to compare information with the FAO statistics were inconclusive, complicated, and time consuming. Many CPCs expressed concern with the FAO paragraph, and it was eliminated.

The EU circulated an amended proposal that added Recommendations 04-10 and 07-06 to the first operative paragraph in order to provide a more comprehensive report and deleted the paragraph referring to FAO data. The amended proposal was agreed upon by consensus and the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management” was forwarded to Plenary for adoption (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-05]).

6.3 Southern swordfish

The Chair introduced “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits”, which amended Recommendation 09-03, *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limit* to establish a TAC for 2013 for one year until the swordfish stock assessment is completed next year. The measure was adopted by consensus and forwarded to Plenary for adoption (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-01]).

6.4 Sailfish

The United States tabled their “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Sailfish”, noting that the most recent stock assessment indicates that both stocks might be overfished with overfishing occurring, so conservation and management measures are needed. The proposal called for a minimum size for recreational fisheries equivalent to the live release of 50% of catches, no sale of recreationally-caught sailfish, and release of sailfish caught alive by commercial vessels. An exemption would be available for coastal CPCs if they report their catches and do not increase catches.

Several CPCs expressed concern over the differences between commercial and recreational requirements. Consensus could not be reached and the recommendation was not adopted.

6.5 Billfish

The United States tabled a proposal, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Spearfish Stocks” and introduced it noting that since the original rebuilding plan was adopted in 2000, ICCAT had not moved past Phase I and that the stocks remain overfished. The United States acknowledged the work of an informal working group from the previous day and expressed hope that an agreement on marlins could be reached.

The Chair then introduced his proposal, which allocated a landings limit for each CPC. There was general agreement to use the Chair’s text as the basis for discussion.

Following informal discussions, the Chair presented a revised recommendation which included quotas for each CPC, two alternatives for paragraph two, a 10% underage carryover for those CPCs whose landing limit is larger than 45 t, a 20% underage carryover for CPCs whose landings limit is 45 t or less, and the addition of paragraph 9 regarding capacity building (taken from Recommendation 11-07). The United States proposed a merging of the two options for paragraph 2. The draft recommendation was agreed upon by consensus with the changes suggested by the United States and the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks” was forwarded to Plenary for adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-04]**).

7. Research

7.1 EU shark research

The EU informed the Panel that they are conducting a study to obtain additional information on sharks in the high seas as managed by tuna RFMOs. The project will examine historical fisheries data, catch composition, and realized catches and effort and establish gaps in current biology and ecology for sharks in order to facilitate advice to the RFMOs. The study will be completed in April 2013. The data collection phase has been finished and they are currently working on the data analysis part of the project. Once the study is finished, the EU plans to present the results to all relevant RFMOs to inform their management decisions. The intention is not to substitute the scientific work of the RFMOs, but to assist and supplement the information. The European Union presented an Information Note to Panel 4 on the EU Commission Study on Sharks which is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**.

7.2 SCRS response to Commission

The SCRS Chair responded to three requests by the Commission. First, the SCRS analyzed the potential benefits and utility of time/area closures for marlins. He noted that the SCRS was unable to examine it in depth since they conducted an assessment in 2012, but this was included in their work plan for 2013.

Second, the SCRS was requested to evaluate data collection improvement plans on sharks, but the Chair noted that many CPCs did not submit these plans, so the SCRS was unable to reach any conclusions. The SCRS Chair encouraged CPCs to submit data on sharks.

Finally, the SCRS evaluated sea turtle and by-catch mitigation information provided by CPCs. The SCRS Chair explained that in 2013 they would be ready to complete the fishery impact assessment and provide recommendations to the Commission on this regard.

7.3 SCRS research recommendations

The SCRS Chair first presented recommendations with financial implications, noting that these would also be brought to STACFAD. He asked that the Panel support bringing in outside experts to assist in assessments of swordfish to occur next year and send their national scientists. He also requested that the Commission continue financial support for the Enhanced Billfish Research Program. The Chair mentioned that the study by the EU on sharks would be very important and would influence the SCRS' research program on sharks. For the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems, the SCRS Chair recommended that a technical expert be hired to expedite the completion of harmonized forms for the submission of data in accordance with Rec. 10-10. Finally, the SCRS Chair requested that ICCAT establish a Research Year Programme for Small Tunas in order to improve data on those species.

The SCRS Chair then presented other recommendations without financial implications. The SCRS recommended changing Paragraph 8 of Rec. 11-03 on Mediterranean swordfish to correctly reproduce the weight conversion factors. They also recommended conducting a study of billfish in the Atlantic to help with identification problems. With regard to sharks, the SCRS requested more data on sharks from both ICCAT and non-ICCAT fisheries. Finally, the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems requested that ICCAT's cooperation with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles be strengthened via a Memorandum of Understanding and encouraged CPCs to conduct research on sea turtle population genetics.

8. Other matters

There were no other matters brought to the attention of the Panel.

The statements of the observers of Oceana and the Pew Environment Group are attached as **Appendices 11 and 12 of ANNEX 9**, respectively.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The 2012 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 the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 3

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. 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 the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation
on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program
for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas**

CONSIDERING that the multi-annual program for the medium-term is intended to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries;

RECALLING recommendations released by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries carried on in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) ;

ACKNOWLEDGING that requirements on the recording of the catch and fishing activities in FADs fisheries set out in Recommendation 11-01 don't allow the SCRS to assess properly technical conservation measures, particularly those based on possible spatial and temporal closures,

RECOGNIZING the necessity to adopt data collection and transmission mechanisms to allow improvement of the monitoring and the scientific assessment of the related fisheries and associated stocks;

RECALLING the development of provisions related to FAD management plans in several t-RFMOs;

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

1) Paragraph 18 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

18. CPCs shall ensure that all purse-seine and bait-boat fishing vessels and all support vessels (*i.e.*, supply vessels) flying their flag, when fishing in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall identify in a FAD-logbook based on the reporting formats laid down in Annexes 1 and 2 to this Resolution:

- a) Any visit on FADs.
- b) For each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, the,
 - i. position,
 - ii. date,
 - iii. FAD identifier (*i.e.*, FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
 - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD),
 - v. FAD design characteristics (dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure),
 - vi. type of the visit (deployment, hauling, retrieving, loss, intervention on electronic equipment).
- c) If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by catch.

2) Paragraph 19 of the ICCAT Recommendation 11-01 shall be replaced as follows:

19. All CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) the logbooks referred to in paragraph 17 and in paragraph 18 are promptly collected and made available to national scientists.
- b) the information collected from the above mentioned logbooks will be submitted as Task II data on a yearly basis to the ICCAT Executive Secretary to be made available to the SCRS. To facilitate this submission, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will design or modify electronic forms, as appropriate.

- c) the following sets of information will be submitted on a yearly basis to the ICCAT Executive Secretary to be made available to the SCRS:
- i. An inventory of all support vessels associated with purse-seine or baitboat fishing vessels flying their flag, detailing their identification, their main characteristics and the fishing vessel with which they are associated;
 - ii. The number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis by FAD types, taking into account the presence or absence of a beacon associated to the FAD.
 - iii. The number of days spent at sea by each support vessel, per 1° grid area and month to be reported by flag state of the support vessel.

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD and electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD Design characteristics</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Associated beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of the associated beacon and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>		<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>		
				<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(4)	(6)	(7)
...
...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD.
- (2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (3) e.g., GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.
- (4) e.g., width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.
- (5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
- (6) e.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
- (7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>By-catch</i>			<i>Observations</i>	
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>		<i>specimen released alive</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...
...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section.
- (3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
- (4) *i.e.*, deployment, hauling, retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.
- (5) dd/mm/yy.
- (6) hh:mm.
- (7) °N/S/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.
- (8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.
- (9) Use a line per taxonomic group.
- (10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.
- (11) Unit used.
- (12) Expressed as number of specimen.
- (13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9

Commission's Requests to SCRS on Direction Regarding Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna

1. In 2013, the SCRS should:
 - a) Discuss and assess data made available to SCRS before the bluefin tuna working group takes place, in particular, the usefulness of taking benefit from information coming from other sources than those related to Task I or Task II, e.g., catch certificates, catch-at-size series when entering and/or exiting cages, fisheries independent abundance indices like those of the GBYP, etc. as regards a likely decrease in the level of uncertainties;
 - b) Develop and agree on statistical protocols allowing a quality check, the validation and the inclusion into the assessment process of additional sources of information mentioned above;
 - c) Provide the Commission with answers to the questions detailed below, with the aim to clarify results of the update of the stock assessment run in 2012.
2. In 2014, in the light of possible additional information and statistical protocols discussed or set out in 2013, the SCRS should provide the Commission with an update of the stock assessment and the management recommendations.
3. For the stock assessment planned in 2015, the SCRS will have to:
 - a) Develop a new assessment model allowing the inclusion of the last updated knowledge on the biology and ecology of bluefin tuna, in particular life-history parameters, migration patterns, and aiming at identifying and quantifying uncertainties and their consequences on the assessment results and projections.
 - b) Release a stock status advice and management recommendations, supported by a full stock assessment exercise, based on the new model, additional information and statistical protocols mentioned in points above and on which basis all actions may be adopted and updated by the Commission through the management plan to further support the recovery.

Questions to be answered by the SCRS

1. In light of fisheries and fisheries-independent abundance indices, e.g., aerial surveys, CPUE, etc. is the SCRS in a position to confirm the recovery trend of the stock detected in 2012?
2. Would the SCRS specify the nature of the uncertainties in the 2012 stock assessment? In particular, is the SCRS in a position to quantify uncertainties in the 2012 stock assessment results, like the magnitude and the speed of the recovery?
3. In the light of answers to the questions above, what would the recommendation of the SCRS be in updating the TAC as regards that agreed in 2012 for the year 2013 and thereafter?

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Turkey to Panel 2

As a member of ICCAT since 2003, Turkey's sincere efforts, perfect record of compliance with its membership obligations and its significant contribution to scientific and management initiatives of ICCAT should be acknowledged.

In addition to its status as a coastal state with high amount of historical catch --over 5,000 metric tons in the late 1990s-- and a country embracing habitats of bluefin tunas (BFT) in its waters, Turkey is also a country whose fishermen are dependent socially and economically on the exploitation of marine sources in eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Despite this very fact, Turkey has made a great sacrifice, within the context of ICCAT's "Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean" through its planned capacity reduction scheme.

In other words, neither its heavy dependence on exploitation of marine sources, nor its developing country status has kept Turkey away from playing its part in the most constructive way, to comply with ICCAT obligations.

Based on new quota allocation and reduced number of fishing vessels, fishing capacity of the Turkish bluefin fleet has considerably (almost 90%) been reduced without any special compensation to the fishermen and their families.

During its membership period, Turkey has complied with its membership obligations not only in terms of reduction of its fishing capacity but also through its dedication of many financial and "in kind" resources to ICCAT's conservation and management efforts.

Despite this background, it is Turkey's deserved right to once more state the fact that the Turkish State, fishermen and fishing industry have fulfilled their obligations stemming from membership to ICCAT. In every sense, Turkey's sacrifice in this period has been remarkable.

In spite of meeting each and every criterion cited in the "ICCAT Criteria for Allocation of Fishing Possibilities", Turkey has regrettably observed throughout the years that the allocation criteria were not properly implemented, resulting in sharing arrangements that are neither fair nor equitable.

Turkey's dissatisfaction commenced with the Dublin meeting, where, the allocation of quotas was decided to be determined in accordance with the catch figures of CPCs in the years 1993 and 1994. In fact, according to catch figures presented by CPCs, Turkey was the 4th in rank in catch levels for these years. Unfortunately, neither the duly presented figures of Turkey for these years, nor the succeeding ones were taken into consideration during quota allocation.

Hence, as a first step of its legitimate rights, Turkey lodged an objection to the quota allocation scheme for the period 2007-2012. Nevertheless, despite its rightful objection, Turkey still abided by the quota allocated and managed its bluefin tuna fishing accordingly, to contribute to the adopted conservation and management measures.

Now, Turkey (once more) holds the view that the proposed allocation scheme from the year 2013, ignoring the previously notified historical catch records and fishing rights of Turkey, is not acceptable since the required allocation criteria (as set the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]) have not been properly implemented.

Considering the present unfair and non-equitable allocation of bluefin tuna quotas and having believed that it has been acted unjustly in the above-mentioned process of allocation, Turkey shall lodge an objection to the allocation scheme.

Despite her rightful objection, Turkey plans to abide by the quota level allocated to her (as 556.66 metric tons) and to manage its bluefin tuna fishing accordingly, in order not to hamper the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures currently in place.

Turkey now calls on all the ICCAT Parties to oppose to the deviation from the relevant ICCAT decisions and definitions with a view to ensuring their proper implementation and request this Panel and Commission to revisit quota allocation issue as a matter of principle and priority.

In conclusion, Turkey would like to emphasize that it stands firm on its request for a fair and equitable percentage of quota allocation, commensurate with its high performance in terms of the quota allocation criteria.

Statement by the Observer from APCCR to Panel 2

We would like to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for its generous hospitality and the fantastic dinner that was offered to us last night.

The Association for Responsible Fishing, Commerce and Consumption of Bluefin Tuna (*Asociación Para la Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable*) wishes to share with all of you a series of heartfelt opinions which have been reflected on. This, according to the scientific reports presented by the SCRS, acknowledges the difficulty that the Commission delegates may experience when establishing conservation and management measures for East and West Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries. However, our Association, and most likely for everyone in general, the Commission delegates are expected to carry out the conservation and management of stocks under the principles of coherence and equity.

There are many reasons for stock reduction. Undoubtedly, fishing effort and deficient control measures can be on top of this extensive list.

In this regard, this Commission visibly made great efforts to register all the fleets targeting East bluefin tuna, drastically reducing them, leading to the withdrawal of hundreds of vessels, whilst experiencing, at the same time, how thousands of fishermen became unemployed. However, this same Commission does not request the registration of the fleets targeting West bluefin tuna, whose biomass is much lower than that of the East stock and appears to be insensitive to the management measures that have been applied in the last 30 years.

As regards control, it should be noted that tens of Million Euros are destined towards the eastern stock, guaranteeing the compliance of management measures established herein. These are also reviewed by the Compliance Committee.

However, we do not understand why this Commission does not implement these measures for the western stock: landing notice, inspection of all landings, list of authorized ports, etc.

Perhaps the best measure the Commission has implemented for the eastern stock was the establishment of a minimum size of fish, above its sexual maturity, i.e., 30 kg, 20% above its sexual maturity recognized by the SCRS at 25 kg, only allowing a 5% catch of all fish under this size for each landing.

For West bluefin tuna, however, Recommendation 10-03 establishes a minimum size of 30 kg, however the SCRS recognizes its sexual maturity at 140 kg, i.e., nearly five times more than its sexual maturity. And what is of more concern to us is that a 10% catch is allowed below 30 kg.

However, this amount refers to the weight and not the number of fish. Considering that the catches in the western area currently account for 72% from the eastern stock, we consider it is highly contradictory that these species are subject to very different management measures, depending on their migration patterns.

Moreover, given that the percent is calculated according to the global quota and not the individual catch, this can include species that are smaller than 30 kg, which is illegal for the eastern stock.

Could this be another reason why after 13 years of the establishment of the western Atlantic bluefin tuna recovery plan there are no clear indices that biomass levels return to those of 1970?

However, it is more or less certain, that the biomass of the eastern stock may have reached the biomass levels of the 1970s and this, distinguished delegates, has been possible, in a period of five years only, following the implementation of the recovery plan. Such biomass increase was foreseen in 2010 given the drastic reduction of juvenile catches (Belda and Cort, 2011), thus it cannot be considered as unexpected or unlikely.

Lastly, we would like to recall that the recovery objective for West bluefin tuna is established at 20 years with a probability of 50%, whilst for East bluefin tuna it is established at 15 years with a probability of 60%, i.e. five years less, 20% less time and 10% more recovery probabilities for the eastern stock as compared to the western stock.

Could it be considered that this significant difference be sufficient to cover the existing uncertainties for this stock?

Distinguished delegates, we are convinced that the coherence in the way of acting of this Commission will resolve many of the contradictions included herein, as well as many of the uncertainties presented by the delegates yesterday for an improved management of the resource. However, it is certain that the principle of equity will be welcomed positively by the thousands of responsible fishermen that fish East bluefin tuna and who have made great sacrifices. As a result of stock recovery, fishermen are confident that some jobs could be recovered and that they would stop feeling discriminated.

The biological, social and economic sustainability must be the lighthouse to illuminate them in this sea full of uncertainties.

Reference

Belda, E.J. and Cort, J.L., 2011, Simulation of Biomass trends of eastern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) stock under current Management Regulations. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 66(2): 989-994.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the Observer from the Pew Environment Group to Panel 2

We call your attention to our policy statement, “*Better Management for all ICCAT Species: Time to Fill In the Puzzle Pieces*”, which was circulated electronically to all Contracting Parties (CPs), and is available on our website at www.pewenvironment.org/ip (in English, French, and Spanish) along with copies of our other materials. The following supplements that policy statement as relates to Atlantic bluefin tuna.

ICCAT made a strong commitment to conservation when they set Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) quotas for 2010-2012 based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). This year is the first real test of ICCAT’s commitment to continue to follow the scientific advice. This decision will not only influence the health of bluefin tuna populations but also has significant consequences for the reputation of ICCAT as a global leader in fisheries science and management.

This commitment to following the scientific advice has begun to pay off; the latest stock assessment for bluefin shows signs of increasing populations in both the eastern and western Atlantic. However, the stock assessment report cautioned that uncertainties in the data and model meant that the SCRS could not accurately assess the magnitude and speed of recovery. In the executive summary of the stock assessment report, the SCRS referenced this “uncertainty” 18 times. In the summary of its eastern stock assessment, it mentioned “uncertainty” almost as often as the word “bluefin”. The 2012 assessment also did not include key pieces of information including new estimates of the ongoing high level of illegal fishing in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and new science confirming mixing between the eastern and western populations.

SCRS Recommendation

As a result of the uncertainty in the assessment, the SCRS recommended that the western Atlantic quota be maintained at 1,750 t and the eastern quota maintained at 12,900 t or not increased to above 13,500 t (the 2010 quota). They also recognized the need to update the stock assessment model to use more modern assessment methods and to better reflect current knowledge of bluefin behavior and biology.

BFT quotas

To avoid significantly undermining any recent progress, we urges the members of Panel 2 to again follow the scientific advice when setting catch limits for the next three years, which will enable the stocks to continue to increase while allowing time to incorporate the best available scientific data into future assessments. These science-based limits, along with measures to reduce illegal fishing-including swift implementation of an electronic Bluefin Catch Document system by all CPCs and holding illegal fishing vessels and governments that flag them accountable –are vital to turn this glimmer of hope into a real recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Western population

While the western bluefin stock assessment showed a very small increase in the population, the population is still just 36 percent of the 1970 population. This is not a sign of a healthy fishery.

Recent research on mixing between eastern and western populations means that the actual numbers of western bluefin could be even lower than projected in this year's stock assessment. This research confirms that many of the fish that the SCRS counted as western bluefin in the past were actually eastern bluefin that migrated to the western Atlantic to feed. The most recent study estimates that 72 percent of bluefin tuna caught off the coast of the US states of North Carolina and Virginia between 2011 and 2012 were born in the Mediterranean Sea. Since the current western bluefin stock assessment model does not account for this 'mixing', it mistakenly counts all these eastern fish in western waters as western bluefin and greatly overestimates the western bluefin population and likelihood of rebuilding.

SCRS Recommendation

"Despite this large uncertainty about the long term future productivity of the stock, under either recruitment scenario current catches (1,750 t) should allow the biomass to continue to increase."

Pew urges ICCAT members to follow the scientific advice and not increase quotas, at least until the stock assessment is overhauled to allow the scientific advice to accurately reflect the mixing of eastern and western populations.

Eastern population

Despite stricter regulations and increased enforcement efforts taken by ICCAT in the last few years, there are now five separate studies that point to persistent illegal fishing in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic Ocean. One of these studies estimates that between 2005 and 2011, total catch of eastern Atlantic bluefin was 62 percent over quota, including a 77 percent overage between 2008 and 2011. The SCRS also expressed concerns that the potential total catch of the existing fleet could easily be in excess of the current quota. Despite this evidence, the eastern bluefin stock assessment used reported catch as a proxy for total fishing mortality in recent years, ignoring illegal catch.

SCRS Recommendation

"The Committee notes that maintaining catches at the current TAC (12,900 t) or at the 2010 TAC (13,500 t) under the current management scheme will likely allow the stock to increase during that period and is consistent with the goal of achieving F_{MSY} and B_{MSY} through 2022 with at least 60% of probability, given the quantified uncertainties. A period of stabilization in the main management regulations of the rebuilding plan would allow the SCRS to better estimate the magnitude and speed of recent trends in F and SSB in the coming years."

Pew urges ICCAT members to follow the SCRS's precautionary management advice and not increase quotas for eastern Atlantic bluefin at least until the stock assessment model reflects a more accurate tally of total fishing mortality.

Elimination of carry-forward

The 2008 independent review of ICCAT strongly recommended "that ICCAT immediately discontinue the practice of allowing the carry forward of uncaught allocations in all fisheries" because carry forward "is not considered to be good practice in fisheries management."

Carry-forward of under-harvest has been prohibited in the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery since the recovery plan began in 2006; in 2011 ICCAT eliminated carry-forward in the southern albacore fishery because the population was identified as being overfished.

Panel 2 should support a similar elimination of the western bluefin tuna carry-forward provision, as the stock is thought to be overfished with overfishing occurring. Similarly it should not support carry-forward of quota by any member, as this is already currently prohibited in the eastern fishery.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**Statement by the Observer from the Tuna Producers Association (TPA) to Panel 2***Unsubstantiated Allegations of IUU activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean bluefin tuna*

It is unfortunate, but not surprising, that certain organisations persist in making unsubstantiated and repetitive accusations, year after year, of high levels of IUU activities occurring in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (BFT) fisheries. By doing so, they do not take into account the impact of the introduction, in recent years, of an extensive and comprehensive range of management and control measures, and in particular those relating to the purse seining and farming activities (ICCAT Recommendations, 06-05, 08-05, 09-06, 10-04). Their assertion is also in contradiction to the conclusions of the SCRS itself (ICCAT, 2013).

The most recent (PEW Environment Group, 2012) in the series of such accusations are supposedly based on trade and market data. The latest trade and market data analyses were presented at the 2012 bluefin tuna stock assessment session (SCRS/2012/033, 126, 127, 134 and 145) and were discussed by a special Trade Group formed during the stock assessment meeting.

The Trade Group analysed in depth the trade and market documents presented. The Group came out with the following issues which resulted in high levels of uncertainties in the analysis carried out when trade and market data were used to determine catch quantities:

1. Double counting in terms of actual trade quantities.
2. Double counting of the same fish when traded in different lots.
3. Incomplete sampling coverage of all bluefin tuna markets.
4. Sampling bias in relation to changes and variations in the target markets.
5. Incorrect assumptions on the timing of marketed products in relation to when the fish were actually caught and harvested.
6. Mixing up of country of origin of the products.
7. Mixing up of different species of bluefin tuna considered in the analysis.
8. Inaccurate application of conversion and growth factors to back-calculate weights at catch which led to a significant overestimation of the initial catches.

In summary, the Trade Group concluded that trade and market information could be a useful tool to provide information and crosscheck landings and catch data, but only if all of the above uncertainties are eliminated.

Therefore, since the accusations made by the organisations referred to above are based on data, which has been shown by the SCRS to carry a whole list of uncertainties, any accusations of over catch should not be accepted unless backed up by tangible evidence.

On the other hand, after discussing a paper involving the use of Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents (BCDs), the Trade Group considered that the use of BCDs would solve many of the above problems and concluded that any trade analysis should mainly be carried out with the information available in BCDs (SCRS/2012/033). This unbiased approach is supported by the Tuna Producers Association, which is continuing to support the SCRS work on trade and market analysis.

References

ICCAT, 2013, Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (Madrid October 1-5, 2012). *In*. Report for Biennial Period, 2012-2013, Part I (2012) – Vol. 2 – SCRS.

PEW Environmental Group, 2012, Policy Statement. Better management for all ICCAT species. Time to fill in the puzzle pieces.

http://www.pewenvironment.org/uploadedFiles/PEG/Publications/Other_Resource/ICCAT%20-%20Policy%20Statement%202012%20-%202019%2010%20FINAL.pdf

Statement by the Observers from WWF to Panel 2

The millennia-old bluefin tuna fishery in the Mediterranean entered a phase of rapid and intense deterioration the last decade of the 20th Century, when the new practice of farming wild-caught tunas, formerly unknown in the Mediterranean, mushroomed without control. This generated a perverse overfishing spiral as the growing demand for live large tunas fuelled the massive development of the industrial purse seine fleets and their expansion over virtually all Mediterranean waters where the bluefin tuna gathered to reproduce.

After several years of open mismanagement and reacting from the clear calls from science and civil society worldwide to avert an upcoming collapse of the fishery and the stock, ICCAT adopted in 2006 a first recovery plan for the species. This first plan still fell very short from following scientific advice and it has been increasingly strengthened and refined along the years - particularly since 2009, coinciding with a proposal to list the species in Appendix I of the CITES Convention. The current plan includes, among other aspects, a minimum landing size matching the size at maturity for the species, an open season for purse seine fleets of just one month a year, a TAC at 12,900 t (compared to 32,000 t in 2006), an ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP), a Catch Documentation Scheme (the BCD), a fleet capacity reduction plan and a Scheme of Joint International Inspection. As a result, there is consensus in ICCAT that real catches (including the illegal ones) have substantially declined the last few years. However, there is still concern on the potential for illegal fishing due to overcapacity and control loopholes, as exemplified by the cases WWF has submitted to the ICCAT compliance Committee this year and several studies based on international trade suggesting real catches more than doubling reported ones.

ICCAT SCRS has updated this year the 2010 stock assessment. Overall, ICCAT scientists warn that the assessment methodology currently used doesn't satisfactorily address the substantial uncertainties in fisheries and biological data. The analyses point to a likely increase in the spawning biomass of the stock along the last few years, but the amplitude and speed of this recovery trend is deemed as "highly uncertain". Based on forecast analysis ICCAT SCRS recommends keeping the TAC at current levels as it will likely allow the stock to increase and is consistent with the ICCAT goal to rebuild the stock by 2022. Besides, ICCAT SCRS recommends extending the current main management measures to the next three years (the next assessment is scheduled in 2015) as "a period of stabilization in the main management measures would allow SCRS to better estimate the amplitude and speed of recent trends in F and SSB in the coming years".

WWF calls on ICCAT CPCs to:

1. *Extend the current (2012) management measures, including the TAC at 12,900 t and the fishing seasons, to the period 2013-2015.*

ICCAT SCRS is extraordinarily clear in its last assessment on its advice to keep the current management measures (including catches at the current TAC of 12,900 t or a similar level) to meet the goal to achieve B_{MSY} . Even if it acknowledges that a "slightly higher TAC may achieve the recovery by 2022" it warns that "this outcome needs to be confirmed by future data and analyses" as "the speed and magnitude of the rebuilding of the SSB (spawning stock biomass) remains highly uncertain." Current signs of stock increase are –cautiously-encouraging and show that good management pays even in the apparently most hopeless among fisheries. It's been a long and huge concerted effort among all stakeholders to reach this point and it's in the interest of the bluefin fishery, ICCAT and the global fisheries governance system to make the Atlantic bluefin a management success story after being the global icon for overfishing the last decade.

2. *Review and strengthen the current fishing capacity reduction plan to bring real catch capacity down to the level of fishing possibilities.*

ICCAT SCRS warns in its last bluefin tuna assessment that current capacity levels "could easily harvest catch volumes well in excess of the rebuilding strategy adopted by the Commission". ICCAT first adopted a fleet capacity reduction plan for the bluefin tuna in 2008 (ICCAT Rec. 08-05) which was further refined in 2010 (ICCAT Rec. 10-04). The current plan ends in 2013, when it's assumed to have phased out all fishing overcapacity. However, a recent assessment (Tudela and Quílez-Badía, 2012) shows the current plan is based on catch rates per fleet segment which are strongly underestimated resulting in an end situation of still huge overcapacity (worth over 200% the TAC). This is consistent with the warning from the SCRS this year. WWF calls on ICCAT to extend the current capacity reduction plan to the next three-year period using updated, more realistic estimates of potential catch rates so as to ensure overcapacity is fully removed at the end of the period.

3. *Provide for the obligation of tuna farms to record size at harvest of all individual fish and to submit the information to ICCAT SCRS for stock assessment purposes.*

According to SCRS, the lack of reliable size data on purse seine catches strongly affect the performance of the current stock assessment as it is a source of large errors and related uncertainties on stock assessment results. WWF calls on ICCAT CPCs to provide for the obligation of farms to routinely sample for weight and length every fish at harvest and to submit this information along with that on catch date, gear type, flag of catching vessel/trap and area of capture to the SCRS. WWF also calls ICCAT CPCs to make it mandatory for farms to submit complete information on length and weight of individual fish prior to caging based on stereoscopic and/or acoustic methodologies. Besides, ICCAT SCRS warns this year that “it is difficult to derive any clearer conclusion without more precise scientific information about the catch composition, effort and spatial distribution of the main Mediterranean fisheries”. With respect to the later point WWF calls on ICCAT to ensure up to date disaggregated VMS and BCD data is fully and timely made available to ICCAT SCRS for scientific purposes.

4. *Support the use of international trade data in scientific analyses and compliance assessments.*

ICCAT SCRS warns that “since the late 1990s size samples cannot be obtained from Mediterranean purse seiners due to farming”. This major data limitation seriously undermines the reliability of any stock assessment on the stock. WWF calls on ICCAT CPCs to submit ICCAT SCRS the most precise information available on Atlantic bluefin tuna trade fluxes to enable ICCAT scientists elaborating on this data to infer the catch composition data missing for the last years. Besides, and as shown by several studies presented to ICCAT along the last years, trade data allow for assessing IUU catches. WWF also calls on ICCAT CPCs to mandate the ICCAT Committee on Compliance (COC) to formally assess compliance with the TACs based on these data.

5. *Fully support ICCAT Atlantic Wide Research Program for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) and SCRS to recover data and to develop new methods leading to a much more reliable stock assessment in 2015.*

WWF calls on ICCAT CPCs to endow GBYP data recovery programme with the necessary means to contribute, as a matter of urgency, fisheries-independent indicators on stock status. Similarly, WWF calls for the maximum support to SCRS to develop a new stock assessment methodology that takes unquantified uncertainties into account, on time for the next assessment scheduled in 2015. ICCAT SCRS is clear three years are crucially needed to go from now to the next stock assessment, to ensure a much better picture on the status of the stock is obtained. WWF calls on ICCAT CPCs to fully respect the advice from the SCRS at this regard for the sake of the quality of future management measures.

WWF also supports the swift implementation of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) programme as well as the strengthening of controls and compliance in the fishery. At this later regard, WWF notes with strong concern the relaxation of the attention devoted to compliance issues by ICCAT the last year, including the elimination of the inter-sessional COC meeting prior to the start of the East Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing season and of the COC two-day annual meeting traditionally scheduled at the start of the annual ICCAT Meeting.

The strong commitment by ICCAT CPCs to fight IUU has been one of the main pillars behind the incipient recovery of the stock. Any relaxation on this matter would risk of taking this fishery back to the dark ages and to destroy the achievements of years of productive collective work.

WWF’s vision for the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery is that of a stock sustainably managed to the benefit of the marine ecosystems, fisheries communities and consumers. Today we might be closer for this, something that would have seemed unthinkable only a few years ago. WWF calls on the responsibility of both ICCAT CPCs and the fishing industry to build on this momentum and keep recovery ambitions high.

Big achievements are long in the making but in only an instant can be lost.

Reference

Tudela, S. and Quílez-Badia, 2012, Reassessing fleet-specific catch rates in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery. *Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap.*, 68(1): 140-150.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

Joint Statement by the Observers from WWF, OCEANA and APCCR to Panel 2

Common Position to Protect Young Bluefin Tuna across their Entire Atlantic Range

Taking into account that the distribution of Atlantic bluefin tuna juveniles hatched in the Mediterranean Sea extends across the entire Atlantic Ocean, the above-mentioned Organizations strongly support the establishment of the same level of protection for these young bluefin tuna across their distribution range. We strongly call upon ICCAT CPCs to take a strong stance for the protection of the early life stages of this species.

For the sake of coherence, the signing Organizations ask, in particular, for the establishment of the same minimum catch size for bluefin tuna across the entire ICCAT Convention area, thereby granting the most restrictive tolerance allowance for minimum catching size that is currently in force, hence the one that currently applies to the eastern stock.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

Information Note to Panel 4 on the EU Commission Study on Sharks

The European Union delegation would like to inform that the European Commission is developing a study, with the participation of several EU Member States Scientific Institutes, to obtain scientific advice for the purpose of implementing the EU Plan of Action on Sharks as regards the facilitation of monitoring fisheries and shark stock assessment in the high seas managed by Tuna RFMOs.

The focus of the project is to collate and examine historical fisheries data especially on species composition of catches, realized catches and effort and to identify gaps in the current knowledge of the biology and ecology of sharks that should be filled in order to support advice provided to RFMOs on sustainable management of elasmobranch fisheries.

This work will be carried out until April 2013. The research project comprises two phases:

- *Phase 1:* Data collection phase. The project team will collate fishery data on shark on species specific levels for main shark species in order to identify data availability and gaps in relation to catch and effort, observer's data, length frequencies and biological/ecological information on main shark species.
- *Phase 2:* Data analysis phase. The project team will collate and synthesize this information in the form of reports to identify research needs and data priorities as well as to develop a monitoring framework to assure the assessment and management of main shark species.

Following the recent completion of Phase I, Phase II of the project (Data analysis and support to scientific advice) has started. This is the crucial part of the project, as it will allow for the production of a representative observer scheme of the industrial fleet and will integrate in a workable format all the information collected through the implementation of phase I. Once the project is concluded, this information will be provided by the EU Commission to the Scientific Committees of relevant RFMOs in order it is used by them for the formulation of scientific advice in the management of the main shark species of commercial interest and in particular of blue shark and shortfin mako. Therefore, the intention of this study is not to substitute the work of RFMOs scientific bodies, but to facilitate and accelerate their tasks by providing them updated and as much as possible complete and accurate information on shark species under their respective areas of competence.

The EU wishes to thank the ICCAT Contracting Parties which have responded positively to the EU request for contribution in providing national data on their shark fisheries.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the Observer from Oceana to Panel 4

The 18th Special Meeting of the Commission offers excellent opportunities for ICCAT to continue building on its recent management initiatives for sharks. These efforts represent an important step for responsible shark

management, but their scope is limited. Most shark species caught in ICCAT fisheries remain completely unmanaged, even though sharks represented more than 15% of all reported ICCAT catches in 2010. Important fished species such as blue shark and shortfin mako are caught without limits, regardless of uncertainty about stock status, and threatened species such as porbeagle continue to be landed sold. Critically, limited data reporting and poor data quality remain on-going problems that hinder shark species assessment and management, pointing to the need for precautionary measures, particularly for threatened species.

In order for ICCAT to fulfil its management commitments, Oceana calls upon CPCs to act on four key measures for the effective management of shark species in the Convention area.

1. Set science-based, precautionary limits on catches of shortfin mako and blue sharks, which are key targeted species in ICCAT fisheries

According to the 2012 ICCAT Ecological Risk Assessment, shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) is the second most vulnerable shark species to overfishing by longliners in the Atlantic. Earlier this year, this species was granted strict protection in the Mediterranean; its capture, retention, landing, transshipment, and sale are now prohibited under the Barcelona Convention and by the GFCM.

ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions have repeatedly called for reducing shortfin mako fishing mortality until sustainable catch levels can be determined. The SCRS undertook a full stock assessment earlier this year, which found that the current status of stocks was highly uncertain, and no management projections could be made. The SCRS recommended, as a precautionary measure, “that the fishing mortality of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the northern and southern stocks.”

Oceana urges ICCAT CPCs to follow scientific advice, and to support the proposal by the European Union for establishing a precautionary catch limit for shortfin mako, based on average declared catches in recent years.

Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) is the fourth most important fish species in ICCAT fisheries, in terms of catch weight: 65,183 t in 2010, roughly five times the reported catch of bluefin tuna. Yet blue sharks are fished under ICCAT without any specific management measures, and catches have risen by more than 60% during the last five years. Studies have shown significant declines in abundance in the northwest Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea, and the 2008 assessment found that the status of the stocks was highly uncertain. No further blue shark assessments are currently scheduled.

Oceana calls upon CPCs to assume their management responsibilities for blue shark, and to establish precautionary catch limits for this species.

2. Prohibit the retention, transshipment, landing, and trade of highly threatened species, such as porbeagles.

Porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) are among the most threatened species of highly migratory sharks caught in ICCAT fisheries. In response to concerns about this species, fisheries for porbeagle have been prohibited within the EU, NEAFC, and in the Mediterranean Sea (under Annex II of the Barcelona Convention and GFCM). European exports of porbeagle exports are now controlled under CITES Appendix III, and a proposal has been submitted for their inclusion under CITES Appendix II.

The SCRS has highlighted that, for sharks, “precautionary management measures should be considered for stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern.” Porbeagles are clearly one such example. The 2012 ERA indicated its very high vulnerability to overfishing, and assessments have projected that stock recovery would take decades in the absence of fishing pressure, and more than 100 years in the case of the fished Northwest Atlantic stock.

Oceana urges ICCAT CPCs to support the EU proposal to implement precautionary management for porbeagles, by prohibiting their retention, transshipment, landing, storage, and sale.

3. Close the loopholes in the ICCAT ban on shark finning, by requiring sharks to be landed with their fins attached.

Shark finning has technically been prohibited in ICCAT fisheries since 2004 [Rec. 04-10], but illegal finning can still occur undetected, because loopholes in the Recommendation make it extremely difficult to enforce. For example, it does not specify whether the 5% fin-to-carcass weight ratio applies to whole or dressed sharks, or to wet or to dry fins. Nor does it require fins and carcasses to be transhipped or landed together, making it impossible to directly compare weights.

The many problems with ratio-based finning bans have been noted by ICCAT and other tuna RFMOs, and fisheries scientists currently recommend that the most straightforward, effective approach to banning shark finning is to land sharks with their fins still naturally attached. Such ‘fins-attached’ policies have already been adopted in ICCAT CPCs (e.g., Belize, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, USA, and Venezuela), and the EU is also discussing such a policy.

Oceana calls on CPCs to support the United States proposal to strengthen the ICCAT ban on shark finning by requiring sharks to be landed with their fins still naturally attached.

4. Assess and ensure compliance with Recommendations requiring CPCs to report data on shark catches.

The lack of accurate, reliable data on shark catches and fishing effort hampers both stock assessment and the development of management measures. Since 2001, eight Recommendations and Resolutions have emphasised the need for CPCs to provide reliable Task I and Task II data on sharks, but compliance by most CPCs has been poor, as noted by the 2008 performance review of ICCAT. However, in 2010, requirements for shark data reporting took a historic step forward with the adoption of Recommendation 10-06 on shortfin mako. As a result, in 2012, at least three CPCs submitted Task 1 data on shortfin mako stocks for the first time. This Recommendation lays an important foundation for improved shark data reporting, which extends to all shark species, under Recommendation 11-15.

Oceana calls upon ICCAT CPCs to ensure strict compliance with data reporting requirements, in the interest of improving shark data quality for informing management and conservation.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9

Statement by the Observer from PEW to Panel 4

We call your attention to our policy statement, “Better Management for all ICCAT Species: Time to Fill in the Puzzle Pieces”, which was circulated electronically to all Contracting Parties (CPs), and is available on our website at www.pewenvironment.org/ip (in English, French, and Spanish) along with copies of our other materials. The following supplements that policy statement as relates to the work of Panel 4.

Panel 4 has many important shark topics to consider this year including protecting threatened shark species, managing commonly caught shark species, improving the shark finning recommendation, reviewing implementation of and compliance with existing shark measures, and laying the foundation for the future of shark fisheries in ICCAT. We look forward to working with Parties to ensure that proposals related to these important topics are adopted.

Protecting threatened shark species

The IUCN’s Red List of Threatened Species assessed porbeagle sharks as vulnerable globally, Critically Endangered in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, and Endangered in the northwest Atlantic. In addition, the ICCAT Shark Working Group has recently completed an updated Ecological Risk Analysis (ERA) that shows the porbeagle to be one of the shark species most vulnerable to ICCAT fisheries, based on its low productivity and high susceptibility to catch (SCRS/2012/167). Due to its poor conservation status in the ICCAT Convention Area and vulnerability to ICCAT fisheries, ICCAT should prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale porbeagle sharks. ICCAT should also prohibit retaining onboard other threatened species found to be highly vulnerable by the ERA, including longfin mako sharks.

Oceanic whitetip sharks are listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Critically Endangered in the Northwest and Central Atlantic Ocean and Vulnerable globally. ICCAT put in place a conservation and management measure for this species in 2010. While the existing measure is strong, the Pew Environment Group supports the efforts to strengthen the measure by encouraging live release of oceanic whitetip sharks caught in purse seines.

Managing commonly caught shark species

Additionally, the ERA showed shortfin makos to be one of the most vulnerable shark species to Atlantic longline fisheries (SCRS/2012/167). Based on the ERA and a recent stock assessment, the SCRS recommended not allowing shortfin mako catch levels to increase. Therefore, ICCAT should establish concrete precautionary catch limits for shortfin mako sharks.

Improving the shark finning Recommendation

Up to 73 million sharks are killed annually to support the global shark fin trade. ICCAT was the first RFMO to ban shark finning – the wasteful practice of slicing off a shark’s fins and discarding the body at sea – but loopholes still hamper enforcement of the ban. The existing ban on finning can be strengthened by prohibiting the removal of shark fins at sea, which will also facilitate collection of species-specific catch data and help ensure compliance with existing ICCAT conservation and management measures for sharks.

Reviewing implementation of and compliance with existing shark measures

Finally, it has been three years since ICCAT first prohibited retention of the first shark species – the bigeye thresher shark – and since then several additional shark species have been added (with associated measures prohibiting landing, transshipment, and trade). It is now time for ICCAT to review the implementation of and compliance with its shark conservation and management measures.

Laying the foundation for the future of shark fisheries in ICCAT

We appreciate the efforts by Japan to develop a comprehensive shark action plan and agree that it is necessary to clarify the role of ICCAT in shark management. We believe that Japan has raised some very important issues. However, the development and adoption of shark conservation and management measures must continue as a matter of urgency, while any long term plan is developed. Given the vulnerability of many shark species, delaying measures for years is not an option.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) was opened on Tuesday, 13 November 2012, in Agadir, Morocco, under the chairmanship of Dr. Christopher Rogers (USA).

2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mr. Juan Ignacio de Leiva (European Union) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

With the inclusion of the new item “Other matters” to allow CPCs to raise issues if wished, the Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

The Chair reminded the Committee that last year a new mandate and terms of reference were adopted by the Commission [Rec. 11-24] and according to this new recommendation all aspects of compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures of both CPCs and NCPs will be reviewed by the Compliance Committee.

Following the positive experience of last year, the Chair informed the Committee of his intention to convene the Review Group again this year. Representatives to the group have been appointed on a geographical basis as follows:

- North-America: Canada
- South-America: Uruguay
- Europe: European Union
- Africa: Morocco and Côte d’Ivoire
- Asia: Japan

The Chair indicated he would work with the Review Group to analyze the submissions made by CPCs, which were summarized by the Secretariat in the document entitled “Compliance Summary Tables”. To make effective use of time, the main issues identified by the group would be referred for discussion by the entire Committee. The Review Group, in light of the responses received from the Parties in the course of discussions or as a result of any reports received by the Secretariat following the deadline for submission, would be convened again to evaluate the supplemental information and to recommend appropriate actions for the Committee to consider under Agenda item 6.

To assist the delegates in organizing the information to be considered, the Chair reviewed the working documents provided for the meeting, including several documents of Plenary, PWG, Panel 2 and Panel 4 that would be pertinent to the work of the Compliance Committee.

4. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from 2011 meeting

The Chair noted that only 18 of 36 responses were received prior to the deadline and reflected that timely responses will greatly facilitate the work of the Committee. The individual responses were considered together with Agenda item 5 during the detailed review of compliance by each CPC.

5. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements

Prior to beginning review of individual CPC compliance, the Chair made several general observations on the issues included under this Agenda item. The Chair recalled the requirements worksheet transmitted from the

Secretariat to all CPCs in January each year. Responses to this inquiry greatly facilitate the work of the Compliance Committee by clarifying which requirements apply to each CPC and in particular, which reports and data are to be expected. Unfortunately, only of 30 of 48 Contracting Parties and 2 of 5 Cooperating Parties responded, leading to increased work for the Secretariat as well as the Committee. The Chair commended the Secretariat's efforts to assist the CPCs by sending quarterly reminders of reporting deadlines.

5.1 Compliance tables

The chair noted that 32 of 48 Contracting Parties and 1 of 5 Cooperating Parties had provided compliance tables by the deadline. Late submissions place an additional burden on the Secretariat and reduce the efficiency of Committee. It was announced that revisions and corrections would be accepted by the Secretariat staff only until 18:30 hours on 12 November in order to have a final tables for review by the Committee.

Compliance tables were reviewed for adoption by the Committee. The Chairman was concerned by the repeated failure of several CPCs to submit the compliance tables, which are crucial to determine compliance with quotas, catch limits and size limits. Parties were kindly requested to submit such tables in accordance with reporting requirements. The information provided by the Parties during the discussion resulted in minor adjustments of these tables, which were subsequently adopted by the Committee.

The information on Trinidad & Tobago with regards to north albacore and north swordfish was not submitted before the deadline and was not available at the time of adoption of these Compliance Tables. Trinidad & Tobago indicated that landings of north albacore are by-catches.

Brazil reiterated to the Committee that according to national legislation catches of white marlin and blue marlin shall be released if alive, and marketing of retained dead marlin is not allowed. Therefore, Brazil stated that it was in full compliance with the conservation measure and requested the balance figure, whether positive or negative, to be deleted from the tables.

Belize has presented its North Albacore payback proposal from 2012 to 2014. Following the transfer of 200 t of north albacore each year from Chinese Taipei, the adjusted quotas for 2012 and 2013 will be of 280 t per year.

Ghana committed to payback its overharvest of bigeye tuna from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t by year. Following the transfers received from China, Chinese Taipei, Japan and Korea, the adjusted quota for 2012 was of 4,897 t.

The compliance tables were adopted and are attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

5.2 CPC Statistical data summaries

The Chair called attention to the 2012 SCRS report, especially the report of the Sub-Committee on Statistics. SCRS recognized improvements in the submission of Task I data including data for sharks and by-catch species. However, partial submissions and multiple revisions of data sets increase the workload for the Secretariat and the species working groups. SCRS expressed ongoing concerns with the quality of data and proposed to develop criteria to evaluate quality. Also, it was noted that improvements in data on fleet characteristics, tag releases and catch at size would facilitate analytical work.

Of particular concern to the Compliance Committee were analytical requests to SCRS that were dependent on reports from the CPCs. The limited response rate (24 of 48 Contracting Parties) for reports on national observer programs [Recs. 10-04 and 10-10] precluded conclusions by SCRS. Similarly, only 6 CPCs submitted FAD management plans (2 incomplete) and too few shark data collection plans were submitted to support an analysis.

5.3 CPC Compliance summaries

Agenda items 4 and 5.3 were addressed as a whole. The Committee reviewed the compliance summaries tables, which were amended as appropriate in light of the responses received from the Parties during the discussions of the Committee or as a result of the reports received by the Secretariat following the deadline for submission (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

The Chair stressed the need for the Parties to provide more accurate information on which reporting requirements are applicable to them and, if not applicable, provide an explanation. This would simplify the task of the Secretariat when producing the compliance summaries and will facilitate the discussions during the

Committee. In particular, annual reports should make a clear distinction on whether the information required to be reported by specific measures was not available or the reporting requirements are not applicable.

5.4 Inspection and observer reports

The Chairman invited the Delegates to comment on the reports of potential infractions contained in the document entitled “Issues of Potential non-Compliance Reported by ROP Observers”. The main problems reported by Regional Observers were related to video recordings not showing 100% of the transfer operations and the difficulty to estimate bluefin tuna transfer amounts due to poor video quality. Several CPCs informed the Committee about the investigations launched and the actions taken following the reception of ROP’s reports. Some of the problems reported by Regional Observers might be related to unclear provisions regarding video requirements under Rec. 10-04 and technical problems related to the video recording equipment used. In this regard, it was noted that SCRS recommended that CPCs make use of stereoscopic camera systems or any alternative technique providing equivalent precision to recover size information from farms operational for the coming year. Discussion on how to improve the estimation of the number and biomass of bluefin tunas during transfer and caging operations and minimum standards for the video recording of those operations were referred to Panel 2.

5.5 Actions taken on collection of shark data

The Chairman expressed his concern regarding the few data collection plans submitted by CPCs with regards to Recs. 10-06, 10-08 and 11-08 and reminded the Delegates that, beginning in 2013, actions taken by CPCs to improve shark data shall be reviewed annually by the Compliance Committee. It was recalled that under paragraph 3 of Rec. 11-15, failure to report Task I data in accordance with SCRS data reporting requirements will prevent CPCs from retaining such species as of the year following the lack of or incomplete reporting until such data is received by the Secretariat.

In addition, the fact that the information is submitted in different formats and in response to several different reporting requirements makes it difficult for the Committee to ascertain which CPCs have fully complied with their reporting obligations for shark fisheries. It was recommended that Panel 4 consider consolidating the reporting requirements for the various shark species.

As of 2013, CPCs not having submitted the required data on shark species will be informed through either letters of concern or identification with notification that retention of the relevant shark species is unauthorized until complete data are received at the Secretariat.

5.6 Other relevant information

The Chairman invited delegates to comment on the report submitted by WWF concerning the allegations of unreported trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna through Panama between 2000 and 2010, to the extent possible, noting that the report was submitted after the deadline established in Rec. 08-09.

The CPCs concerned indicated that they have started investigations on the issues reported by WWF. However, investigations have not been completed, due to the late reception of this report. Several CPCs stated that it would be more appropriate to receive such allegations well in advance the annual meeting to be able to conduct pertinent investigations and provide results.

The Chairman reminded the Committee about the VMS signals received in 2011 from non-Libyan flagged vessels in the Libyan fisheries protection zone and territorial waters. During the 2011, it was decided that further investigations should be conducted by the Secretariat and CPCs concerned to determine whether there was evidence of unauthorized fishing within the Libyan zone, and to submit relevant information on the results of their respective or joint investigations to the Commission before the 2012 annual meeting.

EU, Tunisia and Vanuatu confirmed that the investigations launched were finalized and no infractions to ICCAT conservation and management measures were detected. EU reiterated that their investigations were made on the basis of the areas discussed at the 2011 annual meeting and not EEZs, since the Commission is not the appropriate place to discuss issues of EEZ claims.

The EU had submitted its response to WWF, Greenpeace and Pew regarding allegations of possible non-compliance, which thoroughly describes the actions taken to ensure a strict and full implementation of ICCAT

and EU rules pertaining to the use of driftnets. Measures implemented and the results of the verifications carried out in 2012 confirm that illegal driftnet activities are no longer occurring. Morocco also stated that its extensive program to ban driftnets has been successfully implemented and driftnets activities have been eradicated. Morocco emphasized the economic and social cost of this effort and called upon all delegations to continue with necessary measures to prevent the return of illegal activities.

Several cases of transshipments at sea of ICCAT tuna and tuna like species caught by pelagic trawlers targeting small pelagic species were discussed. It was noted that the carrier vessels receiving the fish were not registered in the ICCAT record of authorized vessels. A discussion followed regarding the interpretation of Recommendation 06-11 on whether the flag CPC of the reefer or the flag CPC of the catching vessels has the obligation to submit the list of reefers to ICCAT. Belize announced that it will include all its reefers within the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipments to avoid further problems. The Chair referred this issue to the PWG, to be discussed under the new proposal for a Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment.

The EU supported a discussion at the 2013 meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) on how to consider by-catches of ICCAT species taken in lawful fisheries that do not target such species. It was noted that, based on port inspections of carrier vessels, these catches were not insignificant amounts and it is necessary to determine how such catches should be reported to ICCAT, and to what extent they are allowed to enter into trade. The Chair referred this issue to the PWG, to be considered as a point on the Agenda of an IMM meeting in 2013.

Ghana was commended for their improvements in monitoring and control activities, in particular with regards to the establishment of an operational VMS system, the provisions included in their fishing license prohibiting their fishing vessels to undertake transshipments at sea, and the traceability system implemented by canneries. As well, Ghana confirmed that the group of Ghana-flagged vessels owned by Korean nationals that was the center of illegal activities in the past is presently monitored by VMS. Korea informed the Committee that their nationals have been informed of ICCAT concerns and had requested them to refrain from undertaking in the future illegal practices as the ones carried out in the past.

Korea stated that under its current national legislation it is difficult to enforce ICCAT conservation and management measures on their nationals operating vessels under another nation's flag. In this regard, Korea intends to review its national legislation.

6. Actions required in relation to issues of non-compliance by CPCs arising from Items 4 and 5

The Chair reviewed the revised version of the draft "Compliance Summary Tables" which included the responses given by each CPC to the allegations of potential infractions, as well as the recommendations of the Chair, in consultation with the Review group, for appropriate actions that the Committee should take *vis-à-vis* such infractions.

Based on the discussions which took place during the Committee and in particular, in light of the provisions of ICCAT's *Recommendation on Trade Restrictive Measures* [Rec. 06-13], the Committee agreed on the following:

- No action necessary with regard to 16 CPCs
- Maintain the identification of 5 CPCs
- New identifications were issued to 2 CPCs
- Lift the identification to 4 CPCs, which will receive a "letter of concern"
- In total, 25 CPCs to receive a "letter of concern"

The Compliance Committee noted that all identified CPCs must respond to the issues raised in their letter at least 30 days before 2013 ICCAT annual meeting and agreed that all other CPCs receiving a letter of concern should also respond prior to that meeting.

The Committee also expressed its concern on the implementation of the BCD system by China. However, China reiterated that the problem was that the ICCAT Convention and rules do not apply to Hong Kong, which has a special administrative status *vis-à-vis* China. Therefore, despite its efforts it was difficult for China to fully enforce the BCD system in this territory. The Chair noted that some concerns had been raised about implementation of the BCD system in other administrative areas and encouraged China to continue its efforts to monitor and report on bluefin tuna imports.

Concern was also expressed about 2011 and 2012 exports of southern swordfish from Belize to the European Union, which were over the quota allocated to Belize for the years concerned. Belize explained that the origin of this misunderstanding was that the management of its quota is based on the Belize's fishing season, from 1 August to 31 July. Belize will consult with the European Union to resolve discrepancies in catch and trade statistics.

In this regard, EU stated that it would be very helpful for importing countries if the ICCAT Secretariat creates a reference within ICCAT's webpage where applicable quotas and catch limits for the next year would be easily identifiable for each CPC. Such information would be taken from the adjusted quotas as adopted in the catch limit compliance tables.

The final version of the Compliance Summary Tables is included as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

In closing the discussion on recommended actions, the Chair observed that several CPCs had offered alternatives to the actions recommended by the Chair, in particular where the Chair had recommended maintaining identifications under Rec. 06-13. In these instances, the concerned CPCs emphasized the progress that had been achieved in collecting and reporting data and/or implementing monitoring measures and proposed that identifications be lifted. The Chair noted that although progress should certainly be recognized in such cases, there was also a need for the Compliance Committee to act consistently in applying the procedures of Rec. 06-13, especially in cases where deficiencies in meeting ICCAT requirements still exist. The Chair also reminded the CPCs that letters of concern are not a formal part of the process under Rec. 06-13, but serve as a means of continuing the examination of issues which could not be definitively concluded during the Compliance Committee meeting. While CPCs might not welcome such letters, they serve an important role ICCAT's compliance evaluation process.

7. Review of information relating to NCPs and consideration of any necessary actions

According to its new mandate adopted in 2011, the Committee reviewed the available information to assess the cooperation of NCPs with ICCAT in the conservation and management of ICCAT species.

In 2011, the Commission decided to lift the trade sanctions on Bolivia and Georgia but the identification of both countries was maintained.

Bolivia expressed its gratitude to the Commission and informed that since 2006 Bolivia has neither registered any fishing vessel to carry out activities in the Convention Area, nor has granted any fishing license. Since no indication has been received about fishing activities of Bolivian vessels in the Convention Area, the Committee decided to lift the identification.

No further correspondence from Georgia has been received and the Committee decided to maintain the identification.

Further to the letter of identification sent to Cambodia by the Commission, no correspondence has been received by the Secretariat. It was decided to maintain the identification to Cambodia until further information is received.

According to the information provided during the Committee, no bigeye tuna originating from the Atlantic Ocean was exported by Madagascar as initially presumed.

India and Madagascar will be contacted by the Secretariat in order to get information on their SDP validation authorities.

Following the information submitted to the Secretariat on the transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species from Peruvian pelagic trawlers, it was requested to the Secretariat to communicate with Peru expressing the Commission's concern over these activities and requesting additional information.

Concerning the alleged imports of South Atlantic swordfish harvested by two Indonesian vessels, Indonesia informed the Committee that the results of its investigation confirmed that the origin of the swordfish was the Indian Ocean. In view of the immediate actions taken by Indonesia it was decided that no further action was necessary.

Dominica is the only non-Contracting Party without cooperating status that reported catches of tuna and tuna-like species for 2011. The Committee welcomed the submission of this information and decided that no further action was necessary.

8. Review of requests for cooperating status

According to its new mandate adopted in 2011, the Committee reviewed and made recommendations to the Commission regarding requests for cooperating status. Based on this review, the Committee decided to renew the cooperation status of the following NCPs:

- Chinese Taipei
- Curaçao
- Suriname

The cooperation status of Colombia was also reviewed and renewed, although it was decided to maintain the letter of identification issued to Colombia by the Commission in 2011, due to the lack of submission of the information related to ICCAT fishing activities in 2012. Colombia committed to complete all relevant information and submit it within the deadline and informed the Committee that they are considering the possibility to become an ICCAT member in the future.

The Committee decided not to renew the cooperating status of Guyana, due to the lack of submission of appropriate information and reports to the Secretariat in 2012. The Secretariat will contact Guyana to check whether they would be interested to again become a Cooperating non-Contracting Party in the future.

El Salvador applied for the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party in 2011. However, its letter arrived after the deadline and the request was deferred to 2012. El Salvador has again submitted an application request in 2012. The Committee reviewed the information presented and decided to afford El Salvador the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party.

Finally, Bolivia submitted a letter requesting cooperating status, but it was received after the deadline. The Committee decided to defer the request until next year.

9. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance

The Chairman noted that several existing requirements are not clear in how they are to be implemented and that revisions to the text could facilitate compliance by the CPCs as well as evaluation by the Committee. However, the Committee was not authorized to make these changes and the requests should be referred to the panels or the plenary session.

The requirement of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tunas* [Rec. 11-01] for CPCs to submit logbook information for use by SCRS does not specify if actual logbook entries are required or a summary of the information recorded. The Secretariat noted that available resources would not allow the collection and processing of individual logbook entries. If the Compliance Committee is to evaluate the adequacy of summary data, the measure must specify the format for the report. This matter was referred to Panel 1.

It was noted that there is an overarching measure addressing shark management and several measures adopted and proposed that pertain to individual species of sharks. These various measures refer to collection and reporting of data on by-catch and discards as well as reporting of Task I and Task II data. The overlap and duplication of these requirements makes it difficult to determine compliance and consolidation of these requirements along with evaluation criteria would facilitate review by the Committee. This matter was referred to Panel 4.

The Chairman recalled that measures originating in Panels 1, 2, and 4 require submission of lists of vessels actively fishing for or authorized to land certain species. The various formats, criteria for including vessels and deadlines lead to misinterpretation by some CPCs as to whether the list is complete or has been submitted on time for the particular requirement. Consolidation of the data formats, criteria for including vessels and deadlines for reporting would facilitate compliance.

General advice for all panels included the request that measures requiring special reports and plans should provide detail on the content and format of the submission and the body (Panel, SCRS, COC) to review those submissions as well as the criteria for the review. Measures requesting specific data on catch and effort, fleets, or gear should also indicate the format, deadline and whether it would be submitted as part of Task I or Task II data.

Finally, it was noted that the Secretariat had developed a proposal to amend the Annual Report format [Ref. 04-17]. If adopted, the revised format would track more closely with individual reporting and data requirements so CPCs would be able to determine which are applicable and assure more complete reporting. The Chair stated his support for the proposal as it would facilitate review by the Committee. Delegates were encouraged to review the proposal prior to discussion in the plenary session.

10. Other matters

There were no other matters discussed by the Committee under this Agenda item. The statements of WWF to the Compliance Committee are attached, as **Appendix 4 and 5 to ANNEX 10**, respectively.

11. Adoption of Report and adjournment

The Chair thanked the Delegates for their efforts in reviewing compliance information and the Review Group for their support during the revision of the compliance summaries and their advice to recommend appropriate actions to be taken by the Committee. He also thanked the Secretariat for its outstanding work during the preparation of the documents for the meeting and the interpreters for their excellent support.

The 2012 Meeting of the Compliance Committee was adjourned.

The Report of the Compliance Committee was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from 2011 meeting.
5. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements
 - 5.1 Compliance tables
 - 5.2 CPC Statistical data summaries
 - 5.3 CPC Compliance summaries
 - 5.4 Inspection and observer reports
 - 5.5 Actions taken on collection of shark data
 - 5.6 Other relevant information
6. Actions required in relation to issues of non-compliance by CPCs arising from Items 4 and 5
7. Review of information relating to NCPs and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of requests for cooperating status
9. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
10. Adoption of Report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Compliance Tables Adopted in 2012
(Compliance in 2011, reported in 2012)

NORTH ALBACORE (All quantities are in metric tons)

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
TAC	34500.00	30200.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	7.0	3.60	5.90	4.30	293.00	296.40	244.10	245.70	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	200.00	200.00
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	26.20	39.00	416.00	351.00	173.80	261.00	-166.00	-101.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	200.00	280.00	280.00
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	33.40	10.70	14.30	28.00	166.60	289.30	235.70	222.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	24.40	27.00	150.00	101.00	275.60	273.00	100.00	149.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE				200.00	200.00		24.70	53.40	0.00		175.30	196.60	250.00			250.00	250.00	250.00	
EU	25462.00	25462.00	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	16397.60	12913.45	15316.60	16413.48	20652.80	18914.05	12600.20	11503.32	37050.40	31827.50	27916.80	27916.80	26939.13	
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	299.80	300.00	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
JAPAN	583.89	521.13	516.79	436.69		320.16	419.56	483.42	297.15	263.72	105.55	33.37	139.53	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	10.00	84.00	201.00	101.00	290.00	166.00	49.00	149.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	99.00	250.00	0.00	0.20	201.00	50.00	200.00	199.80	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
ST V & G.	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	154.00	135.00	157.90	329.10	183.00	265.00	192.10	20.90	337.00	400.00	350.00	350.00	320.90	
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	15.90	17.00	17.10		184.10	283.00	232.90		300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.20	0.30	0.35	0.76	299.80	299.70	249.60	249.24	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
USA	538.00	538.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	248.10	188.79	314.56	449.02	424.40	483.71	344.19	209.73	672.50	672.50	658.75	658.75	658.75	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	19.10	114.46	191.73	197.41	206.10	85.54	58.27	52.59	225.20	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	222.00	398.00	288.00	247.40	-373.50	-521.50	-559.50	-556.90	-151.50	-123.50	-271.50	-309.50	-306.90	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3950.00	3950.00	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	1107.00	863.00	1587.00	1367.00	4718.00	4962.00	2402.60	2622.60	5825.00	5825.00	3989.60	3989.60	3789.62	
TOTAL CATCH																			
Rec. No.	06-04	07-02	09-05	09-05	11-04									06-04	07-02	09-05	09-05	09-05	09-05

BELIZE: Payback proposal from 2012 to 2014. Also received a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei for 2012-2013 (200 t transfer each year).

JAPAN is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch (2.2% in 2008, 3.2% in 2009 and 3.7% in 2010).

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES: 2012 adjusted quota includes 100 t transfer from Chinese Taipei.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: All landings are by-catches. Information was not submitted before deadline and was not available at the time of adoption of these Compliance Tables.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2012 adjusted quota is 3789.62 (=3271.7+3271.7*25%-100-200) due to the underage of 2010 exceeding 25% of 2012 catch quota and transfer of 100 t to St. V&G and 200 t to Belize.

SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial quota /catch limit					Ref. years	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota (only applicable in case of overharvest)					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Average 1992-1996	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
TAC	29900	29900	29900	29900	24000															
BRAZIL							487.00	202.00	270.80	1269.00										
NAMIBIA							1196.00	1958.00	1792.00	3791.00										
S. AFRICA							3468.00	5043.10	4146.93	3380.00	8826.00	11621.00	9127.57	4827.30						
URUGUAY							59.00	97.00	24.00	37.00										
CH. TAIPEI							9966.00	8678.00	10975.00	13032.00										
BELIZE	360.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	300.00	327.00	31.00	213.00	303.00	364.00	31.10	297.00	204.00	-4.00					296.00	
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	24.60	89.00	100.00	80.05	75.00	11.00	0.00	19.95	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE								47.30	43.40	0.00										
EU	1914.70	1914.70	1914.70	1914.70	1540.00	1740.60	1011.60	1374.78	1170.60	410.16	903.10	539.92	744.10	1129.84						
JAPAN	308.62	233.95	315.53	256.66			1559.76	958.11	1217.83	168.85	-1251.14	-720.79	-902.30	87.82	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
KOREA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	150.00	9.00	137.00	187.00	39.00	29.00	-37.00	-124.00	-63.00	8.00	100.00	63.00	-24.00	37.00	150.00	
PANAMA	119.90	119.90	119.90	119.90	100.00	109.00	5.00	51.00	1.00	0.00	114.90	68.90	118.90	100.00						
PHILIPPINES	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	98.00	98.00	95.00	96.00	2.00	2.00	5.00	4.00						
ST V & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		47.00	51.00	47.10	94.00	53.00	49.00	52.90	6.00						
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	40.00	94.80	81.00	3.00	120.00	5.20	19.00	97.00	-20.00					80.00	
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		131.00	59.75	93.83	86.04	-31.00		6.17	13.96			100.00	100.00	100.00	
TOTAL CATCH																				
Rec. number	04-04	07-03	07-03	07-03	11-05										07-03	07-03	07-03	07-03	07-03	11-05

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 (20.2% in 2008, 16.1% in 2009 and 15.4% in 2010).

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

BRAZIL: Rec. 11-05 establishes a TAC of 21000 t and an individual catch limit of 3500 t for Brazil.

NORTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches					Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
TAC	14000	14000	14000	13700	13700															
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	39.00	19.80	12.70	25.60	12.80	38.00	54.80	41.90	51.80	57.80	67.50	67.50	67.50	64.40	
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	1.00	112.00	106.00	184.00	194.00	83.00	89.00	11.00	195.00	195.00	195.00	195.00	141.00		
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0	75.00	75.00	75.00	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00		
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1334.00	1299.70	1345.60	1550.60	31.00	43.50	122.90	45.30	1365.00	1343.20	1477.80	1595.90	1548.10		
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	91.00	92.00	74.00	74.70	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.30	96.00	96.00	79.00	80.00	105.30	100.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.94	77.28	29.94	0.00	4.06	-27.28	24.12	46.80	75.00	50.00	54.06	46.80	75.00		
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5069.20	5953.10	5187.80	6110.68	1917.70	2278.90	3447.90	2886.22	6986.90	8232.00	8635.70	8996.90	8397.50	8397.50	
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	47.60	20.10	89.80	0.60	60.70	36.70	30.90	79.40	108.30	56.80	120.70	80.00	100.00		
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	619.26	963.00	681.31	570.21	1875.74	1754.74	1915.43	2137.22	2495.00	2717.74	2596.74	2707.43	2894.22		
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	160.50	4.00	0.00	0.00	-255.50	-209.50	-159.50	-109.50	-95.00	-205.50	-159.50	-109.50	10.00		
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	430.00	724.00	963.00	781.00	421.2	551.00	312.00	381.00	851.20	1275.00	1275.00	1162.00	1262.50		
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	33.00	32.00	35.00	37.00	167.00	168.00	165.00	246.50	200.00	283.50	283.50	283.50	300.00		
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	18.00	24.00	0.00	0.00	19.50	13.50	34.50	25.00	37.50	37.50	34.50	37.50	37.50		
SENEGAL	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	250.00	0.00	28.00	11.00	43.00		372.00	389.00	557.00		600.00	600.00	600.00	375.00		
ST V & G.	130.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	13.80	34.00	17.00	10.70	37.00	78.00	98.50	101.80	99.00	112.00	115.50	112.50	112.50		
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	49.00	30.00	21.00		76.00	158.00	166.50		188.00	188.00	187.50	187.50			
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	9.90	10.10	4.20	6.55	22.60	22.40	28.30	45.95	32.50	32.50	32.50	52.50	52.50		
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	2530.30	2878.03	2412.10	2887.57	3330.20	2982.47	3448.40	2972.93	5860.50	5860.50	5860.50	5860.50	4733.75		
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	10.05	18.49	25.00	25.00	20.95	12.51	25.00	25.00	31.00	31.00	31.00		
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	11.00	7.00	24.00	18.00	137.00	135.00	135.00	109.50	148.00	142.00	127.50	127.50	127.50		
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	82.00	89.00	88.00	192.00	323.00	316.00	317.00	213.00	405.00	405.00	405.00	405.00	370.00		
Rec. number	06-02	06-02	09-02	10-02	11-02									06-02	06-02	06-02	10-02	11-02	11-02	
DISCARDS																				
CANADA						38.70	9.30		7.80											
USA																				
TOTAL DISCARDS						38.70	9.30													
TOTAL CATCH																				

CANADA: Includes 25 t transferred from USA in 2007-2011 and an annual 100 t transfer from Senegal in 2010-2012, 35 t transfer from both Japan and Chinese Taipei in 2012. 2010 discards (15.2 t) have been taken off 2012 quota.

CHINA: In 2012 and 2013, transfer from Philippines (25 t) has been authorised [Rec. 11-02].

CROATIA: Catches of Mediterranean (Adriatic) SWO amounting to 3119 kg in 2009 and 4245 kg in 2008. These catches are not entered in the Compliance Tables.

since they are not within the northern SWO management framework.

EU: Allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: Adjusted quota in 2011 excludes 50 t transferred to Morocco [Rec. 10-02] and adjusted quota in 2012 exclude 50 t transferred to Morocco and 35 transferred to Canada [Rec. 11-02].

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Information was not submitted before deadline and was not available at the time of adoption of these Compliance Tables.

UK-OT: 20 t transferred to France (SPM) from UK-OT for up to 2010 [Rec. 06-02] to be discontinued in 2011.

USA: Catches include dead discards. Adjusted 2012 limit includes 150 t of transfer from USA to Morocco.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2012 adjusted quota is 370 t (=270+270*50%-35) due to the underage of 2010 exceeding 50% of 2012 catch limit and a transfer of 35t to Canada.

SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
TAC	17000	17000	17000	15000	15000														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00														
BELIZE	150.00	150.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	32.00	111.00	121.00	206.00	88.00	99.00	66.50	-56.00		210.00	187.50	150.00	156.50	
BRAZIL	4720.00	4720.00	3666.00	3785.00	3940.00	3407.00	3386.00	2925.60	3033.00	3407.00	3694.00	3100.40	2585.00	7080.00	7080.00	6026.00	5618.00	5832.50	
CHINA	315.00	315.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	470.00	291.00	294.00	247.51	2.00	130.00	99.00	114.49	472.00	421.00	393.00	362.00	377.49	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	90.00	113.17	163.71	145.44		111.83	23.79	3.35	225.00	225.00	187.50	148.79		
EU	5780.00	5780.00	5282.00	5082.00	4824.00	4417.10	5480.50	6083.30	4962.5	1356.40	236.50	555.10	356.00	5773.50	5717.00	6638.40	5318.50	5379.10	5180.00
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	177.00	132.00	116.00	60.4		-74.00	-90.00	-50.4	135.00	58.00	26.00	10.00	49.86	
JAPAN	1215.00	1080.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	1212.09	900.11	1213.74	1081.22	695.91	875.80	437.26	207.04	1908.00	1775.91	1651.00	1288.26	1058.04	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	76.50	10.00	0.00	0.00	-70.50	-30.50	19.50	69.50	6.00	-20.50	19.50	69.50	50.00	
NAMIBIA	1400.00	1400.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1239.00	534.00	526.50	348.10	-51.00	815.00	791.50	1027.40	1188.00	1349.00	1318.00	1375.50	1681.45	
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	45.00	53.00	13.00	51.00		-3.00	38.00	24.00		50.00	47.00	75.00		
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	138.00	188.00	193.00	0.00	-38.00	-88.00	-93.00	100.00						
SENEGAL	400.00	500.00	389.00	401.00	417.00	138.80	195.00	180.00	222.00	271.20	216.00	282.00	395.00		411.00	462.00	617.00	625.50	
SOUTH AFRICA	1200.00	1200.00	932.00	962.00	1001.00	142.00	170.00	144.70	96.57	1658.00	1630.00	1387.30	1465.43	1800.00	1800.00	1532.00	1562.00	1601.00	
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50
URUGUAY	1500.00	1500.00	1165.00	1204.00	1252.00	370.00	501.00	222.00	179.00	1130.00	1749.00	1693.00	1784.00	1500.00	2250.00	1915.00	1954.00	2144.00	
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	200.00	200.00	99.75	99.75	200.00	200.00	100.00	99.75	100.00	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	3.35	0.00	2.23	0.89	16.65	20.00	17.77	28.11		20.00	20.00	29.00	29.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	550.00	550.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	727.00	612.00	410.00	424.00	97.00	35.00	84.00	119.00	824.00	647.00	494.00	543.00	578.00	
TOTAL																			
Rec. no.	06-03	06-03	06-03	09-03	09-03									02-03	06-03	06-03	06-03	09-03	09-03

BELIZE: Received a 25 t transfer of S-SWO from USA which ultimately increased the catch limit to 150 t.

EU: Allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: Underage of 2010 and of 2011 may be carried over to 2011 and to 2012 up to 800 t. [Rec.09-03].

JAPAN: Adjusted quota in 2011 and 2012 excludes 50 t transferred to Namibia [Rec. 09-03].

SOUTH AFRICA will transfer 600 t of its uncaught quota of 2010 to 2012 providing an adjusted quota of 1601 t for 2012.

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: No adjustments have been made to initial quotas, as catch figures are based on estimates carried over from previous years.

USA: Catches include landings and dead discards.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2012 adjusted quota includes 119 t of 2011 underage.

EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
TAC	28500	22000	13500	12900	12900														
ALBANIA		50.00	33.83	32.3	32.30		50.00				0.00				50.00	33.83	32.3		
ALGERIE	1460.04	1117.42	684.90	138.46	138.46	1311.00	222.82	0.00	0.00	149.00	804.62	684.90	138.46	1460.04	1027.42	684.90	228.46	138.46	
CHINA	63.55	61.32	38.48	36.77	36.77	119.00	41.67	38.20	35.93	-17.56	2.09	0.28	0.84	101.44	43.76	38.48	36.77	36.77	
CROATIA	833.08	641.45	393.50	376.01	376.01	834.03	620.10	388.60	375.00	-0.10	19.90	4.90	1.00	833.08	640.00	393.50	376.01	376.01	
EGYPT		50.00	50.00	64.58	64.58		0.00	n.a	64.58				0.00		50.00	50.00	64.58	64.58	
EU	16210.75	12406.62	7604.38	7266.41	7266.41	14963.50	11042.37	6053.56	5656.45	1247.30	864.25	1032.82	99.96	16210.75	11906.62	7086.38	5756.41	5756.41	
ICELAND	51.53	49.72	31.20	29.82	29.82	50.00	0.00	0.00	2.35	1.53	49.00	31.20	76.46	51.53	0.72	31.20	78.81	29.82	
JAPAN	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	2254.30	1858.20	1139.28	1088.82	176.25	13.24	8.77	8.21	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	
KOREA	171.77	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	335.00	102.35	0.00	0.00	3.72	29.21	81.14	77.53	338.72	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	
LIBYA	1236.74	946.52	580.15	902.66	902.66	1317.80	1081.64	645.30	0.00	64.19	10.13	79.85	902.66	1381.99	1091.77	725.15	902.66	902.66	
MAROC	2728.56	2088.26	1279.96	1223.07	1223.07	2478.00	2278.00	1554.00	1236.94	577.50	122.00	52.96	1.39	3055.50	2400.00	1606.96	1238.33	1223.07	
NORWAY	51.53	49.72	31.20	29.82	29.82	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.24	49.72	31.20	29.82	51.53	49.72	31.20	29.82	29.82	
SYRIA	51.53	50.00	33.83	32.33	32.33	40.50		34.00		11.03				51.53	50.00	33.83	82.05		
TUNISIE	2254.48	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	2679.24	1931.72	1043.58	851.48	-314.76	6.15	65.93	8.70	2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.18	1017.56	
TURKEY	887.19	683.11	419.06	535.89	535.89	879.17	665.47	409.49	527.53	0.10	17.64	9.57	8.36	879.17	683.11	419.06	535.89	535.89	
CH. TAIPEI	68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68.71	0.00	41.60	106.05	68.71	0.00	41.60	106.05	39.75	
TOTAL CATCH																			
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>08-05</i>	<i>08-05</i>	<i>09-06</i>	<i>10-04</i>	<i>10-04</i>									<i>06-08</i>	<i>08-05</i>	<i>09-06</i>	<i>10-04</i>	<i>10-04</i>	

ALBANIA: In accordance with paragraph 9 of Rec. 10-04, Albania was not allowed to engage in bluefin tuna fishing during the 2012 fishing season.

ALGERIA: Transfer of 90 t of its 2009 quota to 2011 (1117.42 - 90 = 1027.42 is the quota for 2009). Algeria has lodged an objection to Rec. 10-04.

EU: Voluntary reduction of 18 t for 2010 (COC inter-sessional meeting, February 2010).

ICELAND: Transfer of 49 t of 2009 quota to 2011.

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

MOROCCO: In 2011, Morocco will have a supplementary amount (15.26 t) from the 2009 voluntary carry over, applied in accordance with the Commission's decision.

SYRIA: In accordance with paragraph 9 of Rec. 10-04, Syria was not allowed to engage in bluefin tuna fishing during the 2012 fishing season.

TURKEY: Turkey has lodged an objection to the quota for 2007-2010 (Annex 4 of Rec. 08-05) and has lodged an objection to Article 8 (TAC and quota allocation scheme) of Rec. 10-04.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2011 adjusted quota is 106.05 t (= 39.75 + 66.3) including 66.3 t transferred from 2009 quota.

WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/limit					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
TAC	2100	1900	1800	1750	1750														
CANADA	546.40	505.29	495.00	396.66	396.66	574.78	533.10	512.90	483.30	51.40	23.60	5.70	5.60	626.20	556.70	518.60	488.90	488.80	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.10	3.40	8.08	0.40	13.30	13.90	9.82	7.60	16.40	17.30	17.90	8.00	8.00	
JAPAN	380.47	329.79	311.02	301.64	301.64	418.82	281.67	425.18	303.95	72.77	120.89	6.73	4.42	491.59	402.56	431.91	308.37	306.06	
MEXICO	25.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	7.00	10.00	14.00	14.00	143.00	37.00	31.50	4.00	150.00	47.00	45.50	18.00	12.50	
UK-OT	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.26	35.80	39.53	43.53	47.27	35.80	39.80	43.53	47.53	8.00	
USA	1190.10	1034.90	977.40	948.70	948.70	919.90	1272.60	952.64	883.68	865.30	279.80	304.56	159.89	1785.20	1552.40	1257.20	1043.57	1043.57	
TOTAL LANDING						1923.60	2101.04	1912.80	1685.59										
Discards																			
CANADA	n.a	n.a	n.a			0.70	2.90												
JAPAN	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		n.a	n.a	n.a		n.a	n.a	n.a		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS						0.70	2.90												
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
Rec. number	06-06	08-04	08-04	10-03	10-03									06-06	08-04	08-04	10-03	10-03	10-03

CANADA: 2012 includes a 86.5 t transfer from Mexico as per Rec. 10-03.

CANADA: Catches inclusive of observed discards, recreational harvest mortalities and tagging mortalities.

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional. The figures refer to the fishing season, i.e. from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012.

MEXICO: In 2012 transfer of 86.5 t to Canada from 2011 [Rec. 10-03]. In 2011, transfer of 86.5 t to Canada and 10% of initial TAC allowed to carry over [Rec. 10-03].

USA: Catches include landings and dead discards.

BIGEYE

YEAR	Initial catch limit					Reference years		Current catches				Balance				Adjusted catch limits					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Average (91-92)	1999 (SCRS 2000)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
TAC	90000	90000	85000	85000	85000																
ANGOLA						0.00	0.00														
BARBADOS						0.00	0.00	14.00	17.20	11.70	7.10										
BELIZE						0.00	0.00	70.10	60.00	249.00	1218.00										
BRAZIL						570.00	2024.00	957.60	1189.00	1151.10	1799.20										
CANADA						46.50	263.00	130.20	111.00	102.80	136.90										
CAP VERT						128.00	1.00	1068.00	827.00	1164.00	1037.00										
CHINA	5900	5900	5900	5572	5572.00	0.00	7347.00	5685.00	4973.00	5489.00	3720.78	2415.8	2927.00	4181.00	4851.22	8100.80	7900.00	9670.00	8572.00	10342.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	0.00	302.00	790.00	659.70	47.10										
EU	24000.00	24000.00	24000.00	22667.00	22667.00	26672.00	21970.00	11780.50	19791.49	18269.40	23526.39	19569.50	11408.51	10430.60	6340.61	31350.00	31200.00	28700.00	29867.00	29867.00	29467.10
FRANCE (P & M)						0.00	0.00	2.60	0.00	2.50	0.00										
GABON						0.00	184.00														
GHANA	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	4722.00	4722.00	3478.00	11460.00	9269.00	10554.00	6769.00	4440.00	-8543.00	-14087.00	-13366.00	-13074.00	726.00	-3543.00	-6587.00	-8634.00	4897.00	
GUATEMALA						0.00	0.00	998.00	987.00	1011.00	281.90										
JAPAN	25000.00	25000.00	25000.00	23611.00	23611.00	32539.00	23690.00	14597.16	13127.79	12919.83	10917.15	13665.84	17372.21	16780.17	15977.15	28263.00	30500.00	29700.00	26894.30	27624.30	
KOREA				1983.00	1983.00	834.00	124.00	2599.00	2134.00	2646.00	2762.00			254.00	21.00			2900.00	2783.00	1984.00	
MAROC						0.00	700.00	802.00	795.00	276.00	300.00										
MEXICO						0.00	6.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
NAMIBIA						0.00	423.00	146.00	108.00	71.50	207.70										
PANAMA	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3306.00	3306.00	8724.50	26.00	2263.00	2405.00	1399.00	3461.55	2365.00	1095.00	2101.00	-155.55	4628.00	3500.00	3500.00	3306.00	4200.45	
PHILIPPINES				1983.00	1983.00	0.00	943.00	1874.00	1880.00	1399.00	1266.00			584.00	717.00						
RUSSIA						0.00	8.00	73.00	43.00	0.00	0.00										
SAO TOME & P						0.00	0.00	92.00	94.00	97.00											
SENEGAL						7.00	0.00		1041.00	844.00	239.00										
SOUTH AFRICA						57.50	41.00	224.00	179.70	144.80	152.50	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
St. V. & GR.						0.50		171.00	292.00	395.90	37.00										
TRIN. & TOBAGO.						131.50	19.00	68.80	56.00	40.00											
UK-OT						6.50	8.00	28.30	17.00	11.20	189.05										
URUGUAY						38.00	59.00	27.00	31.00	23.00	15.00		n.a								
USA						893.50	1261.00	488.50	515.20	571.31	746.12										
VANUATU						0.00	0.00	91.44	15.08	41.60	35.16										
VENEZUELA						373.20	128.00	122.00	159.00	85.00	263.80										
CURACAO						0.00	0.00	251.00	581.00	2688.00	3441.40										
CH. TAIPEI	16500.00	16500.00	16500.00	15583.00	15583.00	12698.00	16837.00	10418.00	13252.00	13189.00	13732.00	6117.00	6598.00	8261.00	6525.90	16535.00	19850.00	21450.00	20257.90	20187.90	
GUYANA																					
TOTAL CATCH																					
Rec. No.	04-01, 05-03, 06-01	08-01	09-01	10-01	11-01											04-01, 05-03, 06-01	08-01	08-01	10-01	11-01	11-01

GHANA: In 2010, 2500 t transfer of bigeye tuna catch limit of EU shall be authorised [Rec. 09-01]. In 2012-2015, annual transfer of China (70 t), Korea (20 t), Ch. Taipei (70 t) and Japan (70 t) have been authorised [Rec. 11-01].

GHANA: Committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t. per year.

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: Adjusted quota of Japan in 2011 excludes 3000 t transferred to China and 800 t transferred to Korea [Rec. 10-01].

JAPAN: Adjusted quota of Japan in 2012 excludes 3000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 11-01].

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2010 adjusted quota is 21450 t due to the underage of 2008 exceeding 30% of 2010 catch limit (21450 = 16500 + 16500 * 30%).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2011 adjusted quota is 20257.9 t due to the underage of 2009 exceeding 30% of 2011 catch limit (20257.9 = 15583 + 15583 * 30%).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2012 adjusted quota is 20187.9 (= 15583 + 15583 * 30% - 70) due to 2010 underage exceeding 30% of 2012 catch limit and transfer of 70 t to Ghana.

WHITE MARLIN

	<i>Initial landings</i>				<i>Reference years</i>		<i>Current landings</i>				<i>Balance</i>			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	1998	1999	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
					(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS
BRAZIL	51.81	51.81	51.81	51.81	70.00	158.00	46.60	52.30	34.97	59.66				
CANADA	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	8.00	5.00	2.60	0.60	1.90	0.80	0.00	2.00	0.70	1.80
CHINA	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9	30	4.50	8.50	8.00	0.73	5.40	1.40	1.90	9.17
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	1.00	7.00	1.60	0.65	7.17	0.52	0.71	1.66	-4.86	1.79
EU	46.50	46.50	46.50	46.50	148.00	127.00	67.60	56.32	29.20	22.40	-21.10	-9.82	17.30	24.10
JAPAN	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	112.00	40.00	28.84	28.80	40.78	38.46	8.16	8.20	-3.78	-1.46
KOREA	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	59.00	0.00	18.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	11.50	19.50	19.50
MEXICO	3.63	3.63	3.63	3.63	0.00	11.00	13.00	19.00	20.00	28.00	-9.37	-15.37	-16.37	-24.37
PHILIPPINES	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	0.00	12.00	1.20		1.70	2.00	2.76		2.26	1.96
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.30	8.20	13.00	10.30	11.00	15.00		-6.00	-6.70	-10.70	
VENEZUELA	50.04	50.04	50.04	50.04	152.00	43.00	10.00	49.00	46.00	40.81	40.04	1.04	4.04	9.23
CHINESE TAIPEI	186.80	186.80	186.80	186.80	586.00	465.00	38.00	28.00	20.00	28.00	148.80	158.80	166.80	158.80
TOTAL							242.24	262.17	224.72					
USA (# of fish whm+bum)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			117.00	97.00	100.00	106.00	133.00	153.00	150.00	144.00
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>06-09</i>	<i>06-09</i>	<i>06-09</i>	<i>06-09</i>										

MARLIN CATCH LIMITS ARE TARGETS FOR MORTALITY REDUCTION AND BALANCES ARE NOT INTERPRETED AS ADJUSTMENTS.

BRAZIL: Release are of live marlin. Retained marlin are not for commercial use. Brazil requested to delete the balance figure.

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

MEXICO: The quotas were determined before Mexico became an ICCAT member, which therefore requires a review. The landings are dead by-catches retained. Live billfish are released.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Landings are only by-catches.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Catch limits have been adjusted in accordance with Rec. 06-09 and revised historical statistics accepted by the SCRS at its 2009 meeting.

USA: In numbers of fish landed, white marlin (including 7 roundscale spearfish) and blue marlin combined. The inclusion of roundscale spearfish reflects domestic regulation.

BLUE MARLIN

	<i>Initial limits</i>				<i>Reference years</i>		<i>Current landings</i>				<i>Balance</i>			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	1998	1999	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
					(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	LL+PS				LL+PS	LL+PS		
BARBADOS	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	127.80	87.80	100.00	36.00	8.60	13.00	-90.50	-26.50	0.90	-3.50
BELIZE					0.00	0.00			3.00				-3.00	
BRAZIL	254.40	254.40	254.40	254.40	308.00	509.00	169.20	149.10	130.10	63.35				
CHINA	100.50	100.50	100.50	100.50	62	201	12.70	77.00	77.00	99.50	87.80	23.50	23.50	1.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE								119.62	42.67	42.08		-119.62	-42.67	-42.08
EU	103.00	103.00	103.00	103.00	206.00	200.00	158.60	165.77	146.80	69.70	-55.60	-62.77	-43.80	33.30
JAPAN	839.50	839.50	839.50	839.50	1679.00	790.00	704.14	553.46	425.99	395.94	135.36	286.04	413.51	443.56
KOREA	72.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	144.00	0.00	78.00	57.00	55.00	57.00	-6.00	15.00	17.00	15.00
MEXICO	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	13.00	35.00	81.00	92.00	88.00	67.00	-63.50	-74.50	-70.50	-49.50
PHILIPPINES	35.50	35.50	35.50	35.50	0.00	71.00	7.80		3.00	3.50	27.70	35.50	32.50	32.00
SOUTH AFRICA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.20	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-0.20
T & TOBAGO	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.90	13.90	19.70	34.00	19.00	22.00		-24.10	-9.10	-12.10	
VENEZUELA	30.40	30.40	30.40	30.40	60.74	29.99		38.30	42.00	32.98		-7.90	-11.60	-2.58
CHINESE TAIPEI	330.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	660.00	486.00	148.00	195.00	153.00	199.00	182.00	135.00	177.00	131.00
TOTAL							1493.44	1502.25	1197.66					
USA (# of fish whm+bum)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			117.00	97.00	100.00	106.00	133.00	153.00	144.00	
<i>Rec. number</i>	06-09	06-09	06-09	06-09										

MARLIN CATCH LIMITS ARE TARGETS FOR MORTALITY REDUCTION AND BALANCES ARE NOT INTERPRETED AS ADJUSTMENTS.

BRAZIL: Releases are of live marlin. Retained marlin are not for commercial use. Brazil requested to delete the balance figure.

BARBADOS: The values listed under "blue marlin" for years prior to 2010 are total catches of all billfish species (except swordfish) including blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish, as reported to ICCAT under the category "BIL".

JAPAN: 2011 figures are provisional.

MEXICO: The quotas were determined before Mexico became an ICCAT member, which therefore requires a review. The landings are dead by-catches retained. Live billfish are released.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Landings are only by-catches.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Catch limits have been adjusted in accordance with Rec. 06-09 and revised historical statistics accepted by the SCRS at its 2009 meeting.

USA: In numbers of fish landed, white marlin and blue marlin combined; in 2010, in addition, 19 roundscale spearfish were landed.

Compliance with Size Limits in 2011

Species Area	SWO		BFT						
	AT.N	AT.S	AT.E	AT.E	AT.E	Med	Adriatic	Med	AT.W
Recommendation Number	10-02		10-04 For BB, TROL; <17 m	10-04 For BB, TROL; >17 m	10-04 All other gears	10-04 Coastal artisanal fisheries	10-04 Catches taken for farming purposes	10-04. All other gears	10-03 all gears
Min Weight (kg)	25 or 15		6.4	8	30	8	8	30	30
Min Size (cm)	125 or 119		--	--	--	--	--	--	115
Tolerance (% of total)	15% 125 cm - 0% 119		Up to 7% of quota with max. of 100t	0%	Max. 5% between 10-30 kg	No more than 2% of quota for fresh fish	No more than 90% of quota	5% tolerance between 10-30kg of landing	Average over 2009 and 2010 not more than 10%
Albania									
Algerie						no more than 2%		5% tolerance	
Angola									
Barbados	0.0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Belize									
Brazil		12%							
Canada	<1%								<1%
Cap Vert									
China	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Côte d'Ivoire	0.0%	0%							
Croatia							0%	0%	
Egypt							0%		
EU	2.95%	1.18%	0.63	0.50%	0%	0.83	0%	0.72%	0%
France (St. P & M)	0.0%								0.0%
Gabon									
Ghana		3%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Guatemala									
Guinea Ecuatorial									
Guinée République									
Honduras									
Iceland					0				
Japan	<15%	<15%	n.a	n.a	0.00%	n.a	n.a	n.a	0.00%
Korea	<1%	<1%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0%	n.a
Libya	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0
Maroc	11% - 0%	n.a	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a
Mauritanie									
Mexico			n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0
Namibia	n.a	0.0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Nicaragua									
Nigeria									
Norway	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Panama									
Philippines		3%							
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sao Tome									
Senegal									
Sierra Leone									
South Africa	n.a	<2%*	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
St. Vincent & G									
Syria									
Trinidad & Tobago									
Tunisie								3.8%	
Turkey	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	0	n.a
UK-OT									
USA	1.57%	0.00%							5.90%
Uruguay	9%								
Vanuatu	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Venezuela									
Chinese Taipei	0.98% - 0%	1.39% - 0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Colombia									
Curaçao									
Guyana									

South Africa:* - Typical value in previous years when observers programme was established for vessels fishing in the Atlantic Ocean. All undersized fish handed over to FCOs and not permitted to be marketed.

Compliance Summary Tables

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
ALBANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report, no Task I or Task II data received.	Not present to respond	Serious infractions detected require a letter of identification requesting to fully implement the measures of BFT plan. Mention the seriousness of not submitting BFT plans and mention that no BFT fishing allowed in 2012 since no plans have been submitted. In 2012, reply to letter of identification received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistics received, but no annual report received.	Letter received from Albania explaining administrative changes and requesting assistance to comply with all ICCAT requirements in the future. Additional letter with more detail received late.	Lift identification but send letter of concern reminding Albania of BFT requirements. Panel 2 will decide in relation to 2013 fishing plan.
	Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 10-04 and 09-11.</i> No implementation of fishing plan or of Rec. 10-04 received. No BFT fishing etc. plan for 2012 received. By-catch of BFT taken but no BCD issued/submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 10-04 and 11-20.</i> BFT Fishery prohibited by Commission in 2012.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables submitted.					
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
ALGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I catch data or Task II data submitted. No BFT fishery in 2010.	Task I and Task II reports were submitted on time. Only Task II data show some limited deficiencies.		Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
			Lift identification and send letter of concern asking for timely and regular submission of Task I and Task II data. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	<i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCD contact point details received late.	Data collection system set-up and will be strengthened further in 2013. Algerian scientists now actively participating in SCRS.	No action necessary
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.			Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.		
	Other issues: No infractions recorded.			Other issues: Allegation of WWF and response.		

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
ANGOLA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I or Task II data, No Annual Report received.	Delays in data submission are due to current reorganisation of Ministry of Fisheries which has been merged with the Ministry of Agriculture.	Maintain identification and send letter requesting data reporting improvement plan. In 2012, no reply received to letter of identification.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I or Task II data. No Annual Report received.	Only artisanal fisheries. Difficult to collect the data. A Ministry of Fisheries has been established and issues reported will be solved in the near future.	Maintain identification and request greater efforts in data collection and reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: It is unclear which elements are applicable to Angola.			Conservation and Management Measures: No information or reports were received in 2012. It is unknown which elements are applicable to Angola.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			
	Other issues:		Other issues:			

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
BARBADOS	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Not present to respond but no infractions detected.	No action needed.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		Letter of concern requesting Barbados to identify applicable reporting requirements and requesting information on actions taken relating to overharvest of BUM and requesting management plan.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: It is unclear which elements are applicable to Barbados as reporting requirements response not received in 2012.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest in BUM.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
BELIZE	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Maintain letter of concern mentioning the seriousness of overharvesting. Ask for a management plan including a pay-back of the overharvest. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.		Letter of concern encouraging continued efforts in albacore payback, and requesting further investigation into possible transshipments of by-catch of ICCAT species and more information on new VMS system. Request further information on organisation of south swordfish quota management.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No infractions detected.			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-05:</i> Minor delay in receipt of first S-ALB report	Note from Belize: Belize is a developing nation dedicated to ensuring compliance with all relevant reporting requirements as is evident by the number of our data submissions. However, due to limited financial, institutional and human resources we are not always in a position to ensure compliance with certain measures within the time allocated or have not realized the necessary resources required to ensure that these measures of implemented accordingly. We therefore seek the consideration of the Commission in this regard. We nonetheless wish to reiterate our dedication to ensure compliance by our fleet in an effort to safeguard the sustainability of the tuna stock in this area. Payback albacore and swordfish plans have been submitted. No tuna transhipped outside ROP, but will register all carrier vessels in future to avoid problems. VMS system has been renewed and now fully operational.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of N. ALB.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest in N-ALB, in S-ALB and in S-SWO.		
	Other issues: [for information: Participation in ROP since May 2011]. Fishing in Senegal EEZ (Eu allegations)	Authorities from Belize and Senegal are in bilateral contacts to adress and solve the alleged cases of fishing in the Senegalese EEZ by Belize vessels. However it seems that the issue does not concern stocks under the purview of ICCAT. Sanctions are being considered.		Other issues: Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level not yet finalised - measures are being drafted and implemented. Concerns raised over at sea transshipments outside of transshipment observer programme and with VMS transmission		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
BRAZIL	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Maintain letter of concern, asking for clarifications concerning existing chartering arrangements and for submission of chartering summary report. In 2012, no reply to letter of concern received but documents not submitted in 2011 have been sent to the Secretariat one month before the annual meeting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: no infractions detected		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures: Vessel chartering summary report not submitted. LSTLV and Internal Actions 20m reports not submitted.	The concerned Ministry is undergoing a major restructuring which caused the delay in submission. These will be submitted as soon as possible, in the future will ensure future timely production of reports.		Conservation and Management measures:	Brazil has no access agreements. Recs. 11-08, 01-21, 01-22 are not applicable to Brazil.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of WHM in 2011.	No sale of this species allowed. Figures refer to discards and donations	
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
CANADA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Some inconsistencies have appeared during the last year and corrective actions are being undertaken internally so to solve them and revert to a timely and correct submission from next year.	Maintain letter of concern on the full and correct implementation of the BCD programme, in particular on the identification number. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected	All BFT tagged in Canada, so submission of BCDs not required, but Canada will submit any outstanding information after the meeting. Many SCRS submissions contained in Annual Report or scientific documents. Requirement list will be revised and any outstanding information submitted as soon as possible. Need clarification on reporting mechanism for the future.	Letter of concern on implementation of BCD system.
	Conservation and Management Measures: several BCDs are sent with incorrect identification number/not corresponding to year of catch. <i>Rec. 09-11:</i> BCD annual report does not cover period of reference. Revised version received late.			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 98-08:</i> List of N-ALB vessels received late due to confusion between deadlines for BET/YFT vessels. <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> no BCDs received in 2012 and information concerning BCDs of 2008 to 2011 not yet complete.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected.		
	Other issues: none recorded.			Other issues: Some information for SCRS not received.		

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
CAPE VERDE	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Not present to respond.		Annual Reports/ Statistics: No issued detected.		
	Conservation and Management Measures: No internal actions (vessel 20m+) received.	No comprehensive information on the level of participation in ICCAT fisheries.	Lift identification and send letter to express concern on data reporting. In 2012, no reply received to letter of concern.	Conservation and Management Measures: No internal actions (vessel 20m+) received. List of BET/YFT slightly late. It is unknown which reporting requirements are applicable to Cape-Verde		Letter of concern regarding applicability of reporting requirements and lack of internal actions report and compliance tables, and requesting information on monitoring and control of tropical tuna fisheries.
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance table submitted.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance table submitted.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues:		

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
CHINA, People's Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:			Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		No action necessary, but concerns on full implementation of BCD system to be reflected in Compliance Committee Report.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		Send letter of concern requesting clarification on the implementation of the BCD scheme in Hong Kong. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec.11-20 : BCDs for 2011 received in 2012 and BCDs for 2012 fishing season not yet received.	All bluefin tuna catches are tail tagged. BCDs will be issued once fish are offloaded at port.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected.		
	Other issues: report under Rec. 08-09 concerning the BCD programme (WWF).	The concerned BFT was found in the Hong Kong market but ICCAT Convention and rules do not apply to Hong Kong which has a special status vis-à-vis China.		Other issues: ROP; WWF letter and response. Concerns over shark fin ratio raised	Vessels have been instructed to implement recommendation but market price extremely high which could encourage non-compliance. Additional measures will be taken and China will report back in 2013.	

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task I fleet characteristics not submitted. Task II size data not submitted.	Fisheries are mainly artisanal and it is difficult to sensibelize small operators on the need and obligation of submitting data. However, actions are being taken (national workshops to raise awareness and adoption of a "national data collection plan"). Furthermore, because of the restructuring within the Ministry of Fisheries, reports were not submitted on time but they will be submitted as soon as possible.	Lift identification considering the improvements in data collection. Send letter of concern with respect to some remaining shortcomings in data reporting (artisanal sector also needs to report) and ask for cooperation with Ghana on port inspections/Abidjan. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received late.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task II size data received but format incorrect.	Major improvements to data collection and all submitted to Secretariat. Are working on formats.	Letter of concern recognising efforts and improvements and requesting further information regarding swordfish management Request further information on marlin fishery and management, and any further available information on shark data and management, and recall importance of timely reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT vessels received late due to confusion with forms., Report on closed season not received.	Quota of S-SWO reserved for artisanal/subsistence fisheries. Plan sent in 2011 but not updated in 2012.	
	Quotas and catch limits: None detected.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM.	Artisanal/subsistence fisheries, difficult to implement rec. due to very low quotas.	
	Other issues: None recorded.					

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
CROATIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:			Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.		
	Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 10-04.</i> Vessels fished previous year (para 60) received late. <i>Rec. 09-04.</i> List of pelagic longliners fishing in the Mediterranean in the previous year received late.		Maintain letter of concern with respect to some reporting issues on BFT farming operations and lack of compliance with para 87 of Rec. 10-04. In 2012, no reply to letter of concern received.	Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-03:</i> Report on closed SWO-MED season not received. <i>Rec. 10-04:</i> Individual quotas 2012 received late. Fishing plan for 2013 late.	Croatia reported that missing information was submitted. Written response received from Croatia during the meeting. Stereoscopic pilot project completed.	Letter of concern regarding continued problems with VMS format, recognising progress and encouraging further improvements, and requesting report required on SWO-Med closure.
	Quotas and catch limits: None detected.	Quotas and catch limits: None detected.				
	Other issues: BFT-ROP - Observer reports Lack of pilot study under para. 87 of Rec. 10-04.	Other issues: <i>Rec 07-08:</i> VMS messages should be submitted automatically and not in text files.		Have been working to resolve this.		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
EGYPT	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Reports concerning the 2011 BFT seasons will be submitted at this meeting. Egypt thought that fishing, inspection and capacity plans for the 2012 season should have been submitted after the Commission meeting. They will be submitted as soon as possible.	Maintain letter of concern with respect to data reporting and lack of submission of BFT plans and lack of implementation of para. 87 of Rec. 10-04. Acknowledge progress made since joining ICCAT and encourage further improvements. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part I of annual report not received. Statistical data for 2011 not reported (Egypt submitted statistical data for 2012).	Missing information from 2011 will be submitted as soon as possible.	Letter of concern acknowledging improvement in data reporting but requesting data for 2011.
	Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 10-04:</i> No implementation of fishing plan or of Rec. 10-04 received. No BFT fishing etc. plan for 2012 received. No internal actions report on vessels 20m+ received. <i>Rec. 09-11:</i> No BCD annual report received.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: No infractions detected.		

CPC	2011			2012		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
EUROPEAN UNION	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task I fleet characteristics incomplete (no data for EU-Malta fleet characteristics).	The EU needs to collect and elaborate a huge amount of data from several Member States and this inevitably caused delays in the past. However, the European Commission has created a centralised service for "integrated fisheries data management" which will improve future reporting.	Lift identification and send letter of concern with respect to delays in reports submission, Blue Marlin overharvest. Express continued concern on the evidence of driftnets use. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/Statistics:		
	Conservation and Management Measures: History of SWO fishery and development/management plan received late. BCD annual reports received only for some Member States (CY, EL, ES, IT, ML).			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT vessels and previous year vessels received late (partially unprocessable).List of observers received late. <i>Rec.11-20:</i> BCDs not always received 5 days after validation. <i>Rec. 11-09:</i> Some information on bird mitigation measures received late.	Many thousands of BCDs issued each year, and many sent on time. eBCD expected to resolve issue of late submission.	Letter of concern, commending improvements made and encouraging continued vigilance in the implementation of driftnet ban, request timely submission of shark data in advance of scheduled stock assessment. Request timely submission of BCDs.
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM	Catches of BUM are involuntary by-catches. As of 2011 the EU has allocated its quota among its Members States through legally binding measures, therefore the problem should not occur again in the future.		Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: observer reports-BFT-ROP; reports under Rec. 08-09 (PEW, WWF).	Anomalies and irregularities noted in these reports are being investigated and appropriate actions taken when infractions are detected.		Other issues: observer reports-BFT-ROP; Allegations from PEW and EU response. Some concerns on shortfin mako data submissions.	Written response to observer allegations submitted during meeting. New legislation adopted and inspections carried out. No further use of driftnets detected in 2012.	

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
FRANCE (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Maintain letter of concern with respect to some deficiencies in data reporting. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures: No data submitted under Rec. 10-03.	France (SPM) only acquired its first tuna vessel in March 2011 (notified in June) and therefore only had to report from June 2011. Reporting for the period June-October 2011 was submitted at the meeting.		Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> No legislation or contact points for BCD received.	Legislation approved in March 2012 submitted during the meeting.	
	SWO history received late.					
	Quotas and catch limits: None detected.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

	2011			2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
GABON	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Gabon does not have a tuna fishing fleet but only access arrangements to its waters with EU and Japan. These CPCs declare catches under their quotas. No other catches are made.	Lift identification and send letter of concern to request data improvement plan and improved reporting on MCS measures. In 2012, no reply received to letter of concern.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received; no statistical data received. In 2011 Gabon indicated they had no fishing fleet.	Only artisanal catches of small tuna taken by Gabon. Will take steps to ensure that information is sent as soon as possible.	Letter of concern requesting data and information on applicability of ICCAT requirements.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No information received.	Gabon will soon submit a summary report with respect to the national fishing activities.		Conservation and Management Measures: No access reports received. It is unknown which elements are applicable to Gabon	One access agreement in currently in force.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
GHANA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task I fleet characteristics not submitted.	Ghana made important efforts in improving data collection and data reporting. An MoU was signed with Côte d'Ivoire so to account for catches landed by Ghanaian vessels in Abidjan port. Task I fleet characteristics were submitted on time.	Lift identification and send letter of concern requiring implementation of effective measures to prohibit at-sea transshipments. Call for compliance with fleet capacity provisions with BET measures. Implement the payback plan on overharvest of BET.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter of concern recognising efforts made, acknowledging payback plan and requesting Ghana to continue in its effort and implementation of catch management plan and data reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Internal actions (20m+) report received.	No LSTLV in Ghana (as already mentioned last year).	Acknowledge the tangible efforts and concrete improvements but ask for equivalent efforts for the future. In 2012, reply to letter of identification received.	Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> BET/YFT vessels list received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of S. SWO and BET (Task I data). Compliance Tables received late.	The overharvest of S. SWO is due to small artisanal coastal fisheries. Ghana presented a payback plan for the BET overharvest and not further overharvest has occurred since 2010.	Need of a Recommendation to endorse repayment plan, including a fleet capacity reduction plan.	Quotas and catch limits:	Payback plan and capacity reduction plan for bigeye tuna has been submitted	
	Other issues:			Other issues: At-sea transshipment issued raised in 2011	New VMS system in place and transshipment at sea prohibited and specified on fishing licences. Traceability systems in place in the canneries.	

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
GUATEMALA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Send letter to lift identification recognizing improvements made in meeting ICCAT obligations.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: No infraction detected		
	Quotas and catch limits: None detected.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2008		2011			2012	
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2008 (COC-303, Tables 1-8, PLE-105, Tables 1-4, COC-304A)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task I data not submitted, Task II data not submitted	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	There is no national fleet fishing for tuna species under the purview of ICCAT. Staff improvements are being made to improve data collection and reporting. Catches derive from artisanal fisheries which send data with important delays.	Send letter of concern with respect to continued deficiencies in data reporting (in particular lack of timely submission and lack of complete Task I and Task II). In 2012, reply received to letter of concern.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No fleet characteristics or Task II data received.	No fleet fishing for ICCAT species so far. Plans to register one longliner on the ICCAT list.	Letter of concern regarding late submission of data and reports
	Conservation and Management Measures: No infractions recorded	Conservation and Management Measures: the data sent for the Compliance Tables do not correspond to the request of Rec. 98-14.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.		
	Other issues: None recorded	Other issues:			Other issues: Information on Access Agreements incomplete	Only one private agreement .	

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
GUINEA Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. Task I fleet characteristics and Task II data not received.	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification with respect to data reporting and ask for clarifications on actions taken against IUU listed vessel. In 2012, no reply received to letter of identification.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual report not received. No Task I, fleet statistics or size data received.	Some data sent in 2012. ICCAT requirements very complex for Guinea.	Lift identification, commend efforts to improve but send letter of concern over lack of reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No internal report (20m+) submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: No internal report (20m+) submitted.	Two of the vessels on the ICCAT Record no longer flagged to Guinea.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.		
	Other issues: One vessel on IUU list. No report of actions taken.			Other issues: One vessel on IUU list. No report of actions taken.	Vessel no longer flagged to Guinea.	

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
HONDURAS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Important efforts are being made by Honduras to meet ICCAT obligations. Reporting was sent on 14 October (however the Secreteriat does not acknowledge this). Honduras does not fish for tunas under the purview of ICCAT. Furthermore, fisheries are undergoing a major reform in the country in order to improve compliance.	Lift identification and send letter of concern with respect to ongoing data reporting deficiencies and need to inform about fisheries management. In 2012, no reply received to letter of concern.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received. Honduras currently has no vessels 20m+ on the ICCAT register.	Some communaion problems in 2012. Honduras is currently totally restructuring its fishery and fishery policy and will submit all information to ICCAT as soon as possible.	Identified due to lack of response and non-receipt of data and/or reports. Request information on applicability of ICCAT requirements.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No internal action (20m+) report received. Compliance Tables were submitted late and may be incomplete.			Conservation and Management Measures: It is unclear which measures are currently applicable to Honduras		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
ICELAND	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCDs never transmitted to Secretariat 5 days after validation.	Situation has been clarified and steps taken to rectify this. BCDs will be sent in timely fashion	
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. No other infractions detected.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
JAPAN	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Maintain a letter of concern with respect to chartering operations with Brazil (doubts on data collection: catches and effort). In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:	Japan is currently investigating to obtain more information on the existing chartering arrangements with Brazil.		Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-20.</i> BCD Annual Report received late.	Fish caught under charter agreements are counted against Brazil quota, in line with Rec 02-21.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest in WHM.	Only by-catch. Efforts made to release alive WHM, but not always possible.	
	Other issues:			Other issues: comment on Access agreements	Access agreements made at private level and cannot be reported in accordance with domestic law.	

2011			2012			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
KOREA, Rep. of	Annual Reports/ Statistics:			Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.		Letter of concern requesting continued actions to ensure Korean nationals do not engage in IUU related activities and request status report in 2013.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: No infraction detected.		
			Lift identification and send letter of concern, in accordance with Rec. 06-14, with respect to activities and involvement of its nationals on Ghana			
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of S. ALB and N. SWO.	Payback programme implemented. No further overharvest occurred since 2010.	flagged purse seiners fishing for BET in Gulf of Guinea. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected.		
	Other issues: involvement of Korean nationals in alleged IUU activities on Ghana flagged purse seiners fishing for BET in Gulf of Guinea.	Korea does not have jurisdiction on national operating outside the country but will still investigate the concerned issues.		Other issues: Rec. 10-04: Observer reports - transshipment at sea requires clarification from Panel 2. Concerns raised regarding activities of Korean nationals in possible illegal transshipments	Korea is reviewing its current regulation. Information already circulated to all nationals and no further such activity detected since warning issued.	

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
LIBYA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I fleet characteristics or Task II data received.	The unprecedented political situation which began in February 2011 caused major disruptions in the working activities of the Ministry of Fisheries (and not only). Additionally, all kind of telecommunications were cut off during that period making therefore the transmission of any kind of document impossible.	Lift identification and send letter of concern with respect to data reporting and MCS in the coming years. In 2012, response to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.	BFT-ROP report regarding the vessel exceeding its IQ is still under investigation. Libya had some problems with the format of VMS messages and will contact Secretariat to solve it.	No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures: No 20m+ internal actions report received.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-20: BCDs not always transmitted to Secretariat 5 days after validation.		
	No information concerning Rec. 10-04.					
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received during the meeting.			Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected		
Other issues:	Other issues: BFT-ROP: PNCs in observer reports, with response from Libya outlining actions taken. Some issues involving VMS messages from non-registered vessels.					

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
MAURITANIA	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.</p>	<p>Mauritania does not have a tuna fishing fleet but only access arrangements to its waters with the EU, Senegal and Japan. These CPCs declare catches under their quotas. No other catches are made. Some tuna by-catches are taken by pelagic industrial fisheries.</p>	<p>Letter of concern on continued lack of compliance with reporting obligations. In 2012, no reply received to letter of concern.</p>	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I or Task II data received.</p>	<p>No national fisheries so no data to report. All access agreements stipulate that data must be sent to ICCAT by the flag State.</p>	<p>Letter of concern requesting information on access agreements and information on possible transshipment of by-catches of ICCAT species.</p>
<p>Conservation and Management Measures: No information.</p>		<p>Conservation and Management Measures: No information.</p>		<p>Will send information and copies of contracts as soon as possible.</p>		
<p>Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received (only small tunas taken by national fleet).</p>		<p>Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received (only small tunas taken by national fleet).</p>				
<p>Other issues: None recorded.</p>		<p>Other issues: No information on access agreements received. Possible concerns of illegal tuna transshipments in the EEZ of Mauritania.</p>				

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
MEXICO	Annual Reports/ Statistics:			Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.		
	Conservation and Management Measures: no data submitted under Rec. 10-03.	The Recommendation entered in force in June 2011. Five reports are due and should be sent during this meeting.	Send a letter of concern with respect to continued overharvesting of WHM and BUM and to lack of submission of W-BFT reporting.	Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Recs. 01-21 and 01-22</i> Data from SDPs received late; <i>Rec. 11-02-</i> Information on N-SWO management received late, but no development plan. and in; <i>Rec. 11-01 :</i> List of BET/YFT vessels received late and incomplete; <i>Rec. 11-21 :</i> BCD Annual Report received late	SDP reports not applicable. Management plan is to catch 200t. List of vessels and BCD report sent late.	Letter of concern recognising efforts and improvements but requesting further efforts on timely submission of reports information on managing fisheries which take marlin species as by-catch.
	Quotas and catch limits: Continuation of overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Quotas were established before Mexico was a member of ICCAT and are very low. Mexico has reiterated several time its request for more equitable quotas. Furthermore, the catches of BUM and WHM are by-catches. Targeted fishing of these species is forbidden by law.	In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Quotas and catch limits: Continuation of overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Quotas were established before Mexico was a member of ICCAT and are very low. Mexico has reiterated several time its request for more equitable quotas. Furthermore, the catches of BUM and WHM are by-catches. Targeted fishing of these species is forbidden by law.	
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues:		

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
MOROCCO	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-02:</i> N-SWO plan received late.		
				<i>Rec. 10-04:</i> BFT management, inspection and capacity plan received late.		
	Rec. 10-04: some BFT weekly reports incomplete - only trap catches.	Some BFT catches deriving from artisanal fisheries where reported during the week following the catch because of the slower retransmission of data received during weekends.		<i>Rec. 10-04:</i> Information/from national observer programmes received late.		
	Rec. 09-11: BCD legislation not submitted; BCD annual report does not cover period of reference.	Rec. 09-11 was transposed into Moroccan legal framework through a Ministerial Order and does not need any further action. BCD is fully complied with.		<i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCDs are not always received at the Secretariat 5 days after validation.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.			Quotas and catch limits: No infraction recorded.		
Other issues:		Other issues: List of BFT catching vessels not submitting VMS.	VMS is compulsory in Morocco. Vessels in the list do not actively target BFT.			

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
NAMIBIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	The 20m report will be sent.	No action needed	Annual Reports/ Statistics: T1 fleet characteristics received late.	Information submitted during the meeting.	No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures: Vessels 20 m + internal actions report not received.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
NICARAGUA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No data to report.	Nicaragua has reported that ICCAT requirements are not applicable as they have limited tuna fisheries.	Maintain identification and reiterate concerns on continued reporting deficiencies and lack of information on ongoing activities. Encourage participation in future meetings. In 2012, no reply received to letter of identification.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No statistics received - Nicaragua has informed Secretariat that no tuna fisheries.	No fishery for ICCAT species so no data to report.	Maintain identification and request response to issues raised in 2011.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No information received. No fisheries.	Not present to respond.		Conservation and Management Measures: None recorded		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received - (no data to report).			Quotas and catch limits: None recorded and no Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
NIGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Nigeria is still developing its tuna fisheries and has not yet started such activities. Nigeria did not send any declarations and did not think that it was necessary.	Lift identification and send letter of concern with respect to continued reporting deficiencies and general lack of information. In 2012, no reply received to letter of concern.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Nigeria currently has no fisheries as these are being developed. A VMS system has been installed and a meeting of stakeholders held to inform them of all ICCAT requirements. Full information will be sent to ICCAT after the meeting.	Re-identify given lack of response to concerns raised in 2011 and non-reporting during 2012.
	Conservation and Management Measures: >20m vessel list and associated reports not submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: No information or reports received.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
NORWAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.			Quotas and catch limits: No infraction recorded.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
PANAMA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report submitted late. No Task I fleet characteristics received.	An internal reorganisation within the Ministry of Fisheries has caused the late sending of Task I data.	Maintain identification and send letter expressing concerns over continued reporting deficiencies and lack of action against alleged violations. In 2012, reply received to letter of identification. Additional letter received late.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infractions detected.		Lift identification and send letter of concern requesting report of ongoing investigation on transshipment/re-exports as alleged by WWF.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Internal action (20m+) not submitted; LSTLV mgmt standard not submitted. Data from BFT national observer programme received late.	Most reports were submitted although late but still in time for the SCRS meeting.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 10-04: List of other BFT vessels - changes received after 1 March.	Panama has eliminated all vessels from BFT other list except carrier vessels renewed in accordance with licence periods. Panama requests Secretariat to inform them when vessels are reported for carrier list by other CPCs.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest in BET	Carry over from 2010 used to cover over-harvest.	
	Other issues: the EU reported that following some inspections at sea to Panama flagged towing vessels, 3 violations were detected, one of which serious (transfer declaration missing).			Other issues: Some issues with non-emission of VMS signals and confusion with VMS messages of the same name. WWF allegations on possible BFT laundering.	Vessel has been fined and VMS now working and signals being sent.	

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
PHILIPPINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Send letter to lift identification recognizing improvements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infractions detected.	Some formatting difficulties encountered but information has now been submitted.	No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT vessels received late due to confusion in reporting forms.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
RUSSIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I fleet statistics received.		Letter of concern over possible at-sea transshipment of by-catch of ICCAT species.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: No infractions detected	Russia is still investigating the allegations of transshipments at sea to fish factory vessel "Lafayette".	
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.			Quotas and catch limits: No infractions recorded.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report not submitted. No Task I fleet characteristics and no Task II data received.	STP does not have a fleet targeting tuna or swordfish. An infrastructure for data collection is being created. A national observer program is ready to be launched.	Lift identification and send letter of concern with respect to continued data reporting deficiencies and asking to establish a closer cooperation with SCRS on catch estimations. In 2012, no reply received to letter of concern.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Sao Tome has reported no commercial fisheries and insufficient infrastructure to collect reliable data on artisanal catches.	Letter of concern relating over non-submission of data and reports, and requesting additional information on access agreements.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No list of vessels 20m+ or associated reports submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted. SCRS informed of STP vessels targeting southern swordfish beyond the available quota.	There are no STP vessels targeting for south swordfish.		Quotas and catch limits: No data available: no Compliance tables received.	Artisanal fisheries not well developed and ICCAT species not targeted by Sao Tome & Principe. Request assistance from ICCAT to improve capacity building.	
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: Information on access agreements incomplete	Info on access agreement already sent by EU.	

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
SIERRA LEONE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification and send letter expressing concerns over continued lack of data reporting and of information on vessels authorization procedures. Encourage participation in future meetings. In 2012, no reply received to letter of identification.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	All vessels operating in Sierra Leone area, both national and foreign flag must be equipped with VMS and send daily reports; as well as 100% observer coverage; and inspection at landing in designated ports. No fishing vessels may be registered in Sierra Leone International Register.	Maintain identification pending improvement in data reporting and request clarity on access agreements and activities.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: Information on access agreements received late and incomplete.		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential Issues of Noncompliance - 2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential Issues of Noncompliance - 2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
SENEGAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Fleet statistics data not received.	Two agreements currently in force, but one not operational. Data is sent by flag State	Letter of concern acknowledging improvement but noting deficiencies regarding non-submission of compliance tables and requesting additional information on access agreements.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-16:</i> No information on access agreements received.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: Concerns over shark fin ration raised.		

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
SOUTH AFRICA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late.	Internal re-organisation led to reporting difficulties. Steps are still being taken to resolve this issue.	Send letter of concern in relation to continued reporting deficiencies. Reply to letter of concern received late.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late.		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures: internal report (20 m+) and LSTLV management report submitted. Chartering summary submitted late. Compliance tables received late.			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> No list of BET-YFT vessels received. <i>Rec. 11-05:</i> Minor delay in transmission of first S-ALB catch report.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions relating to overharvests detected.			Quotas and catch limits: No infractions relating to overharvests detected.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. No Task I fleet characteristics received. No size data submitted.	Some staff constraints are behind the late or non submission of some reports. Also, the access to some of the report forms to be used has not always been possible. Corrective measures are being taken towards the improvement of the situation. Size data was submitted, although late.	Lift identification and send letter of concern with respect to late data reporting. In 2012, no reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I fleet characteristics received.	Not present to respond.	Letter of concern regarding lack of response to previous letter and requesting clarity on applicability of reporting requirements. Possible at-sea transshipment of by-catch of ICCAT species.
	Conservation and Management Measures: internal action (20 m+) report and LSTLV mgmt standard submitted late.			Conservation and Management Measures: It is unclear which requirements are applicable to SVG		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: Concerns over possible illegal transshipment issues.		

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
SYRIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Not present to respond.	Send a letter of identification with respect to deficiencies in data reporting, in BFT control, monitoring measures, and lack of submission of 2012 BFT plans. Indicate that failure to submit such plans will result in the prohibition to take part to the 2012 BFT fishing season. In 2012, no reply to letter of identification received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No statistical data received.	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification and refer bluefin tuna fishing possibilities to Panel 2.
Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 10-04. Report on annual fishing plan or implementation of Rec. 10-04 not received. Fishing etc plan 2012 not received: Data from national observer programs not received. List of authorized ports not received for 2011.	Conservation and Management Measures:					
<i>Rec. 09-11 implementation:</i> no BCD annual report received.						
Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables					
Other issues: None recorded.	Other issues: None recorded.					

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task II size data received.	T&T expects to establish a data collection framework as of 2012 with the ICCAT Data Fund and therefore to be able to send necessary data as of next year.	Send letter of concern with respect to some deficiencies in data reporting and to overharvest of WHM and BUM. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I or Task II data received.	Raw data available but problems with quality control due to major human resource issues.Steps are being taken to resolve this.	Letter of concern regarding lack of reporting. Request information on plans to control marlin catches.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-01:</i> List of BET/YFT received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Quotas were established before T&T was a member of ICCAT and are very low. Furthermore, the catches of BUM and WHM are by-catches.		Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.	Letter explaining non-submission of compliance tables received late.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2011

2012

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2011	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2012	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
TUNISIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task II size data received for farm harvest, but not for catch.		Send letter to inform on lifting identification and to acknowledge improvements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected		Letter of concern regarding BCD reporting and WWF allegations, requesting final results of investigation for consideration in 2013.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-03:</i> Very minor delay in submission of list of special Harpoon/LL Med-Swo licences. <i>Rec. 11-20:</i> BCDs are not always received at the Sceretaryat 5 days after validation.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.			Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected.		
	Other issues: request to replace BCDs issuing new ones four months later with the observer signature.	This issue is adressed under item 7 of the minutes of the Compliance Committee meeting.		Other issues: BFT-ROP observer reports and response from Tunisia. WWF allegations and response.	Written response to first WWF allegation received.	

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
TURKEY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Send letter to inform on lifting identification and to acknowledge improvements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.	VMS servers were updated in 2012 and might have caused some transmission problems. Turkey is investigating the problem and working to resolve this.	No action necessary
Conservation and Management Measures:	Conservation and Management Measures: No infraction detected.					
Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.	Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected.					
Other issues:	Other issues: Inspection and Observer reports - response from Turkey that no infringements found. Some vessels on BFT list did not send VMS signals..					

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some Task I and Task II data submitted late.	Some difficulties in collecting the data occurred and this caused the late submission. Procedures are being established to ensure that this does not occur again.	Send letter of concern for delays in submission of data reporting but acknowledging improvements. In 2012 reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infractions detected.	N-SWO management plan is the same as 2011 Work underway with relevant territory to resolve the issue with S-ALB. Report will be made to Commission once clarified.	Letter of concern regarding late reporting and overharvest of southern albacore
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: No N-SWO management plan received.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest in S-ALB.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
URUGUAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No further action required.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infractions detected.		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures: Vessels 20 m internal actions report received late. LSTLV management report received during the meeting.	Some difficulties in collecting the data occurred and this caused the late submission. Procedures are being established to ensure that this does not occur again.		Conservation and Management Measures: <i>Rec. 11-05:</i> Minor delay in transmission of first S-Alb catch report.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.		
Other issues: None recorded.		Other issues: None recorded.				

2011

2012

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
UNITED STATES	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter of concern to be sent in relation to implementation of statistical document programmes and encouraging attempts to improve implementation. Express concern on acceptance of imports SWO and BET from unknown flag and unknown zone. In 2012, reply to letter of concern received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infractions detected.		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: No infractions detected.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: No infractions detected.		
	Other issues: some problems in the implementation of statistical document programme and concern over acceptance of imports of SWO and BET from unknown flag and zone.	Important improvements were made. A limited share of imports are from unknown flag and zone but ready to work towards the full implementation of the statistical document program in order to completely solve the problem.		Other issues: None detected.		

2011

2012

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
VANUATU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I fleet characteristics nor Task II size data submitted.	Not present to respond.	Identification maintained. Letter to be sent requesting improvements on data collection and submission. In 2012, reply to letter of identification received late.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report and transshipment report received late.	Small Island State with limited resources, but Vanuatu has made every effort to submit required information. Requests assistance through data fund to ensure continued improvement.	Lift identification and send letter of concern to request greater efforts in timely submission of reports and results of investigation of possible involvement in transshipments at-sea by-catch of ICCAT species.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Internal actions report (20 m+) submitted late. North Atlantic SWO management plan received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.					
	Other issues: Some ROP transshipment declarations not submitted.			Other issues: Some information on bird mitigation received late. Concerns raised by EU on transshipment issues.	Vanuatu not obliged to report carrier vessels under Rec. 06-11. Vessel in question has been deregistered and scrapped.	

		2011		2012		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2011</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
VENEZUELA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Not present to respond.	Identification maintained, in respect of overcapacity and overharvest. In 2012, no reply to letter of identification.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infractions detected.	Not present to respond.	Maintain identification due to lack of response to 2011 letter and continued overharvest of albacore and blue marlin, and lack of N-SWO management plan.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: No report on N-SWO management received.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of N. ALB and BUM.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of N-ALB and BUM.		
	Other issues: None recorded.			Other issues: None recorded.		

2012

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
CHINESE TAIPEI	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No infraction detected.		
	Conservation and Management Measures: No infraction detected		Cooperating status renewed
			No other action necessary
	Quotas and catch limits: No infraction detected.		
	Other issues: No infraction detected.		

		2011	2012		
COLOMBIA	Actions taken	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-201</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	
	Colombia was identified by the Commission in 2011 Letter received, but did not respond to issues/concerns in identification letter.		Annual Reports/ Statistics: No statistics, no annual report received.	Colombia currently restructuring fisheries authorities and will report as soon as possible. Currently on small foreign flagged fleet operating and data reported by flag State. Considering becoming Contracting Party to ICCAT.	Renew cooperating status but maintain identification regarding lack of data and reporting, lack of response to previous concerns.
			Conservation and Management Measures: No Compliance tables. No information received with the exception of information on turtles.		
			Quotas and catch limits:		
		Other issues: One vessel on IUU list			

2012

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
CURAÇAO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task I fleet characteristics received late		
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-12 Internal actions (vessel 20m+) received late. Information on access agreements received late and incomplete. It is unclear which requirements are applicable to Curaçao.		Renew cooperating status and request further information on access agreements, and more information on which requirements are applicable to Curaçao.
	<i>Rec. 06-11</i> Transhipment report received late		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late		
	Other issues:		

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
GUYANA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received; no statistical data received.		
	Conservation and Management Measures:		Cooperating status revoked due to lack of reporting / communication
	It is unclear which measures are applicable to Guyana		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received		
	Other issues:		

2012

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2012</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
SURINAME	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No statistics received for 2011. Data on foreign landings in 2012 sent.	Suriname does not have any flag vessels yet targeting tunas.	
	Conservation and Management Measures:		Cooperating status renewed.
	No infraction detected.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No catches to report: no Compliance tables received.	Suriname does not have any flag vessels yet targeting tunas.	
Other issues: None reported			

Statement by the Observer from WWF to the Compliance Committee

Firstly, WWF expresses its gratitude for the responses from Contracting Parties to the cases that we have raised in the Compliance Committee making use of our right established by Recommendation 08-09.

In this regard, we would like to inform the honorable Delegates that WWF has always been especially careful as regards the control of procedures established when transmitting information to ICCAT, including the supply of triplicate information to the Executive Secretary, the Chairman and the Chair of the Compliance Committee.

In the case of information received outside the deadlines established by Recommendation 08-09, this was also notified in triplicate, assuming that the competent ICCAT authorities would act officially carrying out the pertinent measures with the Contracting Parties concerned.

Furthermore, we understand that the ICCAT Compliance Committee has no jurisdiction as regards the communication policy of an observer entity, and even less, the interpretations carried out by specific media in their press releases. In any event, WWF's communication policy is very strict as regards its content and it is institutionally fair towards ICCAT, and we welcome any interested Contracting Party to compare our original press releases.

Finally, we understand that some of the data reported by WWF to the ICCAT Compliance Committee this year is significant, and therefore it is essential that the Contracting Parties concerned should find the necessary time for this end.

We are at your entire availability for any further clarification.

Second statement by the Observer WWF to the Compliance Committee

East Atlantic and Mediterranean Tuna

Even if there is consensus at the ICCAT SCRS that total catches (and associated fishing mortality) on the East Atlantic and Mediterranean stock of the bluefin tuna (BFT) has substantially declined in the last few years, information from very different sources point to IUU catches still being substantial. Adequate controls and compliance are essential to ensure the recovery of this stock, which equates to nothing less than meeting the objectives of the ICCAT Convention.

This year WWF has formally raised several cases to the attention of the Compliance Committee under the terms of ICCAT Recommendation 08-09 addressing a wide range of issues, from fishing activities to farming and markets. We thank those concerned CPCs that have already submitted written responses to ICCAT Secretariat and would like to encourage the remaining ones to provide their explanations during the course of discussions at the ICCAT Compliance Committee taking place this year in Agadir. The WWF observer delegation is fully ready to work with the concerned CPCs to provide any further clarifications whenever possible.

Finally, WWF has submitted to ICCAT and some CPCs a recent study pointing to potential irregularities in the reporting of the international trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna during the last decade. Concretely, it suggests large amounts of bluefin tuna might have been re-exported through Panama to the final market without having been properly covered by the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Program. This information having been uncovered after the deadline for submissions by Observers under Rec. 08-09 had been met, this case is not included in the current Agenda of the Compliance Committee for discussion this year. For the sake of transparency, and given the obvious relevance of the issue, WWF encourages those concerned CPCs to voluntarily bring the issue to the discussion at the Compliance Committee this year.

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

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting of the PWG was opened by the Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco).

2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

Ms. Diana Kramer (United States) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with no modification and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**.

4. Consideration of the Report of the IMM Working Group (Tokyo, April 2012)

The Chair of the 7th Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) presented results and outstanding issues from the Working Group meeting in Tokyo in April 2012 (see **ANNEX 4.1**) that were referred to the 18th Special Meeting of the Commission for further consideration. Resulting discussions of these issues are included in the paragraphs to follow.

5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Programs; eBCD

The eBCD contracting company, TRAGSA presented the current status of the eBCD program, followed by technical demonstrations. TRAGSA presented the following timeline:

- January 2013: First fully functional release.
- February 2013: Training sessions to trainers.
- February - March 2013: Stress and vulnerability tests.
- April 2013: Production start.

During initial discussions, some CPCs expressed concerns over a potentially overly ambitious timeline for full implementation of the eBCD system as originally proposed in a joint Japan-EU “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) Program”. A revised proposal was then tabled by Japan, the EU, the U.S., and Turkey. The proposal set an adjusted timeline for implementation of the eBCD system for Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, creating a transitional phase between 16 May 2013 through February 2014, during which both paper and electronic BCDs would be accepted, and a full transition to the eBCD system by 1 March 2014. CPCs will report experiences with implementation of the eBCD prior to the 2013 annual Commission meeting, and CPC experiences with the transition will be reviewed at that meeting. The *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) Programme* was approved and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-08]**).

5.2 Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species

The Chair referred to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Process Towards the Establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species”, proposed by Japan and the United States. Japan explained that originally there had been two separate proposals, one from Japan and the EU on traceability, and another from the U.S. on catch certification. The two documents were subsequently combined into one

recommendation by Japan and the United States. The draft Recommendation specifies there will be a workshop held in conjunction with the next IMM Working Group meeting in 2013 to address technical and practical issues on catch certification schemes for tuna and tuna-like species. The document also proposes another IMM Working Group meeting in 2014 to review the draft recommendation on catch certification from the 7th IMM Working Group and consider results of the 2013 workshop. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Process Towards the Establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-like Species* was approved by the PWG and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-09]**).

5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

The Chair referred to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Program for Transshipment”, proposed by the United States. The U.S. recalled the most recent update had been in 2006, as the planned 2008 review of at-sea transshipment never occurred. The issue was sent to the IMM Working Group meeting, where progress was made. After further discussions during this meeting, the U.S. removed a proposal to increase coverage of observers on longline vessels based on concerns from other CPCs, but noted this is still an important issue and the observer program as a whole will be reviewed, and the issue should be taken up again in that context. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transshipment* was adopted with the deletions requested by Japan on providing copies of authorization to observers and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-06]**).

5.4 Rules for chartering

The Chair referred to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements* [Rec. 11-16], and the Secretariat’s document on a “Summary of Access Agreements Reported by CPCs” to which the EU put out an appeal that all coastal countries clarify to ICCAT the conditions for issuing licenses for access to coastal waters, for state-to-state and in particular private licenses. The EU noted many countries currently issue license under unclear conditions, and the issue concerns species managed by ICCAT, therefore requested Contracting Parties to apply fully Recommendation 11-16, to cover both official and private agreements. The EU also expressed the need to discuss the revision of the “*Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering*” [Rec. 02-21] at the next meeting of the IMM Working Group in 2013.

5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs

The Chair referred to a 2008 HSBI proposal from Canada, which the IMM Working Group was asked during its last inter-sessional meeting to revise and define at-sea inspection rules. The EU asked that this request be renewed and ICCAT place this item on the agenda of a future IMM Working Group meeting in 2013. The EU recalled a negative experience of an inspection of an EU vessel under uncertain circumstances, and highlighted the urgent need to define rules of how at-sea inspections are to take place. The United States expressed support for such a discussion, noting this is a monitoring and control issue that has not been well elaborated on by ICCAT, and is about 35 years old, so discussing it during an inter-sessional meeting and returning to the issue next year will be useful. The PWG accepted at-sea inspection rules be added to a 2013 IMM Working Group Agenda and discussed further next year, with no additional comments.

5.6 Port Inspection Schemes and Port State measures

The Chair referred to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port” proposed by the EU, Norway, and the United States. At the 2011 annual Commission meeting, the PWG tasked the IMM Working Group with developing a draft proposal on port State measures (PSM) as the Recommendation currently in place had become obsolete, and had some significant unresolved issues. The draft proposal submitted by the IMM Working Group took parts of the FAO 2009 plan of action on port State measures acceptable to CPCs, to develop minimum standards and modernize port state measures and strengthen the existing port inspection scheme. The aforementioned draft recommendation expands what was in the original proposal from the IMM Working Group to clarify the Recommendation does not prejudice the rights of CPCs within their own ports, including their ability to take more stringent measures if deemed necessary, and allows harmonization with relevant international law. The draft Recommendation specifies a 72 hour notification period before the arrival of a foreign fishing vessel to the port of a CPC, but allows CPCs to specify a longer or shorter notification period based on their needs. The document also recommends inspection of at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations, but CPCs may inspect more than this in their ports should they wish. The proposal also clarifies rules on entry to port and selection of vessels to be inspected, and provides a procedure for conducting port inspections, and a procedure for cases in which an infraction is detected. It also recognizes the

need to support the developing CPCs in implementation of the recommendation, capacity building, training, and participation in meetings. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* was approved and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see ANNEX 5 [Rec. 12-07]).

5.7 Vessel listing requirements

Following up on discussions during the 2012 IMM Working Group on the harmonization of vessel records, the consolidated list of authorized vessels (CLAV), and the development of a unique vessel identifier (UVI), a presentation was given by the Secretariat during this meeting on the current status and next steps for the CLAV and UVI program, described in the “Note on the CLAV and UVI Programs”. The CLAV is currently online, and in June 2012 the second technical working group reviewed the program, deciding to use new software from the FAO to replace the current version of CLAV, and developed an agreement on how to use the program and data. It is expected the program will be completed by 2013, and it was recognized this effort would require the hiring of one additional staff member for the first year as well as an IT expert to migrate databases to the new software. The presentation stated the IMO number is the best option for a UVI and should be obligatory to report. However, not all commercial fishing vessels have an IMO number, so a protocol still needs to be put in place to develop a number. During subsequent discussions, there was not full agreement between CPCs on what number would be best to use. It was agreed the issue will be discussed again at the next IMM Working Group meeting.

5.8 Vessel Monitoring System requirements

The Chair referred to the “Draft Recommendation Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the ICCAT Convention Area”, a U.S. proposal to lower vessel monitoring transmission intervals from every six hours to every two hours, based on the SCRS recommendation. The United States highlighted the dual purpose of the VMS, both for compliance as well as stock assessment and research. During discussions, a large number of CPCs supported the proposed change to two hour transmission intervals. However, some CPCs expressed concerns over such a change, including the potential costs involved in transitioning from six hour intervals to two hour intervals. It was suggested a possible compromise might be to move to transmission intervals of every four hours. Sierra Leone also raised concerns that the duration of time proposed in the draft recommendation for a vessel to repair a broken VMS system, one month, was too long and should be reduced, to avoid IUU fishing in the interim period. There was not agreement on this issue, with some Parties ready to accept a shorter time limit for repairs to the VMS, but with others stating the one week period proposed by Sierra Leone would be too short for vessels far from port on the high seas. Sierra Leone said it would be willing to accept a two week period, but no longer. An agreement was not reached on either VMS transmission time intervals or the required time period to fix broken VMS systems, and the issue was put on the agenda for the next IMM Working Group meeting in 2013.

5.9 Flag State responsibilities and other issues (including review of Rec. 10-10)

Japan noted that the “Secretariat Report to PWG” points out problems the Secretariat is currently experiencing, especially regarding the BCD, and most of these issues would be resolved with the implementation of the eBCD program. Japan emphasized ICCAT should begin using eBCD as soon as possible. The issue was closed with no further comments.

6. Consideration of technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT’s conservation and management measures

See Agenda item 8.

7. Review and development of IUU Vessel List

The Chair referred to the document on “Provisional IUU List for 2012”. This is the list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area. The Chair noted seven vessels were delisted this year from the IUU list, and opened the floor for any additional comments on the delisting. The “List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area” was adopted with no further comments and was forwarded to the Commission for final adoption (see **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**).

The EU requested Belize to investigate a vessel previously flagged to the UK (under the name of “*Juno*”), which was found to be in violation and sanctioned, at which point it fled from the EU, and may now be flagged under Belize. The EU requested Belize to verify if in fact this vessel, the “*LIPER DOS*”, is flagged under Belize, and next year the EU will request this vessel to be placed on the IUU list. Belize responded it would await formal correspondence from the EU on this vessel, and would then start to investigate to the fullest extent.

8. Recommendations to the Commission

The Chair recommended that the 2013 IMM inter-sessional Working Group meeting add to its agenda at-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs, traceability, vessel monitoring system requirements, a review of chartering issues, vessel listing requirements, as well as by-catches in areas where ICCAT species are not targeted.

9. Other matters

9.1 EU note on Guidelines for the Implementation of Rec. 11-15

The EU prepared document on a proposed process for implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of non-Fulfillment of Reporting Obligations* [Rec. 11-15]. The United States noted its acceptance of the document and brought attention to the fact that only about half of the CPCs reported data, and encouraged all Contracting Parties to take note of Recommendation 11-15 to submit information. The “European Union Note on Guidelines for the Implementation of Recommendation 11-15” is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**.

9.2 Traceability system for tunas

Japan informed the Commission about an experimental “Traceability System for Tunas” which China and Japan will use starting in April 2013. The system foresees the introduction of an IC tip tag and QR code including tuna ID data which will enable to trace back to the origin of tuna products at any stage from capture to consumption. The results of this experimental work will be presented at next annual meeting of ICCAT.

The PEW and ISSF Observer statements are attached as **Appendix 4 and 5 to ANNEX 11**.

10. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

The Report of the Permanent Working Group was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**PWG Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of the Report of the IMM Working Group (Tokyo, April 2012)
5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
 - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs, and progress of eBCD
 - 5.2 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes
 - 5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
 - 5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
 - 5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
 - 5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
 - 5.7 Vessel listing requirements
 - 5.8 Vessel Monitoring System requirements
 - 5.9 Flag State responsibilities
 - 5.10 Other issues (including review of Rec. 10-10)
6. Consideration of technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
7. Review and development of the IUU vessel list
8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above.
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

2012 List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and Other Areas

<i>Serial number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current flag</i>	<i>Previous flag</i>	<i>Name of vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20040005	Not available	JAPAN: Sighting of tuna longliner in the Convention area, not on ICCAT Record of Vessels.	24/08/2004	1788	Unknown	Unknown	BRAVO	No info	T8AN3	No info	No info	AT	
20040006	Not available	JAPAN: Reefer company provided documents showing frozen tuna had been transhipped.	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	OCEAN DIAMOND	No info	No info	No info	No info	AT	
20040007	Not available	JAPAN: Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic.	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 2	No info	No info	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)	AT	
20040008	Not available	JAPAN: Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic.	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 3	No info	No info	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)		

<i>Serial number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current flag</i>	<i>Previous flag</i>	<i>Name of vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20050001	Not available	BRAZIL: Fishing in Brazilian waters with no licence.	03/08/2005	1615	Unknown	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	SOUTHERN STAR 136	HSIANG CHANG	No info	KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AT	
20060001	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA: Vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments.	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	BIGEYE	No info	FN 003883	No info	No info	UNKN	
20060002	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA: Vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments.	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	MARIA	No info	FN 003882	No info	No info	UNKN	
20060003	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	NO. 101 GLORIA	GOLDEN LAKE	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	
20060004	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 103	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	

ICCAT REPORT 2012-2013 (I)

<i>Serial number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current flag</i>	<i>Previous flag</i>	<i>Name of vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060005	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed seasons	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	MELILLA NO. 101	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	
20060007	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Panama	LILA NO. 10	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	
20060008	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No 2 CHOYU	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	
20060009	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 3	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	

<i>Serial number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current flag</i>	<i>Previous flag</i>	<i>Name of vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060010	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 2	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	
20060011	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No. 3 CHOYU	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	
20060012	Not available	EU: Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season.	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ORIENTE No.7	No info	No info	No info	No info	MEDI	
20080001	Not available (previously on ICCAT recorded as AT000GUI000002)	JAPAN: Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota.	14/11/2008	COC-311/2008 and Circular 767/10	Guinea Rep	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07Q MC	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	No info	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner

ICCAT REPORT 2012-2013 (I)

<i>Serial number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current flag</i>	<i>Previous flag</i>	<i>Name of vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB 00039)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (previously British)	SHARON 1	MANARA 1 (previously POSEIDON)	No info	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB 00041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	No info	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	OCEAN LION	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
2009002	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Georgia	YU MAAN WON	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
2009003	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Unknown	GUNUAR MELYAN 21	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20100004	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 09/03	07/07/2010	E10-2860	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 11			Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.			
20110002		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Colombia		MARTA LUCIA R			Tuna Atlantic Ltda.		PACIFIC	Purse seiner

<i>Serial number</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current flag</i>	<i>Previous flag</i>	<i>Name of vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20110003		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Georgia		NEPTUNE		4LOG	Space Energy Enterprise Company, LTD		PACIFIC	Longliner
20110011		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	BHASKARA NO. 10					PACIFIC	Longliner
0110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	BHASKARA NO.9					PACIFIC	Longliner
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown		CAMELOT					PACIFIC	Longliner
20110014		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	CHIA HAO NO. 66	CHIA HAO NO. 66	V3IN2	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma alegre, San Francisco, Panamá	PACIFIC	Longliner

Photograph available: Serial number 20050001



European Union Note on Guidelines for the Implementation of Recommendation 11-15

To guide application of paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-15, the Compliance Committee will follow the schedule and steps indicated below:

<i>Data review year (starting in 2013 and annually thereafter)</i>	<i>Following the decision on retention prohibition</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPCs submit Task I data to the Secretariat in accordance with Commission requirements and SCRS procedures. 2. Secretariat compiles and circulates a report to the COC and CPCs detailing data submission status by species or stock (e.g., complete, incomplete, or missing*) for each CPC. 3. COC reviews the report and any other relevant information provided by the Secretariat, the SCRS, and CPCs. Based on this review, the COC identifies in its report those CPCs that did not submit required data (i.e., data are missing or incomplete) and notifies them that they are prohibited from retaining the concerned species/stock from the relevant fishery as of the following year unless and until the data are provided to the Secretariat. 4. COC also considers if any other actions consistent with Recommendations 05-09 and/or 06-13 should be recommended. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CPCs with a finding of "missing" or "incomplete" data submissions cannot retain those species. 2. Such CPCs should seek to rectify the situation by sending the missing data to the Secretariat as soon as feasible. 3. In consultation, as necessary and appropriate, with the Chairs of the COC and the Commission, the Secretariat will review the new data submission in a timely manner to determine if it is complete. If the data appears to be complete, the Secretariat will promptly inform the CPC in question that it can resume retention of the concerned species/stock in the relevant fishery. 4. At the annual meeting following the inter-sessional provision of data and the decision to permit resumption of retention, the COC reviews this decision and if it considers that data are still incomplete, the COC will again take the actions specified in the previous column, paragraphs 3 and 4.

* Missing data means that all the data are missing or there is no submission of data; incomplete data means that a significant subset of data is missing.

Statement by Observer from ISSF to PWG Regarding Vessel Identifiers

ISSF congratulates the ICCAT Secretariat on the progress made to create a global consolidated list of vessels, together with the other RFMO secretariats. This work is extremely important as a tool for combating IUU fishing, and to better quantify the number, types and capacity of fishing vessels fishing for tunas globally. This is why ISSF has contributed funds towards the two Technical Workshops held in Rome in 2011 and 2012. ISSF will continue to support this important effort in the future if needed.

There seems to be confusion what constitutes a Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI). IMO numbers are a very good type of UVI (probably the best, for those vessels that can obtain it) and very widely used for relatively large vessels. But there can be other UVIs, such as the one that the RFMO Secretariats are developing jointly for the global consolidated list of vessels.

How the RFMO UVI will perform in terms of being able to track an individual vessel will depend on the amount of information available on that vessel. Because the ICCAT Record of authorized vessels does not currently require fields such as the shipyard name, the year built, and other fields (required for IMO numbers), these UVIs

are not yet as effective as the IMO numbers. But, they are a step in the right direction. As the RFMOs adopt more comprehensive requirements to register vessels, these UVIs will become more effective and more truly unique.

ISSF has called upon the tuna fishing industry to obtain IMO numbers for large-scale vessels. We maintain a database with IMO numbers at <http://iss-foundation.org/imo-database/>, with over 1,600 vessels so far. ISSF hopes that ICCAT and the other RFMOs will be able to use this information to strengthen the global consolidated list of vessels.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 11

Statement by Observer from PEW to PWG

We call your attention to our policy statement, “*Better Management for all ICCAT Species: Time to Fill In the Puzzle Pieces*”, which was circulated electronically to all Contracting Parties (CPs), and is available on our website at www.pewenvironment.org/ip (in English, French, and Spanish) along with copies of our other materials. The following supplements that policy statement as relates to the work of the PWG.

This year, several measures will be presented to the PWG that have the potential to greatly improve monitoring and compliance in fisheries managed by ICCAT. Pew urges the PWG to carefully consider these proposals and adopt strong measures that will be effective and enforceable. Recent reports of illegal fishing in Libyan waters in 2011, unregistered boats in the Mediterranean in 2012, unreported trade of Atlantic bluefin tuna over the last decade, and the need to more effectively monitor and promote compliance with other conservation and management measures (CMMs), point to the immediate need for better tracking of vessels, catch and international trade of ICCAT species.

ICCAT must crack down on persistent illegal fishing activity (which includes any fishing not in full compliance with ICCAT CMMs), by addressing the following issues:

Port State Measures: ICCAT should adopt at this meeting a revised port inspection scheme on the basis of the proposal put forward at the 2012 meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in Tokyo, Japan. This proposal represents an acceptable minimum standard on port inspections but needs to include the prohibition of landing, transshipping or access to port services for vessels in violation of ICCAT recommendations. Otherwise there will be nothing to prevent illegal vessels from continuing their activities and pocketing the benefits of their illegal practices. ICCAT must protect the interests of its legitimate operators.

IMO numbers: No effective compliance with ICCAT measures can be ensured without the capacity to positively identify a fishing vessel. ICCAT should improve the identification of fishing vessels by requiring that they obtain and use IMO numbers. As a first step, ICCAT should make this requirement for large-scale fishing vessels and mandate that the IMO number is provided in all relevant ICCAT records and communications. There is increasing international support for using the IMO number as the unique vessel identifier for fishing vessels, and hence it is the right time for ICCAT to give due consideration to this matter and define, at this meeting, a process to establish the IMO number as the standard ICCAT vessel identifier.

IUU Vessel List: A number of recent studies strongly point to persistent illegal fishing and overcapacity in the Mediterranean, despite stricter regulations and increased enforcement efforts. A new independently-reviewed trade analysis presented to the SCRS in September 2012 estimates that quotas were exceeded by 62% between 2005 and 2011 and by 77% between 2008 and 2011. The actual catch is most likely higher, since official trade records do not reflect black market trade.

Use of illegal driftnets: ICCAT also needs to address the long ongoing use of illegal driftnets to catch bluefin tuna and swordfish, a practice that has been banned by ICCAT for nearly a decade. Several countries have made significant progress. Despite this prohibition, from 2005 to 2011, Italian authorities, EU inspectors, and non-governmental organizations documented more than 650 infringements of the driftnet ban. In May 2012, 40 tons of illegally caught bluefin tuna was seized by the Italian Coast Guard. To help combat this illegal activity, all vessels identified as participating in illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing, including the use of illegal driftnets, should be placed on ICCAT’s IUU vessel list and appropriate sanctions should be applied to CPCs whose vessels continue to violate ICCAT regulations.

Electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation Scheme (eBCD): At its 2011 meeting, ICCAT put forward a plan to implement an electronic version of the Bluefin Catch Document (eBCD) system by the start of the purse seine fishing season in May 2013. While there has been progress in designing and testing the system, there are also reports that there have been delays and setbacks during the process. Pew welcomes the recommendations in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-21 on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) Programme” from Japan and the European Union which would guarantee that the eBCD system is fully implemented by the agreed upon deadline of May 16, 2013. Further, Pew believes that CPCs should NOT be allowed to export bluefin tuna without an eBCD and no importing state should accept tuna without an eBCD after May 16, 2013.

Additionally, while an eBCD pilot scheme is a good start and in line with best practices, there are a number of loopholes and weaknesses that have the potential to undermine the effectiveness of the eBCD and diminish its value to ICCAT. As highlighted in an October 2012 report by electronic catch documentation expert Natasha Slicer, it is critical that the following issues are addressed by the eBCD contractor prior to implementation in 2013:

- Ensure that only the Secretariat has authority to edit static eBCD information such as vessel and farm information and that national fisheries or customs-related agencies (not Chambers of Commerce) have authority to validate eBCD data;
- Ensure that the eBCD only allows users to input data that falls within established, valid ranges (e.g., conversion factors and growth rates) to avoid misreporting or fraudulent entries;
- Set-up automatic alerts to the Secretariat and CPC when changes are made to eBCD records and to importing CPCs to signal incoming trade; and
- Require that all fish, including tagged fish, are recorded in the eBCD system.

Additionally, similar to catch documentation data publications by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), ICCAT should publish aggregated eBCD statistics. As per the SCRS recommendation coming out of the stock assessment meeting, ICCAT should develop a new working group, with international trade experts, to assess trade data so that this data can be compared to eBCD data and used to corroborate reported total catch.

Most importantly, all ICCAT member governments should implement the eBCD before the May 2013 Mediterranean purse fishing season to avoid problems associated with a dual-format implementation that would undermine the overall effectiveness of the eBCD. We recommend that CPCs not be allowed to export bluefin tuna without an eBCD and no importing state should accept bluefin tuna without an eBCD, after May 16, 2013.